

After counters were in the field for the first several hours of this year's National Park count, many probably wished it was cancelled. As Bruce Pigot put it "Not Fit. A prime example of what a driving southeast rain storm can do to a bird count". However, the count was carried out and Park's Canada staff hosted those that braved the roads to a hot lunch cooked at the Dalvay shelter. All those who made it expressed a heartfelt thanks to the chefs. Bruce's closing comments on his count report "It was a correct decision to proceed with the count" held true for 36 species were seen.

Well, the Montague counters have clearly established a new record number of species for the P.E.I. Christmas bird counts. 52 species were seen on the count day and an additional 5 species were seen during the count period. The record of 48 count day species and 2 additional species in the period set in the Hillsborough Count only 3 days previously was quickly surpassed!

The count summaries were as follows: (CP = Count Period)

Species	Number in the Count Area		
	National Park	Hillsborough	Montague
Common Loon			3
Northern Gannet			1
Great Cormorant		CP 2	1
Double-crested Cormorant			7
Great Blue Heron	1	1	
Canada Geese	217	1565	315
Mallard	4	2	21
Black Duck	1122	852	652
Green-winged Teal		1	
Northern Pintail		20	CP 1
American Widgeon	1		
Scaup sp.	22	38	
Common Goldeneye	195	98	191
Barrow's Goldeneye			3
Bufflehead			1
Oldsquaw	8	62	182
Black Scoter			20
Scoter sp.			1
Common Merganser	237	14	110
Red-breasted Merganser		4	18
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	3	
Red-tailed Hawk	1		1
Rough-legged Hawk		5	1
Bald Eagle	2	CP 1	8
Northern Harrier		4	
Osprey			3
Ruffed Grouse	1	3	3
Ring-necked Pheasant		1	1
Gray Partridge	5	CP 10	11
Iceland Gull		9	1
Ring-billed Gull	2	10	
Great Black-backed Gull	85	149	106
Herring Gull	204	421	517
Ivory Gull	1		
Dovekie		1	CP 1

