

HARRISON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (118th CBC) – 14 Dec 2017

This was the 118th year for the Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC). This advent was hosted by Chilliwack Field Naturalists again this year on 14 December 2017. The Harrison River (BCHR) count covers a ~24.07km diameter circle reaching from Camp River road the north end of Gill Road in the south to the Cascade Peninsula and mid way on Harrison Lake and taking in all of Hemlock Valley Sky area in the north. The western part of the circle encompasses Elbow Lake the Chehalis River and Estuary while the easternmost sections of the circle reaches to the peak of Mount Hicks, all of Maria Slough and the Peters IR#1. Audubon also collects and prints birds observed in the Harrison River CBC count week (cw), this year Dec. 11th to 17th, 2017. This shows birds that occur in the count area but have eluded all counters on the count day, so next year, be sure to report birds that you saw 3 days before or after the count but were not locate on the count day. You can go anywhere in the 24.07km diameter count circle for a cw bird. Temperatures were at +1 to +9°C with light winds and some clearing in the morning, and continued moderate winds with cloud cover most of the day. We had a good count with numbers up. Weather running up to the count this year (torrential rains then a snow storm) counters did an excellent job of finding and identifying birds!

This year, we recorded 82 species and 1 count week bird species (Great Horned Owl) and 9385 individuals up from 5644 last year. High numbers for individual species for this year on the Harrison count included Anna's Hummingbird 22, Peregrine Falcon 3, Merlin 4, and 15 Brown Creepers.

There were a few low numbers as well. Only one Northern Pintail, 22 Brower's Blackbird and 123 Northwestern Crow.

The CBC rare birds form describes rare birds as birds that are unusual species, unusual date, or unusual habitat. For simplicity and clarity that means rare birds are birds that have not been seen on our count for 4 years or more. The rare birds reported this count are, Yellow-rumped Warbler for area A Morris Lake, 16 Dunlin in area D west of Agassiz. Two new species – 1 Greater White-fronted Goose and 1 Sooty Grouse.

Past count week species numbers are 2 species for 2011, 0 specie for 2012 and 2013, 1 species each for 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2 this year 2017.

Past total species with count week for 2011 was 91, 2012 there were 78, 2013 and 2014 – 78 species, 2015 – 82 species, 2016 – 74 species and this year 2017 – 83.

Past total individuals for 2011 was 23354, 2012 – 6751, 2013 – 10441, 2014 – 9565, 2015 – 9085, 2016 – 5644 and this year 2017 – 9385.

Visit the Audubon CBC website www.audubon.org/bird/cbc to see birds observed on all the count days and weeks. Click on your Regional Editors e-mail address to contact them. All regional summaries are available for viewing at the *American Birds*, web site (<http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/index/http/>) which can be accessed through the CBC home page. Web accesses to all CBC circle at can be reached at <http://audubon.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=87992bb4fea643f6b044488f48528eae>. For more information contact me at 604 858-5141 or bcwild@uniserve.com Please pass this summary of the count on to others that may be interested.

Thanks for all your help and good Birding!

Denis Knopp