

## **CHILLIWACK CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (120<sup>th</sup> CBC) – 14 December 2019**

This was the 120<sup>th</sup> year for the Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The Chilliwack Field Naturalists participated for the 41<sup>th</sup> year in the CBC on 14 December 2019. The Chilliwack (BCCH) count covers a ~24.07km diameter circle reaching from Cultus Lake in the south to Deroche and Harrison Bay in the north. The western part of the circle enters the east end of Vedder Mountain and all of the Bert Brink Wildlife Management area (McGillivray Game Reserve) while the easternmost sections of the circle reaches almost to the centre of Rosedale, most of Slesse Trailer Park and the peak of Elk Mountain. Temperatures on Dec 14<sup>th</sup> were from 3° to 5°C with light winds and cloud most of the day, with light rain and fog in some areas in the morning. We had a good count this year with counters doing an excellent job of finding and identifying birds 102 species on count day.

This year's count attracted a total of 38 counters and 4 feeder watchers. They observed 102 different bird species, up six species from last year, and down 5018 individuals from 2018 count and no new species. The total of individual birds (36518) was 5018 individual birds less than 2018 and down 29,460 from the extreme high of 65,978 individuals on the 2011 count.

For comparison, our numbers on the 2009 and 2013 count days were 99 species both years with individual birds totalling 31,606 in 2009 and 41,091 in 2013. In the cold year of 2008, we had 89 species on the count day with 20,313 individual birds.

This year only 4 species broke high record numbers for individuals. The record breaking high counts were Turkey Vulture 3, Copper's Hawk 19, Wilson's Snip 48, with most woodpecker doing great and Downy Woodpeckers breaking a record for the second year in a row with 65 recorded.

Some of the common species with low counts were Red-tailed Hawk with 5 individuals recorded American Coot 19 and Anna's Humming bird just under half of last year with 50 bird. We found two owl species on count day this year 2 Barn Owls and 1 Bared Owl.

We had some rare species as well 1 Swamp Sparrow only the second time to be recorded for are CBC 2 Orange-crowned Warbler 2<sup>nd</sup> time recorded, 1 Hutton's Vireo on 4 counts 1 American Tree Sparrow on 6 and 2 White-throated Sparrows and 1 Mash Wren both counted for the 7<sup>th</sup> time on Chilliwack's CBC.

Audubon also collects and prints birds observed in the Chilliwack CBC count week (cw). This year cw ran from Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and 2 species were observed that were not seen on count day Western Meadowlark and A Harris's Sparrow. This helps to shows birds that occur in the count area but eluded counters on the count day. So next year, be sure to report birds that you saw 3 days before or after the count day that were not located by anyone on the count day. You can go anywhere in the 24.07km diameter count circle for a cw bird.

No new bird species for Chilliwack were observed during the CBC or count week this year. 'New' birds are defined as birds never before seen on the Chilliwack CBC day or

week. 'Rare' birds include birds that are unusual species. For simplicity and clarity that means 'new/rare' birds are birds that have not been seen on our count for 4 years or more. Over the 41 years since our count started, we have only had 25 species occur on our count every year with 8 additional species recorded on 40 counts.

Since the Chilliwack count started 41 years ago in the winter of 1978-79, our participants have found a total of 167 confirmed species in the Chilliwack CBC area. The confirmed number of course depends on the final tally accepted by Bird Studies Canada.

Click on your Regional Editors e-mail address (Yousif Attia [christmasbirdbc@gmail.com](mailto:christmasbirdbc@gmail.com)) and name Jeremiah Kennedy to contact him. All regional summaries are contained in the Audubon publication *American Birds*, <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count> which can be accessed through the Audubon CBC home page. Also on the web is access to all CBC circles <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=fadfb421e95f4949bde20c29a38228bd>. For more information contact Denis at 604 858-5141 or email to [bcwilddenis@uniserve.com](mailto:bcwilddenis@uniserve.com). Please pass this summary of the count on to others that may be interested.

Thanks for all your help and enjoy the Birds!  
Denis Knopp