

Summary of the Hamilton Christmas Bird Count,

December 26, 2012

by Tom Thomas

This is the summary of the Hamilton Christmas Bird Count held on December 26, 2012. Counters in the field including birder feeder watchers totaled 103.

Weather on the day was dominated by strong easterly winds and a temperature of a steady -2° C with intermittent light snow showers and the Hamilton area was on the cusp of its first winter storm. Lakes, ponds and creeks were ice free and there was a little crunch underfoot on the trails as the overnight frost had taken its grip. At the lake conditions were probably as bad as they have been in many years with winds gusting up to 50 k and waves in the 6 ft. range, making it very difficult to identify and count birds that were always in motion.

Almost everyone commented on the winds affecting the number of birds seen. The final results reflected this with a total number of birds counted – a low **38,051**. The 10 year average for the number of birds counted is **73,334**.

The number of individual species counted was **99** with the 10 year average for individual species counted being **101**.

We added three new species to the count list: Pacific Loon, Sandhill Crane and Barn Swallow. They may say one swallow does not a summer make, but two Barn Swallows certainly make a Winter!

We had record counts of the following:
Black-crowned Night-Herons 10 – equals previous record.
Cackling Goose 4 – previous record 2
Northern Shoveler 285 – previous record 179
Hooded Merganser 157 – previous record 70
Merlin 4 – previous record 2
Wild Turkey 93 – previous record 66
Black-legged Kittiwake 2 – previous record 1
Northern Saw-whet Owl 2 – equals previous record
Common Raven 4 – previous record 3

We had higher than the 10 year average counts for the following species: Common Loon, Great Blue Heron, Gadwall, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, White-winged Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser, American Coot, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Belted Kingfisher, Great Black-backed Gull, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Bluebird, Carolina Wren, Red-winged Blackbird, House Finch, Common Redpoll, Hoary Redpoll, and Pine Siskin.

We had low counts and for some species numbers were down

by 50% or more for the following: Northern Pintail, Redhead, Greater Scaup, Long-Tailed Duck, Common Goldeneye, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Herring Gull, Iceland Gull, Glaucous Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech-Owl, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Shrike, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, American Tree Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Snow Bunting, Northern Cardinal, American Goldfinch and House Sparrow.

Misses were: Swamp Sparrow, Wood Duck, Red-throated Loon, Horned Lark, Hermit Thrush and Evening Grosbeak.

Count week birds included: Snow Goose, Wood Duck, Rough-legged Hawk, Eastern Phoebe, Horned lark, Bohemian Waxwing, White-winged Crossbill, Evening Grosbeak and Chipping Sparrow.

Counters in the Field

	103
Number of hours feeder watching:	75.50
Number of hours owling:	4.75
Number of hours walking:	133.30
Number of hours driving:	61.25
Distance driven owling (km):	22.50
Distance driven daytime (km):	782.20
Distance walked owling (km):	2.25
Distance walked daytime (km):	149.50

