

The 2024-2025 Connecticut Christmas Bird Count Supplemental Materials

Data area based on the CBC 30-year period 1995-96 to 2024-25

Statewide Christmas Bird Counts (21: 7 Northern, 6 Mid-State, 8 Coastal = 21 total counts)

313,128 Total Individuals, 163 Count Day species + 5 Count Week species (Greater White-fronted Goose, Pink-footed Goose, Canvasback, Semipalmated Plover, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron)

799 Field Observers + 77 Feeder Watchers = 876 Total Observers

2,197.14 Total Party Hours & 8,137.69 Total Party Miles

30-Year High Counts (10): Wood Duck (234=>278), Black-headed Gull (2=>2), Cooper's Hawk (218=>218), Red-shouldered Hawk (323=>397), Red-headed Woodpecker (10=>18), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (455=>489), Brown Thrasher (18=>39), Dark-eyed Junco (17,846=>23,622), Song Sparrow (4,565=>4,953), Eastern Towhee (183=>210).

30-Year Low Counts (4): Canvasback (1-CW, missed CD 1st time in at least 76 years), Sanderling (95=>39), American Woodcock (1=>1), Great Black-backed Gull (437=>344).

New Species (0).

Rarities (6 count day + 1 count week): Eared Grebe (6X in 30 years), Semipalmated Plover CW (5X), Grasshopper Sparrow (4X), Spotted Towhee (2X), Black-throated Gray Warbler (2X), Western Tanager (6X), Painted Bunting (4X).

Other Noteworthy Species (1): Sandhill Crane (7X).

30-year Statewide Total: 260 Count Day species + 5 Count Week species (Purple Gallinule, Brown Pelican, Gyrfalcon, Sedge Wren, Indigo Bunting)

Northern Christmas Bird Counts (7: Barkhamsted, Berlin, Edwin Way Teale-Trail Wood, Hartford, Litchfield Hills, Lakeville-Sharon, Storrs)

114,466 Total Individuals, 107 Count Day species + 1 Count Week species (Canvasback)

271 Field Observers + 23 Feeder Watchers = 294 Total Observers

726.82 Total Party Hours & 2,976.85 Total Party Miles

30-Year High Counts (9): Wood Duck (44=>159), Hooded Merganser (901=>1,012), Red-shouldered Hawk (97=>108), Red-bellied Woodpecker (673=>675), Northern House Wren (1=>2), Winter Wren (63=>64), Marsh Wren (4=>7), Dark-eyed Junco (7,919=>9,898), Swamp Sparrow (77=>112).

30-Year Low Counts (3): Snow Goose (1=>0, missed 1st time in 32 years), Merlin (1=>1), Red-breasted Nuthatch (9=>8).

New Species (0).

Rarities (2): Tundra Swan (5X), Northern House Wren (6X).

30-Year Northern Total: 171 Count Day species + 3 Count Week species (Harlequin Duck, Snowy Owl, Black-and-white Warbler)

Lakeville-Sharon, CT Christmas Bird Count **(December 15, 2024)**

Compiler: Bethany Sheffer (Sharon Audubon Center)

12,437 Total Individuals, 68 Count Day species + 0 Count Week species

29 Field Observers + 0 Feeder Watchers = 29 Total Observers

74.25 Total Party Hours & 329.65 Total Party Miles

30-Year High Counts (6): Red-shouldered Hawk (2=>4), Northern Flicker (17=>18), Eastern Phoebe (1=>2), Winter Wren (5=>7), Carolina Wren (25=>34), Brown-headed Cowbird (1,085=>1,242).

30-Year Low Counts (0).

New Species (0).

Rarities (1): Eastern Phoebe (3X).

30-Year Lakeville-Sharon Total = 129 Count Day + 1 Count Week species (Black Scoter).

Lakeville-Sharon Overview: The first Lakeville-Sharon CBC was in 1961, Prentice K. Stout, Compiler. Robert Moeller's first compiler duties were in 1972. Bob Moeller served as primary compiler for CTLS for 43 years, and another 8 years as secondary compiler. Recent CTLS compilers have included Sean Grace, Zack Adams, Eileen Fielding, and Bethany Sheffer.

Litchfield Hills, CT Christmas Bird Count **(December 15, 2024)**

Compiler: David Tripp, Jr. (Litchfield Hills Audubon Society)

17,837 Total Individuals, 79 Count Day species + 4 Count Week species (Canvasback, Horned Lark, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Fox Sparrow)

53 Field Observers + 6 Feeder Watchers = 59 Total Observers

? Total Party Hours & ? Total Party Miles

30-Year High Counts (4): Wood Duck (15=>102), Hooded Merganser (282=>444), Red-shouldered Hawk (24=>33), Red-winged Blackbird (24=>33).

30-Year Low Counts (0).

New Species (0).

Rarities (3): Rough-legged Hawk (5X), Eastern Meadowlark (2X), Pine Warbler (92X).

30-Year Litchfield Hills Total: 140 Count Day species + 4 Count Week species (Blue-winged Teal, Glaucous Gull, Red-throated Loon, Double-crested Cormorant).

Litchfield Hills Overview: S. Dillon Ripley was compiler for two Litchfield CBCs, in 1942 and 1947. The first Litchfield Hills CBC was in 1955. Sidney A. Hessel served as compiler for 9 years. Neil Currie was compiler from 1966 to 1976, for a total of 11 years. Ray Belding was compiler from 1977 to 2021, a remarkable total of 45 years. Dave Tripp, Jr. has been compiler of the Litchfield Hills CBC since 2021.

