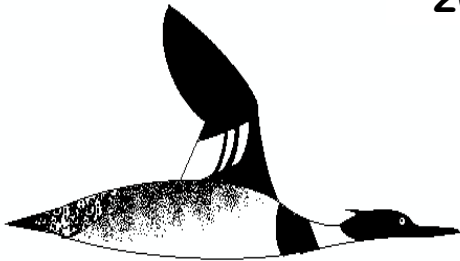


Cape Cod Lake & Pond Waterfowl Survey

2006 SUMMARY



The 24th annual Cape Cod Lake and Pond Waterfowl Survey was conducted by members of the Cape Cod Bird Club on the weekend of December 2-3, 2006. For the third straight year, the weather leading up to the survey was mild—in fact record-breaking: November was the warmest ever in Boston. The weather on the survey weekend was excellent both days, and icing was non-existent.

Thirty-five observers surveyed 357 ponds, both about average totals. However, only 7,774 ducks of 28 species were found, almost a thousand birds above last year's record low, but still the second lowest total in the survey's history. Like last year, the declines were almost across the board: 14 species were recorded in numbers that were 10% or more below average, while only five species (Mute Swan, Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck, and American Coot) appeared in numbers that were 10% or more above average.

Presumably the low totals were due, at least in part, to the extremely mild weather this fall. Totals on this survey have often fallen below average in mild years, presumably because many ducks remain farther north and/or inland until frozen out, at which point they move to warmer climes to the south or along the coast. However, numbers were so low again this year that one must wonder if other factors were involved.

SELECTED SPECIES RESULTS

Pied-billed Grebes, at 59 individuals, rebounded from three straight years of depressed totals, but were still 26% below average.

Canada Geese numbers rebounded from last year's record low, but were still 21% below average. Totals for this species have fluctuated sharply over the survey's history. However, most geese (at least the wild ones!) winter in tidal habitats, so the numbers on this survey may not reflect the overall population.

Mute Swans also rebounded from last year's depressed totals, the 195 birds this year actually being somewhat above average..

American Black Ducks were another species that recovered somewhat from last year's very low levels, though this year's 1171 birds was still slightly below normal. However, like Canada Goose, this species inhabits primarily tidal environments so probably is not adequately sampled in this survey.

Mallards continued their baffling plummet, establishing a new record low of just 847 birds. This is 35% below average and little more than a third of the 1999 high of 2228 birds. In addition, they were found on just 90 (25%) of the ponds.

American Green-winged Teal, although seldom numerous, totaled just 7 birds, the second lowest in the survey's history.

Canvasbacks reappeared following last year's absence, though were found at just one pond where 24 birds were present.

Scaup (both species combined) were up somewhat from last year, but were still 46% below average.

Common Goldeneye is a species that does not arrive in numbers until the weather turns really cold, and this year's total of 84 birds (-60%) is the second lowest in the survey's history.

Ruddy Ducks continued their recent increase, the total of 282 birds being the third highest ever and more than triple the 24-year average.

American Coots declined from last year's elevated levels, but were still well above average (+17%).

Bufflehead was again the most common species, with 1425 individuals (18.3% of the total). Scaup (both species combined) were second with 1231 birds, followed by American Black Duck at 1171 birds. These three species comprised over 47% of the overall total. The most widespread species was Bufflehead, which was found on 100 (28%) of the ponds, while Mallard dropped to second place (90 ponds), followed by American Black Duck (79 ponds).

The most unusual species on this year's survey was Red-necked Grebe, singles of which were found in both Sandwich and Barnstable. This species has been recorded only once in the survey's previous 24 years.

RESULTS BY TOWN

As always, Falmouth out-distanced all other towns, this year with 1826 birds or 23% of the Capewide total. Barnstable was a distant second with 1059 birds. However, Barnstable took top



honors for best variety with 18 species, followed closely by Falmouth and Harwich with 17 species each.

RESULTS BY POND

An average of 22 birds/pond was recorded, up from last year's record low; but still the second lowest in the survey's history. This compares with a peak of 48 birds/pond in 1987. Of the 357 ponds surveyed, 132 (37%) had no birds at all. Hinckley's Pond in Harwich hosted the largest number of birds (484), followed by Salt Pond in Falmouth with 360 birds.

Hinckley's Pond also had the best variety, with 13 species, followed by Pilgrim Lake in Truro with 10 species.

If you would like additional copies of this summary, send a large S.A.S.E. to the compiler:

**Blair Nikula, 2 Gilbert Lane, Harwich Port,
MA 02646.**

PARTICIPATION

At least 35 people took part in this year's survey. Many thanks to each and every one!

