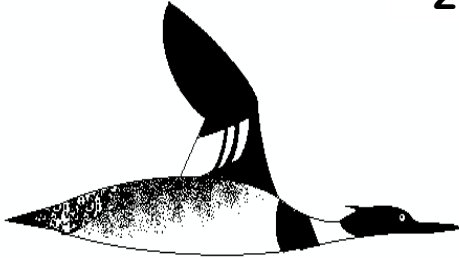


## Cape Cod Lake & Pond Waterfowl Survey

### 2010 SUMMARY



The 28<sup>th</sup> annual Cape Cod Lake and Pond Waterfowl Survey was conducted by members of the Cape Cod Bird Club on the weekend of December 4-5, 2010. Forty-four observers surveyed 340 ponds, recording 29 species and 10,153 individual ducks. The latter total is very close to normal, being just 2% below the long-term average. No species were recorded in record high numbers, but one established a record low.

The weather leading up to the survey was very typical with November temperatures averaging almost exactly normal in Boston. The weather on the survey weekend was good on both days, and only a couple of small ponds were frozen.

### SELECTED SPECIES RESULTS

**Pied-billed Grebes**, although up from last year, were still 34% below the long-term average.

**Atlantic Brant** were recorded again, for the fifth time in the last eight years (after none during the first 19 years of the survey). The 26 birds were at just two sites, both saltwater ponds as expected.

**Canada Goose** numbers dropped to just 547 birds, 34% below normal. However, most geese winter in saltwater habitats (and golf courses!), so this survey probably does a poor job of tracking their populations locally.

**American Black Ducks** rebounded sharply from last year's low and the total of 1774 birds was 38% above average. However, like Canada Goose, this species winters primarily in saltwater habitats so the totals on this survey may not accurately represent numbers overall.

**Northern Pintail** totaled just four individuals, a new record low for this survey. Although never common in this area, this handsome duck typically numbered 40-50 birds in the 1980s, with a record high of 91 birds in 1985.

**Canvasbacks** continued at a depressingly low level, with just six birds tallied this year. It's now been over a decade since this species occurred in more than token numbers in this region.

**Ring-necked Ducks** continued at an elevated number for the fifth consecutive year, this year's total of 512 birds being the 4th highest ever and 77% above the norm.

**Scaup** (both species combined) continued at very low numbers, this year's total of 1152 birds being 47% below average and just over a quarter of the record high of 4362 birds in 1987.

**Bufflehead** was the most common species on the survey, numbering 2074 birds, the highest total since 1999 and 21% above average.

**Common Goldeneye** continued in reduced numbers, the 128 birds being 35% below average.

**Hooded Mergansers** rebounded from last year's brief decline; the total of 1014 birds was the 3rd highest ever and 54% above the norm.

**Common Mergansers** also were up significantly from last year, the 393 birds more than tripled last year's total and was 49% above average.

**American Coot** continued their erratic ways, rebounding from last year's total of 19 birds to 252 birds this year, 104% above average — whatever "average" means for this species. Totals on this survey have ranged from a meager three birds in both 1992 and 2004 to a record high of 484 birds in 1998!

Bufflehead was again the most common species, with 2074 individuals (20% of the total), closely followed by American Black Duck (1774 birds; 17.5% of the total), and Mallard (1408 birds; 14% of the total). These three species comprised about 52% of the overall total. The most widespread species once again was Mallard, which was found at 152 ponds (45% of the sites), followed by Bufflehead at 122 sites (36%), and Hooded Merganser at 92 sites (27%).

## RESULTS BY TOWN

As always, Falmouth out-distanced all other towns, this year with 2138 birds or 21% of the Capewide total. However, these totals were considerably lower than usual. For the first time ever, Orleans claimed second place with 1486 birds (15%), thanks to some large flocks of Black Ducks. Yarmouth was a distant third with 852 birds (8%), followed by Barnstable with 839 birds (8%). Falmouth took top honors for best variety with 20 species, followed by Barnstable with 19 species and Mashpee with 17.



## RESULTS BY POND

An average of 30 birds/pond was recorded, somewhat below normal but up from last year. Of the 340 ponds surveyed, 91 (27%) had no birds at all. Pilgrim Lake in Truro hosted the largest number of birds (384), followed by Shoal Pond in Orleans (331), Siders Pond in Falmouth (329), and Sarahs Pond in Orleans (300). Large flocks of Black Ducks bolstered the totals at the two Orleans ponds.

Mill Pond in West Barnstable again took top honors for variety with 11 species. Walkers Pond in Brewster, Hinckleys Pond in Harwich, and Pilgrim Lake in Truro each had nine species, while Wequaquet Lake in Barnstable, Lower Mill Pond in Brewster, and Herring Pond in Eastham had eight species apiece.

## PARTICIPATION

At least 44 people took part in this year's survey. Many thanks to each and every one!

### Participants:

Ron Ayotte, Peter Bono, Peter Brown, Randy Buckner, Frank Caruso, Kathleen Casey, Linda Chambers, David & Fran Clapp, Charlie Cooper, Molly Cornell, Al Curtis, Mark Faherty, Peter Flood, Karen Goggins, Ron Greene, Arlene Hedlund, Ed Hoopes, Mary Keleher, Art King, Phil Kyle, Torben Lorenzen, Derek McDonald, Linda McDonald, Kathy & Rives McGinley, Ed Nadolny, Marjorie Newey, Blair Nikula, Tom Noonan, Ginie Page, Jim Partan, Alida Pellegrini-Toole & John Toole, Alison Robb, Anne Marie Runfolo, Kelly Sattman, Carol & Don Scott, Dick Stacey, Betsy Stepney, Jim Talin, Ellie Winslow, and Janet Winslow.