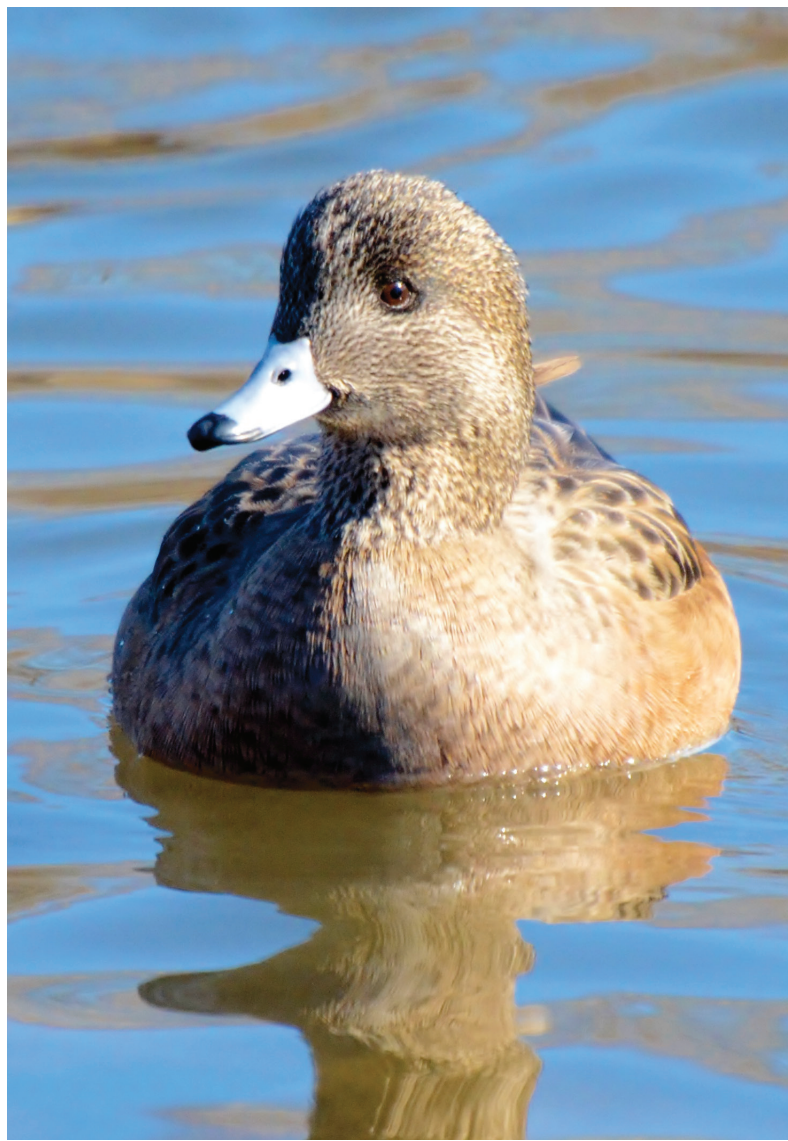
The individual species count is as follows:
(Current average refers to the average count in the HSA over the last 10 years)

Hamilton CBC - 2012	2012	Highest recorded count 1954-2011	10 Year Current Average
Pacific Loon	1	-	-
Common Loon	3	9	2
Pied-billed Grebe	2	7	2
Double-crested Cormorant	31	74	41

Great Blue Heron	15	32	8
Black-crowned Night-Heron	10	10	4
Trumpeter Swan	118	193	129
Canada Goose	6,079	10,415	7,497
Cackling Goose	4	2	-
Mute Swan	84	138	86
Tundra Swan	13	207	16
Gadwall	64	278	57
American Black Duck	279	1,170	396
Mallard	5,251	11,198	5,096
Mallard x Am. Black Duck	3	48	16
Northern Shoveler	285	179	49
Northern Pintail	4	72	21
Green-winged Teal	38	112	20
Canvasback	190	1,073	238
Redhead	5	367	26
Ring-necked Duck	95	205	67
Greater Scaup	2,057	17,556	7,260
Lesser Scaup	1,208	4,679	1,149
Surf Scoter	59	224	97
White-winged Scoter	701	1,077	563
Black Scoter	6	30	5
Long-tailed Duck	374	24,304	10,178
Bufflehead	377	925	494
Common Goldeneye	1,141	10,456	2,554
Hooded Merganser	157	70	58
Common Merganser	827	9,000	1,213
Red-breasted Merganser	334	589	259
Ruddy Duck	543	882	549
"Duck" species	1,023	10,001	2,506
Bald Eagle	3	9	4
Northern Harrier	1	15	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6	21	14
Cooper's Hawk	9	23	16
"Accipiter" species	1	9	3
Red-tailed Hawk	93	186	142
American Kestrel	8	50	17