Participants:

Ron Ayotte, Peter Bono, Frank Caruso, Kathleen Casey, Dave & Fran Clapp, Molly Cornell, Mike Dettrey, Peter Flood, Dan Furbish, Dick & Sylvia Jurkowski, Mary Keleher, Art King, Kathy & Rives McGinley, Blair Nikula, Tom Noonan, Ginie Page, Alida Pellegrini-Toole, Alison Robb, Don & Carol Scott, Arky & Janet Silverio, Betsy Stepney, Beth Schwarzman, Jim Talin, Aurele Thomas, John Toole, Peter Trimble, Lou & Lee Turner, Mark Tuttle, and Ellie Winslow.

2006 Cape Cod Lake and Pond Waterfowl Survey

Species	BOURNE	FALMOUTH	SANDWICH	MASHPEE	BARNSTABLE	YARMOUTH	DENNIS	BREWSTER	HARWICH	CHATHAM	ORLEANS	EASTHAM	WELLFLEET	TRURO	PROVINCETOWN	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL	# OF PONDS
Red-throated Loon	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Common Loon	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0.1	5
Pied-billed Grebe	2	9	3	6	8	7	0	6	11	6	1	0	0	2	0	61	0.8	32
Red-necked Grebe	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Canada Goose	10	154	146	14	101	44	32	34	89	7	10	14	3	0	13	671	8.6	39
Mute Swan	6	81	4	10	15	33	19	2	4	3	17	0	0	1	0	195	2.5	44
Wood Duck	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.1	2
Gadwall	0	1	3	0	15	12	18	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0.6	7
Eurasian Wigeon	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
American Wigeon	0	33	0	0	27	0	0	0	0	8	17	0	0	0	0	85	1.1	10
Black Duck	7	111	15	8	22	146	25	5	45	147	373	116	5	45	101	1171	15.1	79
Mallard	7	166	70	46	157	248	17	13	18	16	60	19	3	7	0	847	10.9	90
Northern Pintail	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	0.1	3
Green-winged Teal	0	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.1	3
Canvasback	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0.3	1
Ring-necked Duck	74	55	116	10	60	0	0	2	2	0	12	6	3	9	0	349	4.5	24
Greater Scaup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	57	63	0	0	0	0	35	0	155	2	4
Lesser Scaup	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	0	0	0	0	0	35	0.5	2
scaup species	0	552	0	2	186	0	0	65	230	6	0	0	0	0	0	1041	13.4	16
Common Eider	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Surf Scoter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	10	0.1	1
White-winged Scoter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	0	70	0.9	1
Bufflehead	14	384	64	114	215	269	105	10	88	4	70	46	9	32	1	1425	18.3	100
Common Goldeneye	0	5	0	22	11	0	0	0	40	0	0	0	0	6	0	84	1.1	8
Hooded Merganser	60	197	35	37	114	24	0	1	20	61	43	84	0	0	0	676	8.7	64
Common Merganser	0	0	133	16	3	0	0	0	105	0	0	0	0	20	0	277	3.6	6
Red-breasted Merganser	0	65	0	3	0	2	11	0	2	0	8	0	0	0	0	91	1.2	17
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	0	69	3	0	67	1	0	100	2	0	40	0	282	3.6	9
American Coot	0	2	3	27	48	3	0	23	28	1	12	0	0	0	0	147	1.9	20
TOTAL NUMBER	182	1826	593	317	1059	796	227	287	774	287	724	287	23	277	115	7774		225
% of Total	2	23	8	4	14	10	3	4	10	4	9	4	0	4	1			
Number of Species	9	17	12	14	18	14	7	12	17	10	13	7	5	12	3	28		
Number of Ponds Censused	15	50	19	19	48	29	21	28	25	29	30	11	13	8	12	357		
Birds per Pond	12	37	31	17	22	27	11	10	31	10	24	26	2	35	10	22		
Number of Observers	2	9	3	1	5	3	1	2	5	2	4	1	1	2	1	35		

