

Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

Directions for counting birds at your bird feeders and in your yard

Your street address needs to be provided to determine your location in the CBC area. The CBC Compiler and your Area Leader need to know your location as bird numbers are initially recorded by area. You will be in one of the 28 count areas in two CBC circles. Once your location is determined, the following are recorded and reported to your Area Leader, or to the CBC Compiler.

1. **Observation Time:** Observe birds for at least ½ hour. If your observation period is longer, record the time to the nearest ¼ hour. You can have more than one observation period. For example, you observe birds from 8:30-9 AM. If sometime later (say 10:10 AM) a bird species of interest or a large number of birds enters your yard, you simply observe for another 15 minutes (until 10:25 AM) to include what you see. You then report your total observation time as ¾ hour. To gain the most information, longer observation periods of 1 to 2 hours, or even longer, are encouraged.
2. **Number of birds:** Record the maximum number of each species you see at any one time. For example, if during a ½ hour observation period, you initially see 6 Dark-eyed Juncos and a little later you see 10 DE Juncos and near the end of this observation period you see 20 DE Juncos, you report 20 DE Juncos, not 36. If you have more than one observation period and 25 DE Juncos show up in the second period, you report 25. Do not add the birds seen during the first period as they may be in the second group.
3. **Number of observers:** Record the number of observers.

As needed, you should have a bird guide available to assist with identifications. Two very acceptable guides are: *The Sibley Guide to Birds* and National Geographic's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. A list of 24 bird species usually seen at home feeders and in residential areas is provided so that less experienced birders may become familiar with these birds prior to the count day. This is a partial list as over 45 different species have been seen at home feeders and yards during the CBC.

Rock Pigeon	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Anna's Hummingbird	American Robin
Downy Woodpecker	Varied Thrush
Northern Flicker	European Starling
Steller's Jay	Spotted Towhee
American Crow	Song Sparrow
Black-capped Chickadee	Dark-eyed Junco
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	Red-winged Blackbird
Bushtit	House Finch
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Pine Siskin
Bewick's Wren	American Goldfinch
Golden-crowned Kinglet	House Sparrow