

Victoria Christmas Bird Count - December 16, 2017

Thank you for leading a Christmas Bird Count team!

Please communicate these CBC requirements to participants. Please get your preliminary result submitted on the count day (in person, by proxy, or by email) and final results to the Count Coordinator by Monday, December 18, 2017 at the very latest. (I'm heading out of town on the 21st and would like to have the results posted by then.)

Count Coordinator: Ann Nightingale, 1721 Cultra Ave, Saanichton, BC, V8M 1T1
250-652-6450, motmot@shaw.ca Cell Phone: 250-514-6450

1. The map of your area has been emailed to you and will be posted on the Christmas Bird Count website. **If you need a hard copy**, please let me know. Please count only the birds within your area boundaries. Birds seen outside the edge of the count circle **should NOT be counted** even if seen by an observer inside the circle. If you see large numbers of birds or notable species in other count zones, please record them separately on the back of your **Summary** form as adjacent groups may have missed them. NOTE: the outside borders of the circle are slightly off. If you have been leading an area for a number of years, please use your traditional circle boundary.
2. **List of participants:** I have provided a list of potential participants on the **Victoria Christmas Bird Count Phone/Email List** for your area based on previous participation (last 3 years) and new volunteers. A reminder email has been sent to all of those with email addresses on this list. When you submit your area result, please provide a revised "Participant List" to the coordinator adding new participants and striking out participants no longer wishing or able to take part. **Don't cross someone out who didn't attend unless they have asked to be removed from the contact list.** Please have your counters indicate if the information is correct (or update it) and return it. Please record:
 - Names
 - Email addresses (especially!)**
 - Phone number
3. **Christmas Bird Count Data (see video at <http://christmasbirdcount.ca/bcvi/summarysheet.mp4>)**
 - Please enter the Temperature range, Wind Direction and Velocity, Time Start and Finish (excluding owling), and # Parties at the top of the new form. On the next line, please enter the amount of Snow and circle the descriptors for A.M. and P.M. birding plus describe the Still Water and Moving Water in your area. Conditions can vary considerably over the count area, so knowing the extremes is beneficial.
 - Party hours and distance are used by Bird Studies Canada to assess changes over previous years. To calculate total party hours and total party distance, have the counters record the start and end time for every team change. For instance, if a group of 4 birds for an hour, then splits into two groups of two which then count for two hours, they should record the start and end times for each segment. The calculation of party hours would then be 1 (party) x 1 (hour) + 2 (parties) x 2 (hours), for a total of 5 party hours.
 - Likewise, distance covered is calculated the same way. Each time the team changes, the approximate distance covered by the party should be noted. Please use km for consistency. For estimating distance, you could select an area in your zone to use as a benchmark or use these guidelines: slow, intensive birding: 1 km/hr; fairly good travel with regular stops to bird, 2 km/hr; steady walking with a few stops to bird, 3 km/hr. Vehicle time and distance is that covered inside your count area, but not that outside your area travelled to reach a counting spot.
 - Party hour and party miles **exclude feeder hours and owling hours**. Report Total # hours (owling) and # miles (owling) below Party Totals.

4. **Using the Summary Christmas Bird Count Sheets** (see video at <http://christmasbirdcount.ca/bcvi/summarysheet.mp4>)

Area leaders are asked to submit a **Summary Christmas Bird Count** form for the totals of their entire area.

Enter the total number of individual birds observed in your area during the count day to the right of the species name.

Subarea Christmas Bird Count forms can be provided to each subarea leader to record birds in their subarea. Also use the Subarea form to record special areas such as Blenkinsop Lake, Martindale Flats, Esquimalt Lagoon, and UVic.

5. **Rare Species Documentation** must be provided to count species that are rare (labeled (*) or not listed on the CBC form). You must provide a detailed field description and location for each rare species. **Please record the important field marks on the Rare Bird Documentation Form. If possible, please provide a photo or a sketch of the bird showing field marks and size.**
6. **Cooper's Hawk sightings.** Please ask your team members to record details (location, time, banded or not, band colour and number if it can be seen) of any Cooper's Hawks that they see.
7. **Owlers** who wish to go outside of their count areas should contact the leader of the area where they will be owling. For owling in your area, record owling hours and miles separately on the top of your **Christmas Bird Count Area Summary**.
8. **Post-count Gathering: NEW LOCATION** Please bring your completed results to the post-count gathering at the Scout Hall at 505 Marigold Rd (between Interurban and Burnside) at 5:00 pm, Saturday, December 16. Everyone is welcome to the Post-count gathering. Please encourage your participants to attend. We will be soliciting both hearty and sweet food contributions.
9. **VERY IMPORTANT: If you are unable to attend the Post-count gathering**, please try to get one of your team members to represent your zone at the gathering. If that is not possible, please email motmot@shaw.ca) with your stories and interesting species **before 5:30 p.m.** on the count day. If you can't meet this deadline, please call, email or text Ann at 250 514-6450 anyway or let me know when and where I can call you during the evening. *One of the main reasons people attend the post count is to find out what has been seen. It's a great disappointment when we can't come up with a species list during the post-count gathering.*

You can drop off or email your count results:

Ann Nightingale, CBC Coordinator 1721 Cultra Ave, Saanichton, B.C. V8M 1T1
motmot@shaw.ca

If you have any questions, please give me a call or send an email.

Good Luck !!!