

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT REPORT 1980

The two annual Christmas Bird Counts organized by the P.E.I. Natural History Society once again turned out to be highly successful events. Despite the early arrival of winter in mid-November and the few weeks of bitter weather preceding the count dates, both counts turned in the largest species totals since 1976.

The ninth P.E.I. National Park Count was held on December 20, a day of bright sun and bitter cold. The 41 species observed equal the 1976 total and topped only by the 43 tallied in 1973. However, the total of 2473 individuals is the lowest ever recorded on this count. Lesser Scaup and White-Crowned Sparrow were two new species sighted on this count.

The tenth Hillsborough Count took place on December 27, a day of seasonable temperatures with sunny periods and snow flurries. The total of 37 species observed is higher than average, while the total of 4028 individuals is lower than average for this count. Bohemian Waxwing and Pine Siskin were two species not previously observed on this count.

Both count days concluded with very enjoyable and delicious pot-luck suppers. Thanks to all participants for braving the weather and helping to make both counts successful. Special thanks to Ann MacPhail and Diane Houston and to Winston and Eileen Johnston for hosting the after-count suppers. A welcome guest at the second gathering was Diane Griffin, president of the Canadian Nature Federation.

P.E.I. National Park Count

December 20, 1980, 41 species, 2473 individuals. Total party miles 342 (2.25 walking, 2.25 snowshoeing, 337 driving). Total

party hours 49.25 (2 walking, 1.75 snowshoeing, 33.5 driving, 3 stationary). Species seen during the count period but not on the count day : Canada Goose. Participants: David L. Carins, Winifred Cairns, Rosemary Curley, Jim Hamilton, Diane Houston, Danny Johnston, Winston Johnston, Norah Longworth, Karen Lowther, Clare Martin, Kathy Martin, George Mason, Gordon Pierce, John Wright, Peter Wright (16 observers in 6 parties).

Great Cormorant	1
Double Crested Cormorant	2
Black Duck	196
Lesser Scaup	4
Common Goldeneye	133
Barrow's Goldeneye	6
Bufflehead	1
Oldsquaw	7
Black Scoter	45
Common Merganser	130
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
Rough-legged Hawk	1
Ruffed Grouse	3
Ring-necked Pheasant	1
Gray Partridge	13
Great Black-backed Gull	18
Herring Gull	39
Ring-billed Gull	1
Rock Dove	92
Hairy Woodpecker	3
Downy Woodpecker	2
Horned Lark	9
Blue Jay	121
Common Raven	26
Common Crow	314
Black-capped Chickadee	47
Boreal Chickadee	9
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1
Northern Shrike	1
Starling	123
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1
House Sparrow	586
Evening Grosbeak	20
Pine Grosbeak	1
Pine Siskin	150
Dark-eyed Junco	89
Tree Sparrow	6
White-crowned Sparrow	1
White-throated Sparrow	3
Song Sparrow	2
Snow Bunting	264

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