Barkhamsted, CT Christmas Bird Count **(December 22, 2024)**

Compiler: David Tripp, Jr. (Litchfield Hills Audubon Society)

7,370 Total Individuals, 69 Count Day species + 1 Count Week species
(Black Vulture)

21 Field Observers + 3 Feeder Watchers = 24 Total Observers

134.25 Total Party Hours & 630.00 Total Party Miles

30-Year High Counts (0).

30-Year Low Counts (6): Wild Turkey (15=>7), Mourning Dove (111=>63), Black-capped Chickadee (417=>357), Red-breasted Nuthatch (4=>1), House Sparrow (185=>84), House Finch (63=>28).

New Species (1): Northern House Wren (new to the entire count, 1984-present).

Rarities (4): Horned Lark (4X), White-crowned Sparrow (3X), Savannah Sparrow (6X), Lincoln's Sparrow (2X).

Other Noteworthy Species (1): Field Sparrow (7X).

30-Year Barkhamsted Total: 125 Count Day + 1 Count Week species
(Harlequin Duck).

Barkhamsted Overview: The first Barkhamsted CBC was held in 1984, with Dave Rosgen & David Tripp, Jr. as compilers. Rosgen & Tripp, Jr. shared compiler duties for 8 years. Dave Tripp, Jr. now has been CTBA compiler for 41 years.

Bristol, CT Christmas Bird Count
(December 29, 2024)

Compiler: Jack Swatt

10,195 Total Individuals, 64 Count Day species + 0 Count Week species

29 Field Observers (9-year low) + 6 Feeder Watchers = 35 Total Observers (9-year low)

97.50 Total Party Hours & 550.15 Total Party Miles

New Species (0).

Rarities (2): Northern Harrier, Yellow-rumped Warbler.

9-Year Bristol Total: 92 Count Day species + 3 Count Week species
(Lesser Scaup, Great Black-backed Gull, Rusty Blackbird)

Bristol Overview: The first Bristol CBC was held in 1900 (Frank Bruen & Royal M. Ford, Compilers). Bruen, Ford, Elbert E. Smith, and others held 26 CBCs, the last one in 1927. Jack Swatt revived the Bristol CBC in 2016. The 2024-25 Bristol CBC was the 9th in the modern period.

Hartford, CT Christmas Bird Count **(December 15, 2024)**

Compiler: Jay Kaplan (Hartford Audubon Society)

51,621 Total Individuals, 92 Count Day + 1 Count Week species
(Lincoln's Sparrow)

104 Field Observers + 7 Feeder Watchers = 111 Total Observers

217.00 Total Party Hours & 428.00 Total Party Miles

30-Year High Counts (13): Wood Duck (26=>47), Gadwall (9=>14), American Wigeon (5=>8), American Black Duck (289=>351), Green-winged Teal (14=>15), Lesser Scaup (3=>5), Bald Eagle (16=>21), Red-shouldered Hawk (15=>18), Red-bellied Woodpecker (235=>251), Peregrine Falcon (6=>7), Common Raven (18=>19), Mars Wren (2=>7), Swamp Sparrow (36=>75).

30-Year Low Counts (1): American Goldfinch (277=>198).

New Species (0).

Rarities (2): Greater Scaup (6X), Lesser Scaup (5X).

30-Year Hartford Total: 145 Count Day species + 7 Count Week species (Tundra Swan, White-winged Scoter, Osprey, Snowy Owl, Clay-colored Sparrow, Yellow-breasted Chat, Black-and-white Warbler).

Hartford Overview: Hartford's first CBC was held in 1907, Albert W. Honeywell, Jr., Compiler.

Clifford M. Case submitted CBC results from 1911 through 1927, and Geo. T. Griswold also submitted his own CBC results. Fred Bashour led Hartford CBCs from 1921 through 1948 (Hartford Bird Study Club). Steve Davis (32 years as Hartford compiler). Jay Kaplan (44 years as compiler, to the present).

Storrs, CT Christmas Bird Count **(December 14, 2024)**

Compiler: Steve Morytko (Natchaug Ornithological Association - not active)

9,279 Total Individuals, 81 Count Day species + 1 Count Week species
(Eastern Meadowlark)

26 Field Observers + 1 Feeder Watcher = 27 Total Observers

88.07 Total Party Hours & 452.05 Total Party Miles

30-Year High Counts (7): Bufflehead (36=>49), Hooded Merganser (111=>192), Common Merganser (179=>250), Red-shouldered Hawk (25=>27), Barred Owl (8=>8), Song Sparrow (149=>173), Eastern Towhee (2=>2).

30-Year Low Counts (1): Black-capped Chickadee (2=>2).

New Species (2): Tundra Swan (new to the entire count, 1956-57 to present), Brown Thrasher (last seen in 1991).

Rarities (3 Count Day + 1 Count Week): Pied-billed Grebe (5X), Iceland Gull (5X), Lesser Black-backed Gull (4X), Eastern Meadowlark CW (6X).

Other Noteworthy Species (2): Common Loon (7X), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (7X).

30-Year Storrs Total: 132 Count Day species + 6 Count Week species
(Greater Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Horned Grebe, Short-eared Owl, Evening Grosbeak).

