

## Matanuska Valley's 33rd Christmas Bird Count (CBC) Results

The 2012 Matanuska Valley Christmas Bird Count (CBC) took place on Sunday, December 16th. During the CBC, Field Teams and Feeder Counters at home count all the birds that they see within the Matanuska Valley Count Circle, a 15 mile diameter circle centered on Four Corners. Count totals for this year's Count are:

Mallard - 904

Tundra Swan - 1 (seen during Count Week)

Ruffed Grouse - 8

Bald Eagle (Adult - 64) / (immature - 30)

Bald Eagle - total - 94 New high - previous - 71 (Most at Palmer Landfill) Sharp-shinned Hawk - 2

Rock Pigeon - 32

Downy Woodpecker - 30

Hairy Woodpecker - 21

Northern Shrike - 5

Gray Jay - 11

Black-billed Magpie - 186

Common Raven - 492

Black-capped Chickadee - 531 (includes 2 w/deformed beaks)

Boreal Chickadee - 5

Red-breasted Nuthatch - 45

Brown Creeper - 1

American Dipper - 6

American Robin - 2

European Starling - 209

Bohemian Waxwing - 1409

White-crowned Sparrow - 5

Dark-eyed Junco - 35

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch - 8

(New Count Day species. Species found at a home feeder in the Butte. All previous Mat. Valley observations for this

species have also been in the Butte.) Pine Grosbeak - 94

Common Redpoll - 346

Pine Siskin - 1

Total Count Day species: 26 (record: 35) Total Birds seen: - 4482

Very low temperatures ( -10o in several parts of our Count Circle) suppressed bird activity, and heavy snow on trees made it difficult to find those birds that were out and about. Heavy snow also prevented Ralph Hulbert, our Count's longest participating member, from taking part in this year's Count, only the second time since 1979 that he's missed a CBC! Despite the cold, we had a good Count and finished up Count Day with a very delicious potluck at Nancy Moore's home, where everyone did their best to embellish their species' counts.

Bob Winckler

Matanuska Valley CBC Compiler [www.matsubirders.org](http://www.matsubirders.org)