

**75th Annual G. Bartlett Hendricks Central Berkshire Waterfowl Count
Sunday, November 1, 2020 Report by Tom Tying**

Twenty-one Hoffmann Bird Club members and guests participated in the 75th Annual Waterfowl Count on Sunday, November 1, 2020. Chip Blake, Greg Ward, and Paula Banducci covered the southern wetlands west of Rt 7 while Dick Ferren recorded birds on the east side south of Woods Pond. Tom Gagnon led 4 Hampshire Bird Club members from the Ct. Valley to check Cheshire Reservoir and other wetlands. New this year, Chuck Johnson began the first of what hopefully will be a long-term waterfowl survey in Northern Berkshire. The trip began at hourly intervals beginning at 7 am and ended at various times. Due to Covid concerns, the Hoffmann Executive Committee instituted a maximum of safety procedures for this event. We had several start times (7, 8, 9 am) and limited each group to 4 vehicles. Each team followed the same route as best as possible and the reports were collated with the highest number of individual species recorded in the summary below. Thanks to all members who participated and especially Jonathan Pierce, Gael Hurley, and Rene Wendell who lead each team. Air temperature ranged from 30°F to 48°F. The day was mostly over-cast and the wind was calm at first but picked up shortly and was blowing heavy by the afternoon. Rain sputtered then came down heavily after 3:30 pm. Visibility was mostly excellent. Several boats were on Onota, Pontoosuc and Stockbridge. Water levels were low in most lakes but very high at Stockbridge Bowl. The results are as follows, featuring 24 species. Overall, the species count was high as were a few individual numbers.

Common Loon	7	Lesser Scaup	5
Pied-Billed Grebe	5	Black Scoter	1
Horned Grebe	1	Ruddy Duck	8
Canada Goose	295	White-winged Scoter	1
Wood Duck	5	American Goldeneye	5
Mallard	251	Bufflehead	13
Black Duck	20	Hooded Merganser	67
Gadwall	6	Common Merganser	91
American Wigeon	3	Redneck Grebe	2
Greenwing Teal	7	Mute Swan	4
Ringneck Duck	1020	D.C. Cormorant	2
Greater Scaup	3	American Coot	20

This report includes these Berkshire Lakes and other wetlands: Pontoosuc, Onota, Muddy (Olsen's) Pond, Hoosic Lake (Cheshire Reservoir), Cleveland Reservoir, Richmond Pond, Stockbridge Bowl, Laurel Lake, Fairfield Pond, Woods Pond, and Silver lake.

Other Aquatic Birds Observed (6 spp) included Ring-bill Gulls, Herring Gulls, Bonepart's Gull (Onota), Bald Eagles, Kingfishers, and Great Blue Herons.

Other more terrestrial species (40 spp) noted during the day by all observers include: Turkey Vulture, Sharpshin Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Redtail Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, **Northern Shrike** (Moran), Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Snow Bunting, Northern Cardinal, Red-wing Blackbird, Common Grackle, House Finch, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow. Oh, yeah – one **Canada Jay**.

The following Hoffmann Bird Club members and guests participated in this 75th Annual Waterfowl Count: Dick and Heidi Ferren, Jonathan Pierce, Rene Wendell, Matt Kelly, Chris Blagdon, Kathy and Miles Conway, Sue and Ed Lewis, Chip Blake, Greg Ward, Pauline Banducci, Gael Hurley, Audrey Werner, Sonya Auer, Ed Neumuth, Bill Benner, Joe Wicinski, Tom Tynning, Devon Griswold, Tom Gagnon, Harvey and Craig Allen, and Al Richards.

The following areas were counted (between 11 am and 4:30 pm) by **Dick and Heidi Ferren** but not included above (except for Woods Pond):

1. Woods Pond and Lee Wetlands: Canada goose (39)
2. Goose Pond: Canada goose (2), Mallard (43), Black Duck (10); Wood Duck (7).
3. Lake Garfield (three vantage points): Common Loon (1); Canada goose (145); Mallard (29), Hooded Merganser (17), Bufflehead (8).
4. Steven's Pond (Monterey): Canada Goose (2); Wood Duck (7); Mallard (43); **Black Duck** (10); **Ringneck Duck** (3); Hooded Merganser (2).
5. Lake Buel: Nothing!
6. 1,000-acre Swamp: Pied-billed Grebe (4); Canada Goose (46); Black Duck (2).
7. Coyne Farm (Southfield): Mallard (44); Hooded Merganser (1).
8. Three-Mile Pond (Great Barrington): Pied-billed Grebe (3); Canada Goose (25).

Chip Blake, Greg Ward, Pauline Banducci's South County 2020 Waterfowl Survey:

Non-aquatic species: Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, **Northern Flicker**, **Canada Jay**, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, European Starling, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, House Finch, Pine Siskin,

House Sparrow, Evening Grosbeak, American Goldfinch, **Fox Sparrow**, Dark-eyed Junco, American Tree Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, **Vesper Sparrow**, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, **Rusty Blackbird**, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern Cardinal (40 species)

	Baldwin Hill	Boice Rd	Bow Wow Rd.	Century Ponds	Corbin's Neck	Covered Bridge	Giberson Pond	Hammond Marsh	Lake Averic	Lake Garfield	Lake Mansfield	Long Pond	Mill Pond	Myrin Wild. Preserve	Risingdale	Shaker Mill Pond	Simon's Rock	Smiley's Pond	Spurr Lake	Steven's Lake	
Canada Goose	82	121	70	121	23		50	56	6		71	24	66	8	102	171	38	6		1015	
Mute Swan														2							2
Wood Duck							23				32	3		4							62
Mallard				4			7	8	7	5			8	14		9	2		31		95
American Black Duck								1					4				14		17		36
Ring-necked Duck																			1		1
Bufflehead			2														1				3
Common Goldeneye									3	1											4
Hooded Merganser						10		13	2	4		3		6		16	4	4			62
Common Merganser												5							2		7
Ruddy Duck										2											2
Pied-billed Grebe								1						2							3
Great Blue Heron																	1				1
Belted Kingfisher											1										1
	82	121	70	123	27	0	10	50	30	79	18	12	104	47	80	22	111	205	42	61	1292

This year's count: a bit quieter than usual!

