The Bronx-Westchester Count tallied 120 species on Sunday Dec 22, 2013. Ninety-five participants enjoyed an incredibly warm day with a high of 70 degrees! That set a new high temperature for the count, easily breaking the record of 66 degrees in 1990. Spring Peepers (tree frogs) were heard calling at a number of locations and 6-7 Red Bats were reported are well.

Highlights were a count week Semipalmated Plover in Pelham Bay Park and a female King Eider off Scotch Capp Island in Rye. It was the first King Eider on the count since 1956.

Seven Red-headed Woodpeckers set a new High Count (6 were in Pelham Bay Park, the other in Woodlawn). Other finds included two Eurasian Wigeons, one in Turtle Cove, Bronx and the other off Marshland Conservancy, Rye. Three Red-neck Grebes were found in the Sound off Rye and Pelham Bay Park had a Rough-legged Hawk. Soundview Park in the Bronx had 4 Ring-necked Pheasant and 40 Snow Bunting.

Four Black Vultures were over Hastings and Lenoir Nature Preserve. A single Razorbill and a Lesser Black-backed Gull were in Rye.

New high counts were set for Brant, Gadwall, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Monk Parakeet, Fish Crow, and Carolina Wren.

Other Count Week birds included Snowy Owls in the Bronx and Rye; Lesser Yellowlegs in Pelham; American Pipit and White-crowned Sparrow.

Missed Species included Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal (first miss in 57 years), Virginia Rail, Ruddy Turnstone, and Purple Finch.

Although probably not related, any time the count had a King Eider, the count missed Green-winged Teal. Next year’s count is scheduled for Sunday, December 28, 2014.

Canvasbacks are harder and harder to find