

HARRISON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (123th CBC) – 14 Dec 2022

This was the 123th year for the Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC). This advent was hosted by Nature Chilliwack again this year on 14 December 2022. 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, 2022. 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 on the 14th were at -1 to 5°C with light winds and 80 %-100% cloud cover. We had a dry count day with late afternoon sun; numbers of individuals were up from last year's count. Counters did an excellent job of finding and identifying birds as usual!

This year, we recorded 79 species down 3 species from last year and 3 count week (cw) bird species with 12616 individuals up 1421 from 11,195 last year. High numbers for individual this year for species seen every year of the Harrison count included American Robin with 267, Dark-eyed Junco 853, American Kestrel 4, Green-winged Teal 336, Glaucous-winged Gull 2431, Common Raven 54, and an amazing 12 Yellow-rumped Warbler individuals.

[file:///C:/Users/Denis/Downloads/CountSummaryRpt%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Denis/Downloads/CountSummaryRpt%20(1).pdf)

There was low numbers of only one or two of each of the following species White-throated Sparrow 1, Western Scrub-Jay 1, Cedar Waxwing 2. Some years there are none of these species seen at all but we do see them on are counts.

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 on this count are a Red-necked Grebe, Yellow-rumped Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, Western Scrub-jay, and a Hermit Thrush.

New Species: One new species this year a Hermit Thrush. There were 2 new species for 2021, 2011, 2017 and 2020, 0 specie for 2012, 2013 and 2019, 1 species each for 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2018.

Past total species: with count week for 2011 - 91, 2012 there were 78, 2013 and 2014 – 78 species, 2015 – 82 species, 2016 – 74 species, 2017 – 83, 2018, 2019 and 2020 – 75 species and this year had 82 species.

Past total individuals: for 2011– 23354, 2012 – 6751, 2013 – 10441, 2014 – 9565, 2015 – 9085, 2016 – 5644, 2017 – 9385, 2018 – 9233, 2019 – 10870, 2020 – 10445, 11195 – 2021, and this year 12617.

Visit the Audubon CBC website www.audubon.org/bird/cbc to see birds observed on all the count days and weeks. Regional Editors e-mail address is Yousif Attia - cbc@birdscanada.org. View regional summaries at 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 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 luck Birding! Denis Knopp