

**76<sup>th</sup> Annual G. Bartlett Hendricks Central Berkshire Waterfowl Count  
Sunday, November 7 2021 Report by Tom Tying**

Twenty-three Hoffmann Bird Club members and guests participated in the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Waterfowl Count on Sunday, November 7, 2021. Chip Blake, Greg Ward, and Paula Banducci covered the southern wetlands west of Rt 7 while Dick and Heidi Ferren recorded birds on the east side from Woods Pond, south. Tom Gagnon led 9 Hampshire Bird Club members from the Ct. Valley to check Cheshire Reservoir and other wetlands. Again, this year, Chuck Johnson organized a second waterfowl survey in Northern Berkshire. Due to continuing Covid concerns, the Hoffmann Executive Committee instituted a series of safety procedures for this event. We limited each group to 4 vehicles. The Central Berkshire section was conducted in two groups, starting an hour apart, the first beginning at 7 am. 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 and Rene Wendell who co-lead the first team. Their discovery of the Barrow's Goldeneye at Richmond Pond was the first ever since this count began in 1946! I lead the 8 am group. Air temperature ranged from 24°F to 51°F. The day was clear, and the wind was calm most of the day. Visibility was mostly excellent after 8 am, but fog was around at the beginning. Several boats were on Onota, Pontoosuc and Stockbridge early, but the lakes were relatively clear the rest of the day. Water levels were low in most lakes but very high at Stockbridge Bowl. The results are as follows, featuring 22 species.

Common Loon	2	White-winged Scoter	1
Pied-Billed Grebe	1	American Goldeneye	1
Canada Goose	579	<b>Barrow's Goldeneye</b>	1
Wood Duck	4	Bufflehead	9
Mallard	292	Hooded Merganser	78
Black Duck	17	Common Merganser	53
Gadwall	2	Red-breasted Merganser	2
Greenwing Teal	2	Mute Swan	4
Ringneck Duck	60	Northern Shoveler	1
Greater Scaup	1	D.C. Cormorant	2
Ruddy Duck	21	American Coot	6

**This report includes** these Central 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, and Woods Pond.

**Other Aquatic Birds Observed (7 spp)** included Ring-bill Gulls (94), Herring Gulls (3), **Bonaparte's Gull** (1 at Richmond Pond), Bald Eagles, Osprey (1), Kingfishers, and Great Blue Herons.

**Other more terrestrial species (34 spp)** noted during the day by all observers include: Turkey Vulture, Redtail Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker,

**Northern Flicker**, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Brown Creeper, Northern Cardinal, Red-wing Blackbird, **Rusty Blackbird** (Pontoosuc Causeway), **American Pipit** (2, Pontoosuc and Laurel), House Finch, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin (1, Burbank), American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

**The following Hoffmann Bird Club members** and guests participated in this 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Waterfowl Count: Dick and Heidi Ferren, Jonathan Pierce, Rene Wendell, Matt Kelly, Chris Blagdon, Sue and Ed Lewis, Chip Blake, Greg Ward, Pauline Banducci, Sonya Auer, Kateri Kosek, David Chapman, Gael Hurley, Bill Benner, Joe Wicinski, Tom Tynning, Devon Griswold, Chuck Johnson, Carrie Jones, Audrey Werner, Tom Gagnon, Harvey and Craig Allen, and 7 others from the Hampshire Bird Club.

**The following areas were counted by Dick and Heidi Ferren** but not included above (except for Woods Pond and Stockbridge Bowl SW):

1. Woods Pond and Lee Wetlands: Zero!
2. Goose Pond: Canada goose (13), Mallard (20).
3. Lake Garfield (four vantage points): Canada goose (142); Mallard (21), Black Duck (5); Bufflehead (1), Hooded Merg (6).
4. Steven's Pond (Monterey): Wood Duck (2); Mallard (25); **Ringneck Duck** (278); Ruddy Duck (3), Hooded Merganser (10), Common Merg (5).
5. Lake Buel: Nothing!
6. 1,000-acre Swamp: Hooded Merg (4).
7. Coyne Farm (Southfield): Canada Goose (12), Mallard (50); Black Duck (2), Hooded Merganser (4), Common Merg (4).
8. Three-Mile Pond (Great Barrington): Canada Goose (130).
9. Clark Pond: Mallard (8), Black Duck (1).
10. Ice Glen Road wetlands: Mallard (10).
11. Stockbridge Bowl (SW): Canada Goose (44), Mallard (2).

Report from the **Northern Berkshire Waterfowl Count with Chuck Johnson, Carrie Jones, and Audrey Werner.**

1. Mt. Williams Res: Canada Goose (380); **Cackling Goose** (1); **Brant** (1); Mallard (27); Black Duck (7); Ringneck (1); Bufflehead (10); Common Merganser (10).
2. Eph's Pond: Mallard (2);
3. Riverbend: Nobody home
4. Moore's Pond: Mallard (11); Black Duck (16).
5. Bridges' Pond: **American Coot** (1).
6. Clarksburg St. Park: Hooded Merganser (1).
7. Windsor Lake: Nope
8. Field Farm: Nada.
9. Harmon Pond: Mallard (1).

**Other Birds:** Kingfisher, Great Blue Heron, Red-tailed Hawk (4); Rock Pigeon; Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, **Northern Flicker**, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven (1), Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren (2), Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, American Goldfinch, House Finch, House Sparrow.

**Chip Blake, Greg Ward, Pauline Banducci's South County 2021 Waterfowl Survey:**

**Non-waterfowl species:** Herring Gull, Sharpshin Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, **Horned Lark**, American Pipit, European Starling, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Brown Creeper, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, American Goldfinch, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, **Rusty Blackbird**, **Common Grackle**, Northern Cardinal.

Spreadsheet from the South County, west of Rt. 7 Team.

	NW Beaver Pond	Fountain Pond (GB)	Lake Mansfield (GB)	Mill Pond (Shfr)	Giberson Pond (Shfr)	Berkshire Trout Pond (Shfr)	Corbins Neck (AF)	Century Pond (AF)	Rte. 7 (AF)	Covered Bridge (Shfr)	Harmond Marsh (Shfr)	Mill (Smiley's) Pond	Risingdale Mill (GB)	Cranberry Pond (WS)	Shaker Mill Pond (WB)	Prospect Lake (N.Eg)	Airport (GB)	Long Pond (GB)	Total	
Canada Goose	18	18	2	70	300	350		29	28	300		2	18	4	58	31			1210	
Mute Swan													2						2	
Wood Duck		1	4	2			7												14	
Mallard	6	2	5	6	12		3	2	3	4		6	10	2				2	55	
American Black Duck	2				1		23			12		6							42	
Green-winged Teal							2												2	
Ruddy Duck																		22	22	
Common Merganser					1						1								2	
Hooded Merganser		3	6	2						6			11					2	30	
Pied-billed Grebe		2																	2	
American Coot										1									1	
Great Blue Heron				1		1		1						1					4	
Belted Kingfisher										1								1	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1388</b>

This year's count: spectacular weather (the B team!)

