

**53<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL WESTERN SONOMA COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**  
**Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Greetings CBC Counter;

Welcome to Madrone Audubon's 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Western Sonoma County Christmas Bird Count! We are so happy you to have your participation! Contact either Peter Leveque (707-542-8946) or Stacy Li (707-527-2037) so that they can provide the appropriate Team Leader for you, then contact the team leader to arrange a meeting place and time. If you find that you are not able to attend, please contact your leader and myself ASAP, even if it is the morning of the count.

**Please introduce yourself to private property owners and secure their permission to count on their property.** You may also find it helpful to familiarize yourself with the general outline of the count circle so that any birds you see within the circle, but not in your area can still be recorded for the count.

**We use revised methods for counting Turkey Vultures.** Please assume that every able-bodied TV has roused itself and left its roost by mid-morning. Please only count TV's until 11:00 am. Any seen after that will probably already have been counted (and if you haven't seen one by 11, go ahead and count the first one that flies by, for the sake of your territory list).

As usual, **unusual** birds (those out of range or season) should be described in **written detail** and your leader has a form for this purpose. Eagles and rare-ish hawks should be described by plumage, adult or immature status, time and sighting and direction of flight. The time and direction are important because eagles often pass from one area to another and this information helps to keep one bird from turning into two! Please record all **flickers** as "northern" unless you checked **all** the field marks. Likewise, call all "butter-butts" **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, unless they can honestly be assigned to the Audubon or Myrtle races. Please use **Accipiter Sp.**, unless you have positive IDs on Sharp-shinned and Coopers hawks. It is possible that our **blackbird flocks** contain more Brown-headed Cowbirds and Tricolored Blackbirds than we realize – check all flocks carefully.

The **post-count dinner is at the Sebastopol Community Center, 390 Morris St., Sebastopol.** Directions: Heading East on Hwy. 12 through Sebastopol, Morris St. is the third left after Main Street. Continue about 1/3 mile north on Morris to the Community Center. Please arrive after 4:30 pm. This year we're serving a delish vegetarian lasagna with soup, salad and, crusty French bread from Oliver's Market (Thanks to Nancy Hair for coordinating with Oliver's). Mineral water, ginger ale and hot tea will be provided. It is our tradition to BYOB. Everyone is requested to donate a dessert and donate \$5 for the dinner. We will have some disposable dinnerware on hand, but if you bring your own reusable pieces, we will send less waste to the landfill. **Tally and team reports begin at 6:30 pm.** This is an interesting and often amusing recount of the events of the day.

A copy of the WSC CBC territory map may be found on the Madrone Audubon website ([www.madroneaudubon.org](http://www.madroneaudubon.org)) in the CBC section, maps and letters are also available on our Madrone Audubon website as well as an FAQ about the CBC and other interesting of information. Don't forget to visit the site again in late January to view the post-count results of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Western Sonoma County Christmas Bird Count.

Thank you again for participating in this important Citizen Science tradition! I look forward to seeing you on Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>.

Until then, have a beautiful holiday season!

Peter Leveque, CBC Chair (707-542-8946)  
Stacy Li Deputy Chair (707-527-2037, [stacyli@sonic.net](mailto:stacyli@sonic.net))  
West Sonoma County Christmas Bird Count, Madrone Audubon Society

PS – Please remember to keep your eyes out for the following: Green Heron, American Bittern, Cinnamon Teal, Green-winged Teal, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser, Fulmar, Mountain Quail, Sooty Grouse, Cattle Egret, Yellowlegs, Common Gallinule, Long-billed Curlew, Horned Lark, Swallows, California Thrasher, American Dipper, Rock Wren, Brown-headed Cowbird, Crossbills, Lark Sparrow, Ruff, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow and Cedar Waxwing.