

ROSEBURG-SUTHERLIN CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT--General Instructions, Dec 2015

Thank-you for participating in this bird count! The Roseburg-Sutherlin CBC has been conducted annually since December 1974! Average low and high temperatures during counts 1990-2013 have been 35 F and 48 F, respectively, with variable precipitation. Average number of bird species detected 1990-2013 is 110 (range 99-117; all years total 192).

In Your Team Area Materials You Should Have

- This instruction sheet
- Map of entire CBC circle
- Coarse Boundary Descriptions for Team Areas (also lists who is covering that area this year)
- ***Bird tally sheet*** (turn in to compiler after count)
- ***Observers and Effort sheet*** (turn in to compiler after count)
- CBC Tips
- Seasonal Occurrence of Birds in the Central Umpqua Basin

Plan for the Day

Our CBC typically involves about 8 hours of birding, approximately from dawn to dusk. Those interested in owling start much earlier or go out again later. Teams get started independently in the morning. This year we will meet for dinner and countdown at the Ford Room, Douglas County Library, where soup, bread, and salad will be provided. You can turn in your Observers and Effort Sheet and Bird Tally Sheet then, or make other arrangements with the compiler.

Note Your Beginning Times and Mileage

Use the Observers and Effort Sheet to keep track of the distances traveled by car and foot (or other) and time spent doing each. Start by recording your beginning vehicle mileage and time once you enter your area and begin looking for birds.

Counting Birds

The bird tally sheet is used to tally the birds you detect. Only tally birds you actually see or hear (not what you think are probably out there). It is best to tally birds frequently, at least every time you get back in the car or go to a different spot, not at the end of the day when you will have forgotten about those 15 flocks of juncos. When you come to the countdown gathering, you can add up all your totals for each species, but do the individual tallies in the field.

Rare Birds

If you observe a species not on the tally sheet, it could be a species only detected every few years on the count, or a really rare species. In either case, get photos if possible, and write a description of the bird to submit as documentation.

Personal Preparedness and Safety

The most valuable part of this count is you. Be prepared for the weather and road conditions predicted. It is often cold, sometimes rainy or windy. Be sure to dress appropriately (see CBC Tips for more info). If you feel conditions are too challenging for your participation, call the CBC leader and let her/him know. You may be able to count at your home or local area instead.

NOTE: Those of you with a "smartphone" and a CBC area at the edge of the circle may be interested in the app called Count Circle, by Stevens Creek Software.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ANY TIME, INCLUDING COUNT DAY, JUST CALL ME!!! 541-670-1984