

1976 HILLSBOROUGH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

It was pouring rain near the time some counters should have been getting on the road on December 27th. The count was postponed until December 28th which was sunny all day but fairly cold. Travelling was excellent - but no skiing or snowshoeing this time. The count area was a 15-mile-diameter circle centered just east of Governor's Island and passing through Bunbury, Mt. Herbert, Mt. Albion, Vernon, Eldon, Fairview and including the Prim Point Peninsula, Earnscliffe Peninsula, Rocky Pt. Peninsula, St. Peter's Island and Charlottetown wharf area.

There were 12 observers--9 in 5 parties and 3 at feeders. The following counters spent an eight-hour day in the open: Anna Cairns, David K. Cairns (Compiler), Winnifred L. Cairns, Roy Horton, Margaret Mallett, Dave Smith, Paul Smith, Mary Willms, John Wright.

COUNT

Cormorant	2	Downy Woodpecker	6
Great Blue Heron	1	Blue Jay	51
Black Duck	171	Common Raven	11
Common Goldeneye	895	Common Crow	432
Barrow's Goldeneye	35	Black-capped Chickadee	76
Oldsquaw	65	Boreal (Brown-capped) Chickadee	35
White-winged Scoter	1	Robin	1
Common Merganser	182	Golden-crowned Kinglet	2
Red-breasted Merganser	14	Common Starling	197
Bald Eagle (adult)	1	Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler	3
Ruffed Grouse (Partridge)	2	House (English) Sparrow	433
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	Evening Grosbeak	15
Gray Partridge	14	Common Redpoll	4
Iceland Gull	1	American Goldfinch	12
Great Black-backed Gull	506	Darkeyed (Slate-colored) Junco	14
Herring Gull	509	Tree Sparrow	1
Rock Dove (Pigeon)	90	White-throated Sparrow	8
Mourning Dove	2	Song Sparrow	1
Hairy Woodpecker	1	Snow Bunting	110

Total Species 38; total individuals 3906

1977 Christmas Bird Counts in P.E.I. National Park Area and Hillsborough Area will both be planned together to minimize long distance telephone calls. Counters should get their names in as soon as it appears that they will be available. It remains to be verified, but December 17, 1977 to January 2, 1978 would appear to be the logical count period, with December 17th or 19th the likely date for the National Park area count.

INTERPRETING THE 1976 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

In the Guardian January 4, 1977, a report appeared of the Christmas Bird Count conducted by the P.E.I. Natural History Society. This report must have been of great interest to nature lovers all over the province, especially to the growing number of citizens who maintain bird feeding stations.

It is possible that some people were a bit confused by some of the names used. These names are approved by the "American Ornithological Union" but for many of us other names are more familiar. For example, "Gray Partridge" are much better known as "Hungarian Partridge". Other examples include "Dark-eyed Junco" usually referred to as "Slate-colored Junco", "House Sparrow" is more commonly known as "English Sparrow". How many of us would recognize "Rock Dove" as our common "Pigeon"? "Pink Grosbeak", of course, was a printing error and obviously referred to "Pine Grosbeak".