

HARRISON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (125th CBC) – 17 Dec 2024

This was the 125th year for the Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC). This advent was hosted by Nature Chilliwack again this year on 17 December 2024. 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. 14th to 21st, 2024. 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 17th were at -1 to 3°C with light/moderet winds and 100 % cloud cover. We had a light rain on count day ; 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 69 species down 5 species and one count week bird species White-throated Sparrow with 7,839 individuals up 452 from last year. High numbers for individual species for this year on the Harrison count included Mourning Dove with 2, Black-capped Chickadees 71, Cedar Waxwings 13 and Pine Siskin's 1022.

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

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 only rare bird reported this count was the Harris' Sparrow seen in Harrison Hotsprings.

New Species: There were no new species this year. There were 2 new species for 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, 2020 –75, 2021 – 82, 2022 – 79, 2023 – 79 and 69 species this year.

Past total individuals: for the years 2011– 23354, 2012 – 6751, 2013 – 10441, 2014 – 9565, 2015 – 9085, 2016 – 5644, 2017 – 9385, 2018 – 9233, 2019 – 10870, 2020 – 10445, 2021-11195, 2022-12617, 2023-7387, and 7839 this year. This year would have been higher except Sea Bird Island area was not counted.

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 <yattia@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 bcwilddenis@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