

# 2018

## Matanuska Valley Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

### Feeder Counter Instructions

**Count Day:** Sunday, December 16, 2018

**Count Week:** 13-15 & 17-19 December 2018

**Count Day Backup Bad Weather Day:** For 2018, the CBC Bad Weather Day is Saturday, December 29, 2018. If bad weather makes it necessary to change the Count Day to December 29th, there will be no Potluck/Wrapup Meeting after the Count. Results will just be called in to Bob Winckler, Count Compiler, after the Count.

**CBC FEEDER COUNT PROCEDURE:** On Count Day, count the highest number of each bird species that you observe at or near your feeders **at one time!** At the end of the day, the highest number you observed **at one time** will be the total for that species. **EXAMPLE:** As you watch your feeders, six Black-capped Chickadees can be seen. Those birds fly away and a short time later, four Black-capped Chickadees fly in. **Don't add the two counts together!** **Six BC Chickadees is still your highest count for BC Chickadees.** Count all species the same way. If you have feeders at more than one location around your house (some in front and some in back, etc.), unless you have several observers all observing at the same time and in communication with each other, don't add the high counts from the different locations together, or you may be counting some birds twice. When you have large numbers of birds of a species at one time, the best way to count them is by using the "overlay" method. Estimate how much space 5 or 10 birds take up, then overlay that amount of space as many times as it takes to cover all of the birds, by counting 5 - 10 - 15 - etc.

**CBC PARTICIPANT FORM:** Feeder Counters need to fill in the following blanks on the Participant Form:

- Team Designator
- Name of Feeder Counter
- Name and email address of Feeder Counter
- Feeder Counter Hours
- Weather Conditions
- CBC Rare Bird Form

**Be sure to keep track of the number of hours that you watched your feeders and try to count for at least an hour**, since you'll probably miss several species if you count for less than that. Provide whatever weather information you can, including low and high temperatures. Your Participation Form and Tally Sheet must be called in or turned in during the Potluck/ Wrapup meeting after the Count.

**COUNT TALLY SHEET:** You may use whatever form you wish to record the numbers of birds as you count them. However, the **Count Tally Sheet** must be filled out and turned in after the Count is completed. The Tally Sheet lists almost all of the species of birds seen on past Matanuska Valley CBC's and, although many of the listed birds are not likely to be seen at your feeders, you never know what might show up.

**CBC RARE BIRD DOCUMENTATION FORM:** Some of the species listed on the Tally Form are marked with an asterisk (\*). If you see any of the species marked with an asterisk, or see a species that is not listed on the form, you must fill out and turn in a Rare Bird Report for each rare species. The form is quite detailed, but without good substantiating documentation, the Christmas Bird Count Regional Editor will disallow rare birds that we report, so it is important to fill it out completely.

**If at all possible, try to photograph rare birds.**

### **CBC WRAPUP MEETING AND POTLUCK**

**After our CBC Count finishes on Sunday (December 16th), please join us for our after-Count wrapup/potluck get-together at Ellen Godden's home. More information and a map showing the way to Ellen's home will be passed to everyone.**

**If you aren't able to make it to the wrapup/potluck meeting, please call in your Count totals to the potluck meeting at telephone number **357-0756** between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM Sunday (Dec. 16th) afternoon. We strongly encourage you to call in your Count data so we have your information when we tally up this year's CBC results Sunday evening. If for some reason you are not able to call, you can also pass on your CBC Count information and species' data by email to [msbirder@mtaonline.net](mailto:msbirder@mtaonline.net). Once all of the CBC Count information is received, we'll put the results out to everyone by email.**

**P.S. If you have questions during our CBC Count Day, you can call Bob on his cell phone at 907-354-8594.**