

3.5.2 Results

Driving surveys in the St. Lawrence project area were conducted on nine days between November 5, 2006 and March 1, 2007. Approximately 27 hours of survey time were spent during the driving transects over the winter seasons and a total of 13.5 hours of surveys were conducted at the three fixed-point count stations. A total of 795 individuals in 159 groups of waterbirds, waterfowl and raptors were recorded during the winter driving surveys (Table 7) and 790 individuals in 146 groups were recorded during the winter fixed point counts (Table 8). Four (4) species of waterfowl were observed either during the fixed point count surveys or the driving surveys across the study area. Two waterbirds species, seven raptor species, and one upland gamebird species were also recorded during the surveys. Based on use estimates derived from the fixed point surveys, unidentified scaup and Canada goose were the most common waterfowl species observed during the winter surveys (Table 7 and 8). Red-tailed hawk and rough-legged hawk were the most common raptor species (Table 7 and 8).

Table 7. Waterfowl and raptors observed while conducting winter 2007 driving surveys at the St. Lawrence project area.

Species/Group	Winter 2007	
	# of individuals	# of groups
Waterbirds		
Great blue heron	2	2
Ring-billed gull	2	2
Waterfowl		
Canada goose	473	12
Mallard	8	2
Raptors/Vultures		
American kestrel	7	7
Bald eagle	2	2
Merlin	1	1
Northern harrier ^T	17	12
Red-tailed hawk	27	24
Rough-legged hawk	57	54
Turkey vulture	6	2
Other Birds		
American crow	135	34
Wild Turkey	58	5
Total	795	159