Storrs Overview: The first Storrs CBC was in 1956, Mrs. Mildred Tag, Compiler. Mrs. Norman T. Davis, compiler for 12 years, 1958-1970. Shirley Davis, compiler for 17 years, 1971-1987. Steven D. Rogers (compiler for 19 years, 1991-2009. Steve Morytko, compiler for 15 years, 2010-present.

Edwin Way Teale, Trail Wood, CT Christmas Bird Count
(December 29, 2024)

Compiler: Susan Harrington

5,727 Total Individuals, 65 Count Day species + 0 Count Week species

9 Field Observers + 0 Feeder Watchers = 9 Total Observers

46.00 Total Party Hours & 243.50 Total Party Miles

29-Year High Counts (6): Wood Duck (3=>8), American Black Duck (68=>70), Cooper's Hawk (6=>6), Winter Wren (7=>7), Swamp Sparrow (5=>6), Rusty Blackbird (10=>33).

29-Year Low Counts (0).

New Species (3): Fish Crow (new to the entire count, 1986-present), Northern House Wren, Baltimore Oriole (new to the entire count).

Other Noteworthy Species (1): Eastern Towhee (7X).

29-year Edwin Way Teale, Trail Wood total: 126 Count Day species + 0 Count Week species.

Edwin Way Teale, Trail Wood Overview: The first Trail Wood CBC was held in 1986, led by Compiler Marilyn S. Higgins. Marilyn "Sam" Higgins served as CTEW compiler for 19 years. Sue Harrington took over as compiler in 2008 and now has led 17 Trail Wood CBCs.

Mid-State Christmas Bird Counts (6: Norwich, Oxford, Pawling/Hidden Valley, Quinnipiac Valley, Salmon River, Woodbury-Roxbury)

63,648 Total Individuals, 110 Count Day species + 5 Count Week species (Pink-footed Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Baltimore Oriole)

159 Field Observers + 37 Feeder Watchers = 196 Total Observers

530.07 Total Party Hours & 2,305.84 Total Party Miles

30-Year High Counts (13): Northern Shoveler (8=>8), Hooded Merganser (547=>623), Red-breasted Merganser (9=>31), Common Loon (6=>8), Cooper's Hawk (47=>51), Bald Eagle (71=>76), Red-shouldered Hawk (135=>150), Barred Owl (35=>38), Red-headed Woodpecker (2=>10), Peregrine Falcon (6=>7), Common Raven (131=>166), Dark-eyed Junco (6,089=>7,247).

30-Year Low Counts (0).

New Species (2): Sandhill Crane, Snowy Owl.

Rarities (2): Long-tailed Duck (6X), Osprey (6X).

30-year Mid-State Total: 169 Count Day species + 1 Count Week species (Eurasian Wigeon).

Pawling, NY (Hidden Valley, CT) Christmas Bird Count (January 1, 2025)

Compilers: Carena Pooth and Angela Dimmitt (Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club)

13,578 Total Individuals, 74 Count Day species + 0 Count Week species

36 Field Observers + 6 Feeder Watchers = 42 Total Observers

108.75 Total Party Hours & 501.00 Total Party Miles

30-Year High Counts (4): Green-winged Teal (2=>2), Double-crested Cormorant (4=>5), Belted Kingfisher (15=>16), Peregrine Falcon (1=>2).

30-Year Low Counts (0)

New Species (0)

Rarities (3): Green-winged Teal (4X), Double-crested Cormorant (6X), Peregrine Falcon (4X).

30-Year Pawling (Hidden Valley) Total: 130 Count Day species + 3 Count Week species (Barrow's Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Pine Grosbeak).

Pawling/Hidden Valley Overview: This count was known originally as the "Hidden Valley Region, Conn. CBC" introduced in 1967 with Frances Gillotti as compiler. Gillotti served as compiler for 5 years, followed by Catlin Fox (2 years), Jack Dube (4 years), Jeanne Kauffman (1 year), and James Hammer (6 years).

In 1985, Sibyll Gilbert assumed the compiler duties (19 years total), and she was joined in the later 1990s by Angela Dimmitt. Sibyll compiled the New York data, while Angela handled the assignments and results for the Hidden Valley, Connecticut region. The most recent change in compiler work was in 2004, when Carena Pooth took over New York data, and Angela continued with Connecticut results (25+ years).

Woodbury-Roxbury, CT Christmas Bird Count **(December 14, 2024)**

13,862 Total Individuals, 84 Count Day species + 3 Count Week species (Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Peregrine Falcon)

24 Field Observers + 1 Feeder Watcher = 25 Total Observers

129.75 Total Party Hours & 558.70 Total Party Miles

29-Year High Counts (9): American Black Duck (187=>219), Ring-necked Duck (58=>91), Lesser Scaup (3=>4), Bufflehead (15=>28), Hooded Merganser (87=>114), Red-shouldered Hawk (34=>36), Red-headed Woodpecker (1=>4), Red-bellied Woodpecker (143=>148), Pileated Woodpecker (23=>23).

29-Year Low Counts (3): Sharp-shinned Hawk (2=>0, missed 1st time in 51 years), Cedar Waxwing (33=>7), Gray Catbird (1=>1).

New Species (0)

Rarities (3 Count Day + 1 Count Week): Green-winged Teal (5X), Common Loon (3X), Red-headed Woodpecker (4X), Peregrine Falcon CW (5X).