**Compiler:** Blair Nikula, 2 Gilbert Lane, Harwich Port, MA 02646. 508-432-6348.

## 2010 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	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	0	3
Common Loon	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	12	0.1	11
Pied-billed Grebe	0	2	2	4	7	6	0	7	6	5	5	4	0	0	0	48	0.5	30
Red-necked Grebe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Canada Goose	3	186	100	47	38	71	2	15	25	6	32	17	5	0	0	547	5.4	35
Brant	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	26	0.3	2
Mute Swan	6	56	11	43	16	25	3	8	8	12	13	5	0	0	0	206	2	55
Wood Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	1
Gadwall	4	10	0	8	19	61	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	102	1	9
Eurasian Wigeon	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
American Wigeon	15	28	13	0	37	6	0	0	0	4	19	1	0	0	0	123	1.2	16
Black Duck	21	66	19	23	20	121	49	42	23	257	858	92	18	85	80	1774	17.5	86
Mallard	56	171	94	93	216	187	94	46	132	70	137	61	28	11	12	1408	13.9	152
Northern Pintail	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	2
Green-winged Teal	2	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	14	0.1	4
Canvasback	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0.1	1
Redhead	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Ring-necked Duck	7	94	201	26	32	4	0	99	0	8	20	14	0	7	0	512	5	42
Greater Scaup	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	95	130	0	0	0	0	83	0	326	3.2	6
Lesser Scaup	0	93	0	2	51	0	8	126	9	0	0	3	0	0	1	293	2.9	16
scaup species	0	421	0	0	30	0	0	54	14	10	0	4	0	0	0	533	5.2	9
Common Eider	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2
White-winged Scoter	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	6	0.1	2
Bufflehead	41	492	80	310	120	254	98	30	86	40	302	14	7	200	0	2074	20.4	122
Common Goldeneye	0	6	0	38	6	8	0	19	29	0	1	0	0	20	1	128	1.3	14
Barrow's Goldeneye	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Hooded Merganser	17	296	37	106	162	72	5	37	71	93	79	39	0	0	0	1014	10	92
Common Merganser	0	6	82	0	33	0	0	0	269	0	3	0	0	0	0	393	3.9	8
Red-breasted Merganser	0	159	0	2	1	37	12	0	0	0	14	0	0	2	10	237	2.3	25
Ruddy Duck	0	39	0	0	7	0	0	27	1	1	0	28	0	0	0	103	1	10
American Coot	0	8	2	87	18	0	0	52	1	4	3	76	1	0	0	252	2.5	20
<b>TOTAL NUMBER</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>2138</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>1486</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>10153</b>		<b>249</b>
% of Total	2	21	6	8	8	8	3	7	8	5	15	4	1	4	1			
Number of Species	11	20	12	17	19	12	9	14	16	12	13	12	8	9	8	29		
Number of Ponds Censused	10	51	19	19	41	29	14	29	24	28	29	11	16	8	12	340		
Birds per Pond	18	42	34	42	20	29	21	23	34	18	51	33	4	52	10	30		
Number of Observers	2	15	4	1	3	3	1	2	3	5	4	1	1	2	1	44		

# Cape Cod Lake and Pond Waterfowl Survey: 1984 - 2010 Totals

SPECIES:	YEAR:																				1984-2009 average	Change: 2009 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	2008	2009	2010	
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	2	1	3	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	9	6	12	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	25	46	48	73	-34%	
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	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	0	0	1	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	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	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	781	618	547	833	-34%	
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	5	16	26	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	232	259	206	182	13%	
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	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	4	5	2	6	-68%	
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	181	132	102	103	-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	3	4	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	202	185	123	114	8%	
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	1692	938	1774	1283	38%	
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	1953	1401	1408	1647	-15%	
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	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	2	1	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	12	13	4	27	-85%	
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	39	11	14	50	-72%	
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	1	4	6	309	-98%	
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	0	0	0	1	5	--
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	518	417	512	289	77%	
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	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	203	29	326	556	-41%	
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	82	6	293	35	732%	
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	1349	1752	533	1591	-66%	
scaup (total)	1827	2802	3699	4362	3660	3345	2874	2214	2688	2113	1881	2144	2041	1915	2217	1421	1088	1251	2062	2548	1109	1094	1231	1708	1634	1787	1152	2182	-47%	
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	1	3	1	--	
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	0	1	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	0	2	6	7	--	
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	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	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	1962	1900	2074	1709	21%	
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	148	92	128	196	-35%	
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	1	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	979	745	1014	660	54%	
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	159	117	393	263	49%	
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	224	70	237	202	17%	
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	66	71	103	98	5%	
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	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	135	19	252	124	104%	
<b>TOTAL NUMBER</b>	<b>9097</b>	<b>10521</b>	<b>10702</b>	<b>12695</b>	<b>11747</b>	<b>12364</b>	<b>11996</b>	<b>10678</b>	<b>8466</b>	<b>8777</b>	<b>11111</b>	<b>12186</b>	<b>9652</b>	<b>11004</b>	<b>13637</b>	<b>12423</b>	<b>10102</b>	<b>9020</b>	<b>10981</b>	<b>9044</b>	<b>8078</b>	<b>6782</b>	<b>7774</b>	<b>11212</b>	<b>10968</b>	<b>8862</b>	<b>10153</b>	<b>10380</b>	<b>-2%</b>	
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	332	331	340	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	27	30	33	-8%	
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	25	29	29	26	10%	
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	37	45	44	41	7%	