

THE 99TH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS:

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This was the 99th consecutive year that bird counters took to the field across North America to participate in the Audubon Christmas Bird Counts. It was the 28th consecutive year that this event was conducted on Prince Edward Island. It has become a yearly tradition that allows those who choose it to spend time with feathered friends and to contribute to the monitoring of North American winter bird populations.

This year, 61 participants went to the field and 27 families watched their feeders. The Hillsborough contingent brought in an impressive 50 species on the count day. The Montague and P.E.I. National Park also had good days with 48 and 38 species respectively. An additional species was recorded in the Hillsborough Count with the sighting of a Brown-headed Cowbird in the three day count period (designated CP in the table) on either side of the count day and an additional 4 species in the Montague Count area. In total, the three counts recorded 67 species and a total of 22654 compared to the 71 species and 25616 birds last year (see issue 147).

The reports for each area are provided below.

Observations	Number in Count Area			Total
	National Park	Hillsborough	Montague	
	Dec. 19	Dec.27	Jan. 2	
Cormorant spp			3	3
Great Blue Heron		1		1
Canada Geese	154	875	487	1516
Mallard		57	2	59
Black Duck	410	2218	81	2709
Gadwell	22			22
Green-winged Teal	2	3		5
Ducks UID			4	4
Greater Scaup	30			30
Scaup spp.	51			51
Common Goldeneye	313	436	159	908
Oldsquaw	25	4	3	32
Common Merganser	26	187	297	510
Red-breasted Merganser		35	3	38
Sharp-shinned Hawk		2	1	3
Red-tailed Hawk		1		1
Rough-legged Hawk		2	1	3
Bald Eagle	3	6	20	29
Northern Harrier		1		1
Osprey			1	1
Peregrine Falcon			1	1
American Kestrel			1	1
Hawk spp			1	1
Ruffed Grouse		7	10	17
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	1	1	4
Gray Partridge	21	5		26
Glaucous Gull		1		1
Iceland Gull	1	14	11	26
Great Black-backed Gull	58	105	38	201
Herring Gull	255	287	469	1011
Ring-billed Gull	1	4	10	15
Gull spp.	9		3	12
Hudsonian Godwit	1			1
Rock Dove	90	257	243	590