29-Year Woodbury-Roxbury Total: 13 Count Day species + 3 Count Week species (*Selasphorus* hummingbird, Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanager)

Woodbury-Roxbury Overview: Woodbury held CBCs in 1926, 1927, and 1933, led by Hillard E. Pearson. The modern day Woodbury-Roxbury CBC was introduced in 1964 by Douglas Lunan (5 years). Edmund Briggs, Jr. led the 1969 and 1970 counts. Aldro Jenks began his 18 years as compiler in 1971. From 1989 to 2009, compilers included Mark Szantyr (2 yr), Mike Harwood (1 yr), Ed Hagen (11 yr), Chris Wood (15 yr), and Renee Baade (5 yr). Ken Elkins assumed compiler duties in 2011 (13 yr). Robert A. Buck became compiler in 2024.

Oxford, CT Christmas Bird Count **(December 15, 2024)**

Compiler: Roy Harvey

7,745 Total Individuals, 73 Count Day species + 0 Count Week species

18 Field Observers + 0 Feeder Watchers = 18 Total Observers

62.50 Total Party Hours & 270.00 Total Party Miles

30-Year High Counts (4): Red-shouldered Hawk (27=>27), Peregrine Falcon (3=>3), Common Grackle (900=>1,776), Pine Warbler (2=>2).

30-Year Low Counts (4): Ring-billed Gull (171=>72), American Herring Gull (12=>8), Great Blue Heron (1=>1), Northern Cardinal (95=>93).

New Species (0)

Rarities (4): Gadwall (5X), Osprey (3X), Long-eared Owl (4X), Pine Warbler (3X).

30-Year Oxford Total: 129 Count Day species + 1 Count Week species
(Evening Grosbeak)

Oxford Overview: Alfred P. Harger served as compiler of the Oxford CBC for 45 years, from 1928 to 1973. Remarkably, he was the only field observer for the count from 1928 to 1971. There were 7 participants in 1972 and 13 in 1973, which was Harger's last year on the count that he initiated decades earlier. For several years in the 1930s, the count was known as the Oxford and Seymour CBC.

After Harger's time, several compilers saw that the count area received better coverage with numerous field observers. These compilers included: Ron Hudson (1974-1982, 9 years); Buzz Devine (1979-2000, 22 years); Mark Szantyr (6 years); also, Tom Sharp.

Roy Harvey became compiler of the Oxford count in 2004 and has served well in this capacity to the present, a total of 21 years and counting.

Quinnipiac Valley, CT Christmas Bird Count **(December 15, 2024)**

Compiler: Melissa Baston (Quinnipiac Valley Audubon Society)

7,604 total individuals (30-year low total), 78 Count Day species + 6 Count Week species (Pink-footed Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, American Wigeon, Virginia Rail, American Coot, Merlin)

24 Field Observers + 1 Feeder Watcher = 25 Total Observers

67.84 Total Party Hours & 305.61 Total Party Miles

30-Year High Counts (5): Northern Shoveler (8=>8), Great Cormorant (3=>24), Northern Harrier (6=>7), Cooper's Hawk (11=>14), Common Yellowthroat (2=>2)

30-Year Low Counts (3): Canada Goose (1,881=>1,469), Ring-billed Gull (200=>127), European Starling (907=>650)

New Species (2 Count Week): Pink-footed Goose CW, Eurasian Wigeon CW

Rarities (3): American Goshawk (5X), Common Yellowthroat (5X), Pine Warbler (2X).

Other Noteworthy Species (1): Great Cormorant (7X).

30-Year Quinnipiac Valley Total: 140 Count Day species + 4 Count Week species (Pink-footed Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Sandhill Crane, Snowy Owl)

QV Overview: The first Quinnipiac Valley CBC was held in 1971, known then as Quinnipiac Valley Region. Gary Dunn and Wilford Schultz were compilers. They shared duties for 4 years. Will Schultz continued through the 2004-05 CBC, a total of 34 years. Some help came from John Schultz and Debra Schultz. In 2005, Wilhelmina "Billie" Smith and Loretta Victor were compilers (5 years). Melissa Baston & Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe served for the next 14 years. Melissa was sole compiler for the 2024-25 CBC.]

Salmon River, CT Christmas Bird Count **(December 15, 2024)**

Compilers: Sharon Dellinger & Doreen Jezek

9,959 Total Individuals, 84 Count Day species + 2 Count Week species
(American Pipit, Chipping Sparrow)

42 Total Field Observers + 12 Feeder Watchers = 54 Total Observers

98.75 Total Party Hours & 317.75 Total Party Miles

30-Year High Counts (15): Wood Duck (14=>17), American Coot (6=>7), Northern Harrier (3=>4), Cooper's Hawk (9=>10), Barred Owl (7=>8), Red-headed Woodpecker (1=>4), Red-bellied Woodpecker (102=>107), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (29=>38), Pileated Woodpecker (16=>21), Common Raven (43=>56), Winter Wren (9=>10), Purple Finch (17=>17), Dark-eyed Junco (1,257=>1515), Savannah Sparrow (14=>23), Common Grackle (566=>683).

30-Year Low Counts (0) New Species (1): Snowy Owl

Rarities (5 Count Day + 1 Count Week): Lesser Scaup (6X), American Coot (4X), Long-eared Owl (3X), Red-headed Woodpecker (3X), Merlin (6X), American Pipit CW (6X).

