

## CHILLIWACK CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (125<sup>th</sup> CBC) – 14 December 2024

This was the 125<sup>th</sup> year for the Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Nature Chilliwack held the 46<sup>th</sup> CBC this year on 14 December 2024. 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 December 14 were at 4 to 8°C with light winds and some light rain in the afternoon. The number of individual bird counters and groups were up from last year's count. Counters did an excellent job as usual of finding and identifying birds!

This year's count day attracted a total of **42** counters on **17** routes plus **8** feeder watchers. They observed **93** different bird species and 1 count week species 5 count day species less than year. The total of individual birds came to **49,006 up 9,730** birds. This year's numbers were above average. In the cold year of 2008, we had 89 species on the count day with 20,313 individual birds. The number of individual birds on this year's count was down 16,972 individual from the extreme high of 65,978 individuals on the 2011 count. For comparison, our numbers on the 2009 and 2013 count days was 99 species both years with individual birds totalling 31,606 in 2009 and 41,091 in 2013, which is more typical of the normal numbers.

Last year we had 16 groups in cars on count routes with 41 observers. This year, we had 17 groups in cars on count routes consisting of a total of 42 observers.

This year 6 species broke high record numbers for individuals. The record breaking high counts were Green Winged Teal 217, Western Scrub Jay 2, Ring-breasted Nuthatch 26, Broun Creeper 43, Gold-crowned Kinglet 425, and Merlin tied the 2014 high of 8. We recorded 24 Anna's Hummingbirds his year and 41 last year, 78 below the 2018 high of 102 Anna's. European Collard Doves were down again this year with 146 seen, 216 lower than the 2019 high count of 362 doves. We found three owl species on count day this year 3 Great Horned Owls and 1 Barn Owl plus a Barred Owl. Pine Siskin had great numbers with 1574, all but two areas counting them. Last year there were only 35 counted.

We had one rare species on the count day a Great Egret and a Wilson's Warbler for count week.

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>, 2024 and 1 species was observed that was not seen on count day a male Wilson's Warbler. Count week 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 date that were not located by anyone on the count day. You can report a cw bird anywhere in the 24.07 km diameter count circle.

No new bird species for Chilliwack. '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 6 years or more. Over the 46 years since the Chilliwack count started, we have only had 25 species in the total number of species commonly occur on our count every year, with 8 more additional species recorded on 41 counts.

Since the Chilliwack count started 46 years ago in the winter of 1978-79, our participants have found a total of 170 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: Jeremiah Kennedy to contact him [christmasbirdbc@gmail.com](mailto:christmasbirdbc@gmail.com) . 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 [bcwildddenis@uniserve.com](mailto:bcwildddenis@uniserve.com) . Please pass this summary of the count on to any others that may be interested.

Thanks for all your help and enjoy the Birds!

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Nature Chilliwack

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