Cape Cod Lake and Pond Waterfowl Survey

1984 - 2006 Totals

SPECIES:	YEAR:																								1984-2005 average	Change: 2006 vs. average
	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006			
Red-throated Loon	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	4	0	1	1	3	4	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	1	1	--	
Common Loon	3	8	5	4	5	13	7	20	6	10	5	11	7	7	10	0	6	11	8	0	3	4	6	7	--	
Pied-billed Grebe	92	57	63	160	56	42	43	60	63	80	95	179	64	132	204	108	41	57	32	11	26	59	61	78	-22%	
Horned Grebe	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	
Red-necked Grebe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	--	
White-fronted Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	
Snow Goose	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	
Canada Goose	1246	1504	1165	973	1291	1676	961	659	476	757	792	1005	276	618	1066	474	837	496	742	615	689	344	671	848	-21%	
Brant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	0	3	0	2	--	
Mute Swan	64	75	118	177	149	176	137	261	226	247	233	193	147	214	249	255	156	183	178	124	164	120	195	175	12%	
Tundra Swan	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	--	
Wood Duck	0	1	2	2	7	20	0	3	1	0	2	3	0	5	18	11	6	6	6	5	1	3	4	5	-13%	
Gadwall	14	11	18	72	38	95	153	81	56	150	183	261	155	141	167	101	128	123	94	26	55	94	50	101	-50%	
Eurasian Wigeon	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	5	1	1	4	3	3	1	4	2	6	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	--	
American Wigeon	35	23	38	51	95	159	86	92	63	61	121	176	125	69	164	253	184	102	71	86	84	105	85	102	-17%	
Am. Black Duck	1497	1044	1006	1325	1160	1461	2004	1047	668	685	2184	1067	1049	1613	2500	1929	1128	1416	911	653	1384	831	1171	1298	-10%	
Mallard	1745	1731	1617	1789	1596	1901	1911	1626	1180	1256	1462	1619	1037	1640	1748	2228	2147	2115	1982	1580	1549	1085	847	1661	-35%	
Blue-winged Teal	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	1	--	
Northern Shoveler	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	5	2	3	0	0	2	0	0	4	0	3	0	1	--	
Northern Pintail	49	91	67	61	35	25	42	32	27	5	26	35	5	29	19	16	14	19	25	5	21	21	6	30	-80%	
Green-winged Teal	31	38	32	43	47	15	30	11	14	37	56	55	5	50	75	298	95	186	47	32	18	7	7	56	-87%	
Canvasback	812	1169	983	981	933	486	727	141	213	238	115	175	506	221	127	57	61	8	39	1	2	0	24	363	-93%	
Redhead	0	2	37	26	14	17	7	6	2	4	0	1	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	6	--	
Ring-necked Duck	201	168	155	175	73	310	109	272	52	295	107	358	247	187	374	362	203	281	565	410	216	195	349	242	44%	
Tufted Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--
Greater Scaup	30	151	368	2756	250	322	907	473	293	170	1245	438	3	1633	268	1053	743	125	1749	15	811	170	155	635	-76%	
Lesser Scaup	10	6	94	28	15	2	4	12	25	161	46	24	8	24	90	49	32	40	10	0	15	59	35	34	2%	
scaup (species?)	1787	2645	3237	1578	3395	3021	1963	1732	2370	1782	590	1682	2030	258	1859	319	313	1086	303	2533	283	865	1041	1620	-36%	
scaup (total)	1827	2802	3699	4362	3660	3345	2874	2217	2688	2113	1881	2144	2041	1915	2217	1421	1088	1251	2062	2548	1109	1094	1231	2289	-46%	
Common Eider	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	--	
Surf Scoter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	10	0	--	
White-winged Scoter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	70	0	--	
Black Scoter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--
Long-tailed Duck	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--
Bufflehead	939	819	1149	1632	1724	1362	1645	2173	1736	1772	2078	2784	1926	1979	2361	2279	1970	1825	1498	1264	1407	1129	1425	1702	-16%	
Common Goldeneye	145	178	234	241	170	241	267	338	186	322	292	325	258	197	157	221	121	94	314	73	150	95	84	210	-60%	
Barrow's Goldeneye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	--
Hooded Merganser	100	324	112	383	381	310	720	567	469	444	718	867	518	866	933	1037	993	549	1160	546	795	776	676	617	10%	
Common Merganser	85	291	84	102	171	470	143	515	243	88	424	285	244	244	229	246	185	95	912	535	204	258	277	275	1%	
Red-breasted Merganser	24	82	62	41	112	191	105	506	86	190	99	287	466	500	262	340	394	126	195	461	141	62	91	215	-58%	
Ruddy Duck	10	18	14	28	7	2	2	13	3	7	59	47	180	87	258	444	293	67	130	26	55	199	282	89	218%	
Common Moorhen	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--
American Coot	175	76	38	64	20	45	15	29	3	8	171	296	380	275	484	340	44	7	10	7	3	270	147	126	17%	
TOTAL NUMBER	9097	10521	10702	12695	11747	12364	11996	10678	8466	8777	11111	12186	9652	11004	13637	12423	10102	9020	10981	9044	8078	6782	7774	10503	-26%	
Number of Ponds	213	239	239	263	284	285	327	317	305	341	343	354	357	380	376	375	379	383	354	298	356	367	357	324	10%	
Birds/Pond	43	44	45	48	41	43	37	34	28	26	32	34	27	29	36	33	27	24	31	30	23	18	22	33	-34%	
Number of Species	23	29	25	26	26	25	28	27	28	27	26	29	29	28	29	23	24	25	22	23	23	31	28	26	7%	
Number of Observers	25	31	26	32	35	35	39	38	37	38	43	47	39	49	47	60	52	50	54	38	54	39	35	41	-15%	