Other Noteworthy Species (1): Green-winged Teal (American) (7X).

30-Year Salmon River Total: 134 Count Day species + 3 Count Week species (Canvasback, Long-tailed Duck, White-winged Crossbill)

Salmon River Overview: James Mockalis (compiler 11 years) inaugurated the Salmon River CBC in 1975, assisted greatly by Alberta Mockalis. Dave Titus joined as compiler in 1985, serving for 18 years. John Maynard and Clay Taylor each had a year of compiler duties. Alison Guinness was co-compiler for six years. Joe Morin was primary compiler for 13 years, through 2016. Since 2017, Sharon Dellinger and Doreen Jezek have been CTSR compilers.]

Norwich, CT Christmas Bird Count (December 22, 2024)

Compiler: Allison Black

10,899 Total Individuals, 88 Count Day species + 2 Count Week species (Ring-necked Pheasant, Baltimore Oriole).

15 Field Observers + 17 Feeder Watchers = 32 Total Observers (new high total)

62.48 Total Party Hours (new high) & 352.78 Total Party Miles (new high)

New Species (6 Count Day + 2 Count Week): Green-winged Teal (American), Long-tailed Duck, Ring-necked Pheasant CW, Pied-billed Grebe (new to Count Day, was Count Week), Common Loon, Snow Bunting, White-crowned Sparrow, Baltimore Oriole CW.

6-Year Norwich Total: 112 Count Day species + 2 Count Week species (Ring-necked Pheasant, Baltimore Oriole)

Norwich Overview: Allison Black is founder and compiler of the Norwich, Connecticut CBC. The first Norwich CBC was held during the 120th National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count (2019-2020).

Coastal Christmas Bird Counts (Guilford-Long Island Sound, Greenwich-Stamford, Napatree, RI/CT/NY, New Haven, New London, Old Lyme-Saybrook, Stratford-Milford, Westport)

135,017 Total Individuals, 159 Count Day species + 4 Count Week species (Greater White-fronted Goose, Canvasback, Semipalmated Plover, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron)

369 Field Observers + 17 Feeder Watchers = 386 Total Observers

940.25 Total Party Hours & 2,855.00 Total Party Miles

30-Year High Counts (12): Black-headed Gull (2=>2), Red-shouldered Hawk (117=>139), Red-headed Woodpecker (8=>8), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (200=>243), Brown Thrasher (24=>38), American Pipit (159=>181), Field Sparrow (194=>199), Fox Sparrow (164=>168), Dark-eyed Junco (5,624=>6,477), Song Sparrow (2,537=>2,731), Lincoln's Sparrow (2=>2), Eastern Towhee (146=>171).

30-Year Low Counts (10 Count Day + 1 Count Week): Canvasback (1=>CW, missed Count Day 1st time in at least 76 years), Wild Turkey (149=>136), Rock Pigeon (feral pigeon) (2,083=>2,081), Sanderling (95=>39), American Woodcock (1=>1), Ring-billed Gull (5,016=>4,782), American Herring Gull (7,879=>7,753), Lesser Black-backed Gull (1=>1), Great Black-backed Gull (416=>320), Sharp-shinned Hawk (31=>25), American Kestrel (1=>1).

New Species (0)

Rarities (5 Count Day + 1 Count Week): Semipalmated Plover CW (5X), Grasshopper Sparrow (4X), Spotted Towhee (2X), Black-throated Gray Warbler (2X), Western Tanager (3X), Painted Bunting (4X).

30-Year Coastal Total: 252 Count Day species + 7 Count Week species (Pink-footed Goose, Purple Gallinule, Brown Pelican, Gyrfalcon, Sedge Wren, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Indigo Bunting)

Greenwich-Stamford Christmas Bird Count **(December 15, 2024)**

Compiler: Cynthia Ehlinger (Audubon Greenwich)

23,682 Total Individuals, 106 Count Day species + 6 Count Week species (Greater White-fronted Goose, King Eider, Common Eider, American Woodcock, Bonaparte's Gull, Northern Gannet)

68 Field Observers + 2 Feeder Watchers = 70 Total Observers

227.75 Total Party Hours & 738.58 Total Party Miles

30-Year High Counts (9): Northern Pintail (3=>3), Lesser Scaup (75=>153), Red-shouldered Hawk (17=>18), Barred Owl (12=>14), Pileated Woodpecker (18=>25), Carolina Wren (262=>264), Brown Thrasher (2=>2), Song Sparrow (470=>503), Swamp Sparrow (23=>26).

30-Year Low Counts (1): Sharp-shinned Hawk (3=>3).

New Species (1): Grasshopper Sparrow

Rarities (3): King Eider CW (3X), Common Eider CW (3X), Yellow-breasted Chat (6X).

Other Noteworthy Species (1): Laughing Gull (7X).

30-Year Greenwich-Stamford Total: 193 Count Day species + 8 Count Week species (Ross's Goose, Pink-footed Goose, Clapper Rail, Purple Gallinule, Sanderling, Brown Pelican, Golden Eagle, Painted Bunting).

