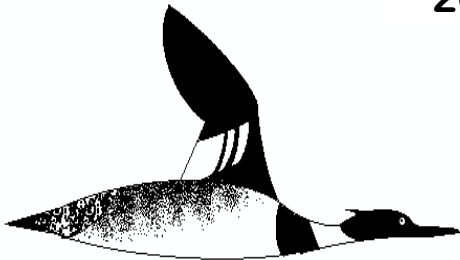


Cape Cod Lake & Pond Waterfowl Survey

2007 SUMMARY



The 25th(!) annual Cape Cod Lake and Pond Waterfowl Survey was conducted by members of the Cape Cod Bird Club on the weekend of December 1-2, 2007. For the first time in several years, the weather leading up to the survey was rather cold, November temperatures averaging almost two degrees below normal in Boston. The weather on the survey weekend was decent, though strong winds were a challenge on Saturday, and a few of the smaller ponds were frozen by Sunday.

Forty-five observers surveyed 313 ponds, recording 11,212 ducks, the highest total since 1999 and about 8% over the 24-year average. This represents a significant turn-around following four straight years of depressed totals. Twenty-seven species was a fairly typical variety. Three species, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, and Hooded Merganser were recorded in record high numbers.

SELECTED SPECIES RESULTS

Pied-billed Grebes, after two years of modest increase, dropped to 42 birds, 46% below the long-term average.

Mute Swans continued to rebound from their sharp decline in 2005, with a total of 210 birds the highest total since 1999 and 20% above average.

Wood Ducks were off the charts this year. Fifty birds were tallied this year, shattering the previous high of 20. This species is not even recorded in some years, as it winters to the south of this region. The exceptional numbers this year are especially puzzling given the colder than normal weather preceding the count.

Mallards reversed an inexplicable 7-year decline, rebounding sharply from last year's record low of 847 birds to 2085 birds this year — 28% above average! This despite 44 fewer ponds being surveyed this year. Last year Mallards were found at just 28% of the sites surveyed, while this year they were at 47%! The dramatic fluctuation in numbers of this species recently is baffling.

American Green-winged Teal recovered somewhat from two consecutive years of depressed numbers, but were still 48% below normal, though this species is never numerous on this survey.

Canvasbacks were once again almost non-existent, with a paltry three birds; last year's slight rebound was short-lived.

Ring-necked Ducks shattered their previous high, a total of 916 birds being almost three times the norm. This species is often (but not always) recorded in higher numbers when the weather preceding the survey is colder than normal.

Scaup (both species combined), totaling 1708 birds were 24% below average, but the total was still the highest since 2003.

Common Goldeneyes, at 161 birds, were 21% below normal, but were up over the past three years.

Hooded Mergansers continued their steady climb to ubiquity, establishing yet another record high with 1200 birds. They were also the second most widespread species, trailing only Mallard in the number of sites at which they were found.

Ruddy Ducks dropped somewhat from the past two years of elevated totals, but a total of 177 birds was still 82% above average.

Mallard regained the title of most common species, with 2085 individuals (18.6% of the total), followed by scaup (both species combined = 1708 birds; 15.2% of total), Bufflehead (1704 birds; 14.1% of total), and Hooded Merganser (1200 birds; 10.7% of total). These four species comprised almost 59% of the overall total. The most widespread species, by a wide margin, was Mallard, which was found at 147 ponds (47% of the total), followed by Hooded Merganser at 97 sites (31%) and Bufflehead at 91 sites (29%).

The most unusual species on this year's survey were Horned Grebe, a single of which was found in Falmouth, and Eurasian Wigeon, one of which was in Marstons Mills.

RESULTS BY TOWN

As always, Falmouth out-distanced all other towns, this year with 2679 birds or 24% of the Capewide total. Barnstable was a distant second with 1567 birds, followed by Yarmouth with 1026 bird. Falmouth also took top honors for best variety with 21 species, followed by Barnstable with 18 species and Mashpee with 17.



RESULTS BY POND

An average of 36 birds/pond was recorded, up sharply from recent years. This is the highest average since 1998 and is slightly above the long-term average. Of the 313 ponds surveyed, 90 (29%) had no birds at all; of these, 13 were frozen when surveyed. Sider's Pond in Falmouth hosted the largest number of birds (855), all but five of which were scaup. Pilgrim Lake in Truro was second with 505 birds, and took top honors for variety with an exceptional 14 species, followed by Hinckley's Pond in Harwich with 11 species and Upper Shame Pond in Sandwich with 10 species.

The changes in waterfowl usage of Pilgrim Lake in Truro (also known as East Harbor) since the National Park Service began increasing tidal flow into the lake a few years ago has been striking. During the period 1984-2002, the site averaged about 89 birds/survey. Over the past three years (2005-2007), the average has jumped to 300 birds/survey. Even more striking, the diversity has jumped from an average of 3 species/survey to 11 species/survey!

PARTICIPATION

At least 45 people took part in this year's survey. Many thanks to each and every one!

