

Perhaps the best word to describe the Hillsborough and Montague counts this year was "brrr". Despite the bitter cold, the number of species seen was excellent with 42 on the Hillsborough Count day (44 in the seven day count period) and 49 on the Montague Count day (54 in the count period). Whether it was the balmy weather during the National Park Count or the improved endurance of the counters not facing wind chills of -40 to -55⁰C. that contributed to the 53 count day species is debatable. Despite the vagaries of the weather, those that made it to hill and dale or watched the feeder reported an enjoyable day!

Jean Ouellette again took on the role of host at the P.E.I. National Park count, warming the Dalvay shelter and cooking up a pot of stew. By 1230 the shelter was fairly full and the crowd was partaking of a varied feast of main dishes and desserts brought for the pot-luck. Following the Hillsborough count, Diane and Kevin Griffin hosted the counters who braved the weather. Roast Canada goose, a variety of other treats, and the camaraderie of the counters rounded out a brutally cold day.

On Friday, January 7th, the highlights of the various Christmas Bird Counts in the Maritimes were featured on the Costas Holobrasis CBC-FM radio show. Costas led Sheila Coors (N.S.), Jim Wilson (N.B.), and Dan McAskill discussed the highlights, the abnormalities, the values of the information, the feasts, camaraderie, and, of course, *the weather and why anyone would venture out in it at the extremes seen on certain counts.*

Observations	Number in the Count Area		
	National Park	Hillsborough	Montague
Common Loon	.....2.....		
Great Cormorant	.....	.....2CP.....	
Double-crested Cormorant	.....1.....		
Great Blue Heron	.....1.....		
Canada Geese	....750.....	....76.....	....14..
Mallard	.....9.....	.....2.....	....16..
Mallard/Black Hybrid	.....	
Black Duck	....634.....	....675.....	....545..
Northern Pintail	.....		....4..
Green-winged Teal	.....1.....		
Blue-winged Teal	.....1CP.....		
Scaup sp.	....300.....		
Common Goldeneye	....320.....	....27.....	....118..
Barrow's Goldeneye	.....1.....		....3..
Oldsquaw	....72.....	....3.....	....184..
White-winged Scoter	.....4.....		
Common Merganser	....35.....	....5.....	....498..
Red-breasted Merganser	.....1.....		....11..
Duck sp.	.....	....20.....	....15..
Northern Goshawk	.....1.....		....1..
Sharp-shinned Hawk	.....1.....		....3..
Bald Eagle	.....		....10..
Northern Harrier	.....	....1CP.....	....
Hawk unidentified	.....		....2..
Ruffed Grouse	.....3.....	....2.....	....1..
Ring-necked Pheasant	.....	....12.....	