Greenwich-Stamford Overview: The Port Chester, New York Christmas Bird Count, which included portions of southwestern Connecticut, held its first CBCs in 1911, 1913, 1914, and 1915, with field work by Richard L. Burdsall, Paul Cecil Spofford, William Bolton Cook, James C. Maples, and others. After a few years without holding a count, Burdsall renewed the count in 1923, and again in 1924 with Maples. Following another gap of six years, the Port Chester CBC was held each year from 1931 to 1949, the last year that the count carried the name Port Chester. William Bolton Cook and Paul Cecil Spofford led these counts, with others including Mrs. W.B. Cook. In 1943, Phillip Youngman led a count in Greenwich that was distinct from the one that carried the Port Chester name.

The Port Chester CBC officially became the Greenwich-Stamford count in 1950, led that year by C.E. Mohr, who led a follow up count in 1953. Bolton Cook took over as compiler from 1954 to 1971 (18 years), assisted in 1969 and 1971 by P.C. Spofford. Beginning in 1972, Gary Palmer was Greenwich-Stamford compiler. Gary Palmer held that position for a remarkable total of 49 years. Joe Zeranski was co-compiler for 12 of those years. Since 1976, CTGS has been conducted by three compilers in most years. Tom Baptist (11 years) and Brian O'Toole (15 years) have contributed significantly, and 8 other compilers have assisted for one to four years. Cynthia Ehlinger first served as co-compiler in 2004 and has been primary compiler for the past 15 years, for a total of 22 years.

Westport, CT Christmas Bird Count **(December 22, 2024)**

Compilers: Chase McCabe, Aidan Kiley, Mardi Dickinson, Townsend Dickinson

11,449 Total Individuals, 107 Count Day species + 2 Count Week species (Double-crested Cormorant, Fish Crow)

36 Field Observers + 4 Feeder Watchers = 40 Total Observers

80.50 Total Party Hours & 389.66 Total Party Miles

30-Year High Counts (7): Red-shouldered Hawk (1=>16), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (22=>25), Brown Creeper (8=>8), Dark-eyed Junco (774=>788), Eastern Meadowlark (2=>6), Rusty Blackbird (6=>25), Pine Warbler (3=>3).

30-Year Low Counts (0)

New Species (0)

Rarities (2): Eastern Meadowlark (6X), Palm Warbler (6X).

30-Year Westport Total: 177 Count Day species + 7 Count Week species (Sandhill Crane, Golden Eagle, Barn Owl, Red Crossbill, Seaside Sparrow, Ovenbird, Indigo Bunting)

Westport Overview: The Westport CBC was sponsored in 1949 by the Westport Audubon Society, with Frank Novak (Warden at Birdcraft Sanctuary) and Paul C. Spofford as compilers. A succession of compilers followed, including L.J. Bradley (15 years), R.H. Moulton (1 year), Edward Thompson (3 years), Bob Dewire (5 year), George W. Zepko (3 years), Chris Wood (1 year), Dennis Varza (2 years), Carole Clarkson (4 years), Ed Hiestand (8 years), David Havens (5 years), Charlie Barnard (1 year), Jim Hunter (9 years), and Luke Tiller (2 years). Frank Mantlik was compiler of the Westport CBC for 22 years, from 1979 to 2001. Mardi & Townsend Dickinson have served as compilers for the past 15 years, with the most recent, 2024-25 CBC headed up by primary compilers Chase McCabe and Aidan Kiley.

Stratford-Milford, CT Christmas Bird Count (December 22, 2024)

Compiler: Steve Mayo (no current affiliation)

12,219 Total Individuals (30-year low total), 109 Count Day species + 5 Count Week species (Canvasback, Laughing Gull, Double-crested Cormorant, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Peregrine Falcon)

29 Field Observers + 3 Feeder Watchers = 32 Total Observers

85.50 Total Party Hours & 233.00 Total Party Miles

30-Year High Counts (9): Green-winged Teal (American) (109=>125), Clapper Rail (5=>6), Black-bellied Plover (9=>10), Greater Yellowlegs (15=>15), Bald Eagle (9=>15), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (8=>10), Merlin (3=>3), Common Raven (9=>15), Hermit Thrush (7=>7).

30-Year Low Counts (5): Common Goldeneye (82=>59), Great Cormorant (1=>1), Belted Kingfisher (5=>5), American Crow (70=>68), Fish Crow (3=>2).

New Species (1): Nashville Warbler

Rarities (2): Common Eider (6X), Laughing Gull CW (3X).

Other Noteworthy Species (1): Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (7X).

30-Year Stratford-Milford Total: 181 Count Day species + 2 Count Week species (Sandhill Crane, Seaside Sparrow)

Stratford-Milford Overview: Stratford held early counts in 1913 and again in 1922 (Wilbur F. Smith, *et al.*). After a lapse of four decades, a Stratford count was held in 1965, with Edward Thompson as the one observer. The modern day Stratford-Milford count began in 1971, led by Charles Hills (2 years) & Dennis Varza (15 years). No count was held in 1972. Carl Trichka was compiler for 3 years (1977-79). Fred Sibley led the count for 4 years (1986-89), joined by Steve Mayo in 1989. Steve Mayo has been compiler ever since, for a 36 year record of service.

