

Matanuska Valley (AKMV) 37th Christmas Bird Count (CBC) Results

The 2015 Matanuska Valley Christmas Bird Count (CBC) took place on Sunday, December 20th. During the CBC, Field Teams and Feeder Counters at home counted all the birds that they saw within the Matanuska Valley CBC Count Circle, a 15 mile diameter circle centered on the Four Corners intersection of Old Trunk Road and the Palmer-Wasilla Highway. Count totals for this year's Count are:

Mallard	681
Common Goldeneye	1
Common Merganser	2
Ruffed Grouse	1
Spruce Grouse	4
Bald Eagle	Adult - 217 Imm. - 60 Total 277 - New High / Previous High - 170
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1
Northern Goshawk	4
Rock Pigeon	93
Short-eared Owl	1
Belted Kingfisher	1
Downy Woodpecker	30
Hairy Woodpecker	34 - New High / Previous High - 26
Merlin	1

Northern Shrike	3
Gray Jay	28 - New High / Previous High - 15
Black-billed Magpie	177
Common Raven	612 - Field Counters count ravens only until 12 noon
Black-capped Chickadee	1,098 - New High / Previous High - 966. Count includes 3 w/deformed beaks at feeders
Boreal Chickadee	8
Red-breasted Nuthatch	98 - New High / Previous High - 62
Brown Creeper	1
American Dipper	6
European Starling	145
Bohemian Waxwing	382
Snow Bunting	308 - New High / Previous High - 300
American Tree Sparrow	1
Dark-eyed Junco	10
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	60 - New High / Previous High - 20 (at same feeder in the Butte)
Pine Grosbeak	401
Common Redpoll	381
Pine Siskin	3
Species seen Count Day	32 - AKMV Circle High Count - 35 in 1999
Birds seen on Count Day	4,853
Count Week Species	0

We had 33 Field Counters and 24 Feeder Counters (5 of which also Field Counted) participating. Temperatures ranged from 0° to 25° with partly cloudy skies in the morning and clear skies in the afternoon, and the wind was calm. The majority of the lakes in our Count Circle were frozen, but many of the streams had open water in some sections. At the end of Count Day, we finished up with a delicious potluck/wrapup meeting at Bill Cramp's home, with Nancy Moore providing the basic dishes for the potluck. Eighteen of our participants took part in the fun wrapup meeting where everyone tried to outdo everyone else with their amazing species' counts.

A very special thanks to Bill Cramp and Nancy Moore for a fun potluck/wrapup meeting and thanks to all of our Field and Feeder Counters for helping with this year's Christmas Bird Count!

Bob Winckler
Matanuska Valley CBC Compiler
<www.matsubirders.org>