

HARRISON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (122th CBC) – 14 Dec 2021

This was the 122th year for the Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC). This advent was hosted by Nature Chilliwack again this year on 14 December 2021. 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, 2021. 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 3°C with light winds and 10 %-15% cloud cover. We had a dry count day with sun most of the 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 82 species up 8 species and no count week bird species with 11,195 individuals up 750 from 10445 last year. High numbers for individual species for this year on the Harrison count included American Widgeon with 1327, Pied-billed Grebe 27, Great Blue Herron 66, Eurasian Collared-dove 105, Anna's Hummingbird 41, American Kestrel 3, Marsh Wren 3, Bewick's Wren 2, and Gold-crowned Sparrow 43 individuals.

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

There were only one of each of the following species Herring Gull, 1 Pileated Woodpecker, and 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch. Some years there are none of these species seen at all but we do see them on most counts. There were two new species a Turkey Vulture and a Red-shouldered Hawk. The Red-shouldered Hawk was photographed for the first time in BC. The Northwestern Crow is no more it was lumped last year with the American 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 bird reported this count are a Red-necked Grebe, and a Common Yellowthroat.

New Species: Two new species this year are the Turkey Vulture and a Red-shouldered Hawk. 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 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 and 11195 this year.

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 Jeremiha Kennedy - christmasbirdbc@gmail.com . 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