New Haven, CT Christmas Bird Count **(December 14, 2024)**

Compiler: Christopher Loscalzo (New Haven Bird Club)

34,143 Total Individuals, 121 Count Day species + 1 Count Week species (Pine Warbler)

96 Field Observers + 2 Feeder Watchers = 98 Total Observers

199.00 Total Party Hours & 496.00 Total Party Miles

30-Year High Counts (15): Black-bellied Plover (10=>13), Dunlin (20=>109), Red-shouldered Hawk (36=>36), Red-bellied Woodpecker (200=>211), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (38=>46), Hairy Woodpecker (55=>55), Blue Jay (657=>743), Tufted Titmouse (414=>449), White-breasted Nuthatch (219=>233), Brown Creeper (23=>24), Field Sparrow (42=>61), Dark-eyed Junco (1,263=>1,404), Song Sparrow (659=>666), Lincoln's Sparrow (2=>2), Eastern Towhee (22=>27).

30-Year Low Counts (1): Ring-billed Gull (1,132=>1,021).

New Species (0)

Rarities (2): Clay-colored Sparrow (6X), Lincoln's Sparrow (6X).

30-Year New Haven Totals: 200 Count Day species + 1 Count Week species (Wilson's Warbler).

New Haven Overview: The earliest New Haven Christmas Bird Counts involved either single field observers or very small teams that surveyed portions of Greater New Haven. **See Sibley, Fred C. 1982. Connecticut Christmas Bird Counts 1900 to 1909: The First Decade. The Connecticut Warbler, Volume 2, Number 1, pages 5-7 (January), for the 26 separate counts conducted in “New Haven” during this first decade, as well as the other CBCs around in the state.** An additional 11 New Haven counts were held through 1922. Following a hiatus of 18 years, compiler Davis H. Crompton headed up a revised New Haven CBC, then taking place within a 7 1/2 mile radius that was centered on the center of the center of the New Haven Green. After World War II, several counts were held, led primarily by Irston R. Barnes.

The “modern period” began in 1957 with Will Stoddard, Sr. as compiler (8 years). Beginning in 1967, the compiler team of David Finch and Noble Proctor added significantly to the extent of coverage of the count circle and the total number of bird species observed. Richard Bernard took over as New Haven compiler for three years (1972-74). Dick Bernard was succeeded by the team of Fred King and Fred Sibley (1975-84). In 1985, Steve Broker assumed the compiler duties (17 years). He was joined in 1988 by co-compiler Frank Gallo and in 1995 by co-compiler Chris Loscalzo. Chris Loscalzo became sole compiler of the New Haven CBC in 2002 and has served admirably in this role for 30 years.

Guilford-Long Island Sound, CT
(January 4, 2025)

Compilers: Sue Stark, Tom Kelly (Menunkatuck Audubon Society)

3,238 Total Individuals, 6 Count Day species + 0 Count Week species

16 Field Observers + 1 Feeder Watcher = 17 Total Observers

22.00 Total Party Hours & 27.30 Total Party Miles

New Species (0)

9-Year Guilford-Long Island Sound Total: 114 Count Day species + 1 Count Week species (Black Vulture).

Guilford-Long Island Sound Overview: The Guilford-Long island Sound CBC was introduced in 2015, with Nina Levenduski as compiler. This coastal count now has been held for nine years. There was no count in 2020. Tom Kelly has been compiler or co-compiler for 7 of those years. Louise Kelly, Lorrie Shaw, and Robert Kuchta have assisted. From 2021 to 2023, John Picard, j. canoe, Tom Kelly, and Robert Kuchta shared duties. In 2024, Sue Stark and Tom Kelly compiled the count.

Old Lyme-Saybrook, CT Christmas Bird Count **(January 5, 2025)**

Compiler: Matthew Bell

13,317 Total Individuals, 107 Count Day species + 3 Count Week species (Eurasian Wigeon, American Woodcock, Yellow-breasted Chat)

37 Field Observers + 5 Feeder Watchers = 42 Total Observers

62.70 Total Party Hours & 202.05 Total Party Miles

30-Year High Counts (3): Black Vulture (38=>47), Bald Eagle (49=>49), Dark-eyed Junco (569=>608).

30-Year Low Counts (2): Mute Swan (24=>10), Cedar Waxwing (23=>12).

New Species (1): Western Tanager (new to Count Day, was Count Week).

Rarities (3 Count Day + 2 Count Week): Eurasian Wigeon CW (2X), King Eider (3X), Greater Yellowlegs (6X), Red-headed Woodpecker (6X), Yellow-breasted Chat CW (6X).

30-Year Old Lyme-Saybrook Total: 191 Count Day species + 2 Count Week species (Gyr Falcon, Evening Grosbeak).

Old Lyme-Saybrook Overview: Christmas Bird Counts were held in Saybrook during the years 1937-39 (Morgan G. Bulkeley, 3D), in 1943 (Chester Bowles, Jr.), and 1947-48 (Irston R. Barnes). The Old Lyme-Saybrook CBC was led by Barnes in 1952, '54, and '56. Notably, Roger Tory Peterson was co-compiler in 1959. No counts were held during the first 6 years of the 1960s. The current 59 year run began in 1966, when RTP and Paul Spitzer were co-compilers. From 1967 to 1978, CTNL was led by Davis Finch (4 years), Noble S. Proctor (12 years), Stanley Quickmire (5 years with NSP), and William Burt (1 year with NSP). Jay Hand was Old Lyme-Saybrook compiler for 17 years (1979-1995). Patty Pendergast was compiler for 10 years, (1996-2005). Patty was succeeded by Barbara Barron/Barbara Hawes (2006-19). Matt Bell has been compiler since 2020 (5 yr).