Merlin	4	3	2
Peregrine Falcon	3	6	4
Wild Turkey	98	66	31
American Coot	105	167	92
Sandhill Crane	2	-	-
Jaeger Species	1	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	4	111	-
Ring-billed Gull	2,939	3,467	1,550
Herring Gull	918	12,600	1,585
Thayer's Gull	1	2	-
Iceland Gull	2	51	8
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	4	1
Glaucous Gull	2	70	13
Great Black-backed Gull	110	433	82
Black-legged Kittiwake	2	1	-
Rock Pigeon	1,081	5,140	2,129
Mourning Dove	663	2,180	1,287
Eastern Screech-Owl	9	32	17
Great Horned Owl	6	45	6
Northern Saw-whet Owl	2	2	-
Belted Kingfisher	8	13	6
Red-bellied Woodpecker	49	82	39
Downy Woodpecker	181	323	224
Hairy Woodpecker	68	126	72
Northern Flicker	3	52	10
Pileated Woodpecker	1	14	8
Northern Shrike	1	21	4
Blue Jay	155	527	367
American Crow	495	7,000	1,714
Common Raven	4	3	1
Barn Swallow	2	-	-
Black-capped Chickadee	1,315	2,228	1,707
Tufted Titmouse	1	8	-
Red-breasted Nuthatch	69	98	43
White-breasted Nuthatch	161	286	211
Brown Creeper	10	97	21
Carolina Wren	49	52	32

Winter Wren	11	38	15
Golden-crowned Kinglet	11	213	42
Eastern Bluebird	32	52	25
American Robin	130	1,587	649
Northern Mockingbird	14	44	24
European Starling	2,240	73,000	12,908
Cedar Waxwing	104	1,136	439
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	8	2
American Tree Sparrow	473	2,640	666
Song Sparrow	21	290	34
White-throated Sparrow	58	213	100
White-crowned Sparrow	4	52	13
Dark-eyed Junco	1,175	1,954	1,285
Snow Bunting	1	1,150	128
Northern Cardinal	489	672	540
Red-winged Blackbird	21	68	5
Brown-headed Cowbird	7	182	14
Pine Grosbeak	1	354	8
Purple Finch	3	84	7
House Finch	608	1,669	480
Common Redpoll	348	890	48
Hoary Redpoll	2	5	1
Pine Siskin	154	800	42
American Goldfinch	640	1,358	863
"Finch" species	3	46	10
House Sparrow	1,473	3,500	2,186



*American Wigeon. Desjardins Canal, Hamilton. Feb.20, 2013.
Photo by Joanne Redwood.*

**THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING
IN THE 2012
CHRISTMAS DAY COUNT!**

2012 CBC Participants:

Anna Baranova, Gerten Basom, Barrie Boatman, Laurel Boatman, Neal Bonner, Peter Booker, James Booker, Mike Boyd, John Brett, Hazel Broker, Fran Bullock, Wayne Bullock, Albert Butwick, Ron Campeau, Ezra Campanelli, Giovanni Campanelli, Lorenzo Campanelli, Sue Carson, Jerry Chapple, Michael Clark, Mark Cranford, Tim Cranford, Bill Crins, Ian Darling, Jenny Darling, Sandy Darling, Sherry Darling, Ewout Degelder, Jan Degelder, Edward Dinniwell, Graham Dinniwell, Robert Dinniwell, Rob Dobos, Bryan Drown, Barney Dutka, Helene Dutka, Cheryl Edgecombe, Brian Enter, Kathy Evans, Lois Evans, Russ Evans, Chris Gardiner, Denys Gardiner, Helga Gerhardt, Jim Heslop, Fran Hicks, Brandon Holden, Eric Holden, John Holmstead, Lukian Husak, Zakhar Husak, Kyna Intini, Beth Jefferson, Mark Jennings, Dave Jolly, Aaron Keating, Andrew Keaveney, Manfred Kolster, Ursula Kolster, Bill Lamond, Gordon Lewer, Deborah Lindeman, Joyce Litster, Robert Maciver, Bruce Mackenzie, Stu Mackenzie, Len Manning, Kevin McLaughlin, Gord McNulty, Matt Mills, Frank Morley, Ryk Naves, George Naylor, Daphne Payne, Dennis Price, Bill Read, David Restivo, Orv Reynolds, Alf Senior, Yves Scholten, Caleb Scholtens, Peter Scholtens, George Sims, Joan Sims, Bill Smith, Charles Smith, Rick Snider, Doris Southwell, Robert Stamp, Chris Street, Mike Street, Dana Summach, Neil Taylor, Lisa Teskey, Tom Thomas, Herman van Barneveld, Phillip Waggett, Rob Waldhuber, Joan Wallace, Angie Williams, Ken Williams, Ross Wood, Brian Wylie.

If I have forgotten anyone, please contact me. Regards,

Tom Thomas – Compiler

January 17, 2013