Participants:

Ron Ayotte, Joanne Baldauf, Peter Bono, Sally Branch, Frank Caruso, Kathleen Casey, Babette Castle-Walsh, Fran Clapp, Molly Cornell, Al Curtis, Trisha Elwell, Sue Finnegan, Marie Frank, Karen Goggins, Barry Good, Mary Keleher, Art King, Dick & Reta King, Carol & Walter Knox, Torben Lorenzo, Matt Malin, Kathy & Rives McGinley, Priscilla Moor, Blair Nikula, Tom Noonan, Ginie Page, Alida Pellegrini-Toole & John Toole, Bennet Porter, Alison Robb, Kevin Ryan, Don & Carol Scott, Bill & Joan Swift, Jim Talin, Aurele Thomas, Sandy Trainor, Peter Trimble, Lou Turner, Mark Tuttle, and Ellie Winslow.

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Species	BOURNE	FALMOUTH	SANDWICH	MASHPEE	BARNSTABLE	YARMOUTH	DENNIS	BREWSTER	HARWICH	CHATHAM	ORLEANS	EASTHAM	WELLFLEET	TRURO	PROVINCETOWN	TOTALS	% OF TOTAL	# OF PONDS
Common Loon	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	3
Pied-billed Grebe	1	8	0	4	8	0	0	3	8	5	1	3	1	0	0	42	0.4	26
Horned Grebe	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Canada Goose	0	87	213	49	378	25	18	8	18	71	37	7	4	0	0	915	8.2	37
Mute Swan	0	62	11	53	19	28	6	0	4	10	13	1	0	3	0	210	1.9	44
Wood Duck	28	0	2	2	4	2	0	10	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	50	0.4	12
Gadwall	0	14	1	0	10	73	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	98	0.9	9
Eurasian Wigeon	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
American Wigeon	0	65	50	2	57	3	0	0	0	51	6	8	1	0	0	243	2.2	16
Black Duck	2	130	57	51	80	125	102	40	6	132	142	0	3	133	0	1003	8.9	82
Mallard	6	306	333	127	323	290	162	120	85	66	164	39	27	37	0	2085	18.6	147
Northern Pintail	0	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	8	0.1	5
Green-winged Teal	0	13	12	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	28	0.2	6
Canvasback	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2
Ring-necked Duck	38	150	346	32	87	9	0	120	0	0	100	20	6	8	0	916	8.2	45
Greater Scaup	0	0	0	1	43	0	0	0	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	85	0.8	3
Lesser Scaup	0	0	0	1	11	0	4	2	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	0.3	8
scaup species	0	1079	5	0	69	0	50	113	158	0	0	7	0	105	0	1586	14.1	17
Common Eider	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	7	0.1	3
Black Scoter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
White-winged Scoter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	110	0	112	1	2
Bufflehead	0	388	154	255	73	340	62	6	65	34	157	29	41	100	0	1704	15.2	91
Common Goldeneye	0	2	7	54	11	5	0	1	69	0	0	0	0	12	0	161	1.4	12
Hooded Merganser	48	266	71	58	208	84	9	7	57	122	50	214	3	3	0	1200	10.7	97
Common Merganser	0	1	96	14	47	0	1	2	60	0	0	1	0	15	0	237	2.1	15
Red-breasted Merganser	0	70	0	2	0	39	12	0	1	0	16	0	0	4	0	144	1.3	19
Ruddy Duck	0	24	2	3	134	0	1	9	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	177	1.6	9
American Coot	1	6	0	70	4	0	0	2	27	4	0	40	0	0	0	154	1.4	14
TOTAL NUMBER	124	2679	1361	778	1567	1026	428	444	621	496	695	369	89	535	0	11212		223
% of Total	1	24	12	7	14	9	4	4	6	4	6	3	1	5	0			
Number of Species	7	21	16	17	18	13	11	15	15	10	14	11	10	15	0	27		
Number of Ponds Censused	4	49	19	19	36	28	11	32	17	23	30	11	22	8	4	313		
Birds per Pond	31	55	72	41	44	37	39	14	37	22	23	34	4	67	0	36		
Number of Observers	1	19	3	1	3	3	1	3	4	3	2	2	3	2	1	45		

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1984 - 2007 Totals

SPECIES:	YEAR:																				1984-2006 average	Change: 2007 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	2007	
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	0	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	4	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	42	78	-46%	
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	1	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	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	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	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	915	841	9%	
Brant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	0	3	0	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	210	176	20%	
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	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	50	5	987%	
Gadwall	14	11	18	72	38	95	153	81	56	150	183	261	155	141	167	101	128	123	94	26	55	94	50	98	99	-1%	
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	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	243	101	140%	
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	1003	1293	-22%	
Mallard	1745	1731	1617	1789	1596	1901	1911	1626	1180	1256	1462	1619	1037	1640	1748	2228	2147	2115	1982	1580	1549	1085	847	2085	1626	28%	
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	0	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	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	8	29	-73%	
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	28	53	-48%	
Canvasback	812	1169	983	981	933	486	727	141	213	238	115	175	506	221	127	57	61	8	39	1	2	0	24	3	349	-99%	
Redhead	0	2	37	26	14	17	7	6	2	4	0	1	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	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	916	246	272%	
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	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	85	614	-86%	
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	37	34	8%	
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	1586	1594	-1%	
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	1708	2243	-24%	
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	7	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	1	--	
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	112	3	--	
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	1	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	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	1704	1690	1%	
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	161	205	-21%	
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	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	1200	619	94%	
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	237	275	-14%	
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	144	210	-31%	
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	177	97	82%	
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	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	154	126	22%	
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	11212	10384	8%	
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	313	326	-4%	
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	36	33	10%	
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	27	26	3%	
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	45	41	10%	