New London, CT Christmas Bird Count **(December 28, 2024)**

Compilers: Lisa Wahle, Robert Dewire

19,604 Total Individuals, 126 Count Day species + 2 Count Week species (Semipalmated Plover, American Kestrel)

60 Field Observers + 0 Feeder Watchers = 60 Total Observers

150.80 Total Party Hours & 517.80 Total Party Miles

30-Year High Counts (13): Gadwall (73=>87), Black Scoter (106=>118), Wilson's Snipe (3=>6), Common Loon (241=>251), Great Horned Owl (11=>11), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (38=>49), Winter Wren (16=>19), Brown Thrasher (10=>16), Field Sparrow (71=>73), White-throated Sparrow (1,018=>1,180), Song Sparrow (522=>545), Swamp Sparrow (45=>45), Pine Warbler (1=>4).

30-Year Low Counts (1): Cedar Waxwing (14=>13).

New Species (2): American Oystercatcher (new to Count Day, was Count Week), Black-throated Gray Warbler (new to the entire count)

Rarities (4 Count Day + 1 Count Week): Northern Shoveler (6X), King Eider (5X), Semipalmated Plover CW (2X), Spotted Towhee (2X), Common Yellowthroat (6X).

Other Noteworthy Species (1): Greater Yellowlegs (7X).

30-Year New London Total: 193 Count Day species + 3 Count Week species (Semipalmated Plover, Tennessee Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler)

New London Overview: The New London CBC is one of the longest running counts in Connecticut, conducted initially from 1905 to 1931 by Frances Minor Graves (27 years). After a gap of 6 years, the Connecticut College Ornithology Club restarted the count, led by Mrs. Nona Kip (1938-41, 4 years), Robert Fulton Logan (1942-53, 7 years), and Richard H. Goodwin (1954-62, 9 years). Robert Dewire's first year as New London Compiler was in 1963. Bob has led the New London count for an unprecedented 62 years, from 1963 to present. Lisa Wahle became the primary compiler in 2024, assisted by Bob Dewire.

Napatree, RI/CT Christmas Bird Count **(December 22, 2024)**

Compilers: Shai Mitra, Glenn Williams

20,603 Total Individuals, 128 Count Day species + 1 Count Week species (Lesser Scaup)

43 Field Observers + 1 Feeder Watcher = 44 Total Observers

134.00 Total Party Hours & 277.91 Total Party Miles

23-Year High Counts (11): Greater Scaup (236=>286), Bonaparte's Gull (405=>601), Black-headed Gull (1=>2), Red-shouldered Hawk (17=>24), Red-headed Woodpecker (1=>4), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (18=>37), American Crow (292=>358), Hermit Thrush (56=>65), Dark-eyed Junco (506=>717), White-throated Sparrow (768=>768), Eastern Towhee (39=>43).

23-Year Low Counts (3): Razorbill (1=>0, missed 1st time in 23 years), Great Black-backed Gull (62=>62), Northern Gannet (5=>3).

New Species (0)

Rarities (7): Eurasian Wigeon (2X), Redhead (3X), Lesser Scaup CW (6X), Eared Grebe (4X), Pileated Woodpecker (3X), Painted Bunting (3X), Dickcissel (3X).

Other Noteworthy Species (1): Snow Goose (7X).

23-Year Napatree Total: 196 Count Day species + 3 Count Week species (Pink-footed Goose, Tundra Swan, Sedge Wren)

Napatree Overview: The Napatree CBC was introduced in 2000 by Shaibal Mitra. Shai has led this count for 25 years, working with co-compiler Glenn Williams for the last 15 years. The Napatree CBC, whose count circle includes some Atlantic Ocean waters off the Rhode Island coast, has added high numbers of pelagic species to the Connecticut "statewide" CBC

Summary: During the 125 year history of Connecticut Christmas Bird Counts, a number of counts have taken place in regions of the state that either no longer hold CBCs or they are counts that have been incorporated into the required present-day 7 1/2 mile radius. Among these are:

Northern Counts:

Northwestern Connecticut (1941)
Unionville (1913)
West Hartford (1909-26)
Mansfield (1927-28)
Glastonbury (1906-31)
Simsbury (1947-48)
New Britain (1927)
Washington (1904-41)
Windsor (1910-16)
South Windsor (1913-37)
Ellington (1942-43)

Mid-State Counts:

Watertown (1931)
Waterbury (1908-09, '49)
Meriden (1914-34)
Middletown (1908-23)
Southington (1910)

Coastal Counts:

Southwestern Connecticut (1933-38)	West Haven (1943-44)
Sound Beach (1930)	Westville (1905-10)
New Canaan (1910-11)	Lake Saltonstall (1907)
Ridgefield (1910)	Momauguin to South End, East Haven (1907)
Norwalk (1900-19)	East Haven (1909)
South Norwalk (1903-12)	Bethany to New Haven Harbor (1946)
Talmadge Hill (1909)	Madison (1919)
Wilton (1912-41)	Clinton and Grove Beach (1916)
Monroe (1914-15)	Waterford (1923-29)
Sand Spit to Orange (1907)	

Sources:

Bird-Lore (1899-1940, Christmas Bird Counts #1-#40)

Audubon Magazine/Audubon Field Notes 1941-1970, CBCs #41-#70

American Birds 1971-present, CBCs #71-#125

National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count online The online entry of CBC data began ca. 1996.

My own collected records of CBC results

(Prepared by Steve Broker, May 2025)