

**December 23, 2010**

**Hi Birders,**

**39 Field Counters covered 551 miles by road, by foot, and by dogsled, and in the process racked up 93 hours of field counting time in the 31st Matanuska Valley Christmas Bird Count held on Sunday, December 19, 2010. An additional 62 plus hours of counting time was contributed by 19 Feeder Counters counting at their home feeders.**

**With some exceptions, counts for most species were lower than expected. 31 species were seen on Count Day, including one species new to our Count, a Golden-crowned Sparrow at a feeder in the Gershmel Loop area. Four Chukars, a noncountable exotic species were also seen. There wasn't much open water in our Count Circle and waterfowl were concentrated at a small cove on the north side of Wasilla Lake, at the outflow coming from the Palmer Sewage Treatment facility into the Matanuska River, and at a few area creeks that had patches of open water. New high counts were established for Belted Kingfisher (2 seen) and for Black-capped Chickadee (966 counted). The counts for Bald Eagle and for Common Raven were suppressed by cleanup work at the Palmer Landfill, which left a much smaller area of open garbage for scavenging. A Song Sparrow, assumed to be the same one that was counted in 2008 and 2009, has returned to Charlie Feaster's feeder in the Butte for the third year in a row.**

**Thanks to all who helped in this Count, and a special thanks (again) to Maggie and Dan Crowson, who graciously hosted our post-Count wrap-up and potluck meeting - annual tall story session.**

**Happy New Year to Everyone,  
Bob Winckler, Compiler, Matanuska Valley CBC**

**MAT-SU BIRDERS  
2010 MATANUSKA VALLEY  
AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT  
FINAL TALLY**

Mallard	726	
Common Goldeneye	1	
Ruffed Grouse	1	
Bald Eagle	Adult - 44	25 seen at Palmer Landfill
	Imm - 14	9 seen at Palmer Landfill
	Total	58
Northern Goshawk	2	
Rock Pigeon	340	
Great Horned Owl	1	
Short-eared Owl	1	
Belted Kingfisher	2	New high
Downy Woodpecker	22	
Hairy Woodpecker	24	
Northern Shrike	1	
Gray Jay	8	
Black-billed Magpie	191	
Common Raven	821	
Black-capped Chickadee	966	New high - previous - 850
Boreal Chickadee	3	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	48	
Brown Creeper	2	
American Dipper	13	
American Robin	1	
European Starling	88	
Bohemian Waxwing	2378	
Song Sparrow	1	
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	
White-crowned Sparrow	6	
Golden-crowned Sparrow	1	New species for the Mat. Valley CBC
Dark-eyed Junco	14	
Pine Grosbeak	53	
Common Redpoll	117	
Pine Siskin	1	
<b>SPECIES SEEN COUNT DAY</b>	<b>31</b>	
<b>BIRDS SEEN ON COUNT DAY</b>	<b>5892</b>	