

## **42<sup>nd</sup> Matanuska Valley (AKMV) Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) Results**

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Matanuska Valley Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) took place on Count Day, Sunday, December 19, 2021. During the CBC, Field Teams, and Feeder Counters at home, counted all of the birds that they saw within the Matanuska Valley CBC Count Circle, a 15 mile diameter circle centered on the old Four Corners intersection of Old Trunk Road/Stringfield Road and the Palmer-Wasilla Highway.

Twenty-nine Field Counters and 10 Feeder Counters (3 of whom were also Field Counters) participated in this year's Count. Temperatures were mostly in the teens for the majority of the day, and ranged from about 14° to 19° with mostly partly cloudy skies. The winds were calm throughout the circle. Most waterbodies were frozen but there was some open water at the Palmer Wastewater Treatment Plant and at streams such as the Cottonwood Creek outflow from Wasilla Lake and below the Creekside Shopping area, and some parts of Spring Creek in the Old Matanuska Townsite area.

Counts for almost all species were down and appeared to be a reflection of what most birders in south-central Alaska have been seeing this winter at their bird feeders. The crazy weather patterns seem to have really affected the way that most species move through our area. Despite the generally low species' counts, two new species were observed, a Pintail and Gadwall at the Palmer Wastewater Treatment Plant. Other rare or unusual sightings included a Northern Saw-whet Owl, Northern Flicker and Lincoln's sparrow, all seen at the same feeder in Wasilla. Some of these counts are subject to further approval by regional or national Audubon Christmas Bird Count editors.

Thanks to all of our Field Counters and Feeder Counters for helping with this year's Christmas Bird Count! Final Count details will appear on the Mat-Su Birders' website (<[www.matsubirders.org](http://www.matsubirders.org)>) and the Audubon Christmas Bird count database. A very special thanks to our rather new CBC compilers Robin Turk, Katherine Arndt.

Count Team's species' totals for this year's Count are:

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>COUNT</u>
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker	Count Week
American Dipper	5
<i>Bald Eagle (Adult)</i>	146
<i>Bald Eagle (imm)</i>	58
Total Bald Eagle	204
Belted Kingfisher	1
Black-billed Magpie	179
Black-capped Chickadee	518
Bohemian Waxwing	1406
Boreal Chickadee	6

Canada Jay	6	
Common Goldeneye	2	
Common Raven	632	Field counters only count until noon
Common Redpoll	234	
Dark-eyed Junco	6	
Downy Woodpecker	20	
European Starling	534	
Hairy Woodpecker	20	
<u>Gadwall*</u>	1	New occurrence for MatSu CBC
Lincoln's Sparrow*	1	
Mallard	657	
Northern Flicker*	1	
Northern Saw-whet Owl*	Count Week	
Northern Shrike	6	
Pine Grosbeak	80	
<u>Pintail*</u>	1	New occurrence for MatSu CBC
Red-breasted Nuthatch	52	
Rock Pigeon	236	
Ruffed Grouse**	1	Introduced species to region
Steller's Jay	1	
Number species seen on Count Day:	26	Plus two additional species seen during count week.

Number of birds seen on Count Day: 4808

**Count Week species includes species NOT seen during count day - 3 days prior & 3 days following Count Day**

\*Rare or unusual sighting, rare bird form was submitted, subject to approval.

\*\* Regionally introduced species, subject to approval.