

56TH ANNUAL WESTERN SONOMA COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
Sunday, January 1, 2023

Greetings CBC Area Leader:

Thank you for volunteering to be an area leader for Madrone Audubon's 55th Annual Western Sonoma County Christmas Bird Count scheduled for New Year's Day 2023! We are very happy you to have your help and expertise! Following, are some housekeeping issues and details to keep in mind for the WSC CBC. This information is important, so please take time to review it.

Please go over all procedures with your team members. Due to the continuing effects of the COVID pandemic, there will be no post count dinner.

Field Talley Form and Final Talley Form can be found on Madrone's CBC web page (<http://audubon.sonoma.net>):

- Final tally results for each team can be recorded on the final form. Reporting using e-bird is also acceptable.
- Observation hours and Effort must be reported. The last page of the Final Talley Form is for this purpose. Please do not to forget to complete this because the comparability of our observations to other Christmas bird counts depends upon documenting our level of effort in terms of numbers of observers, amount of time in the field, and amount of area covered.
- Please provide the names, hometown, phone number and email of your participants. Only name and home town will be given to National Audubon. We collect phone numbers and emails in case there is a turnover in leadership and the names and contact information will be used to recruit new leaders.
- Be sure to submit your Final Talley Form or e-bird list to Stacy Li at stacyli@sonic.net or 1210 Spencer Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95404.
- If you observe an unusual or rare bird (a bird out of range or out of season), use the rare bird form and submit it to Stacy Li.
- Deadline for the Count Week birds is January 8th

A **topo map** of your count area may be found on the Madrone Audubon website (www.madroneaudubon.org) in the CBC section.

Counters have a history of counting in the same area year after year. Confirm participation of your team from last year and inform Stacy if you need more counters so that he can send them your way.

Please contact private property owners and secure their permission to count on their property. If you are able to secure permission, please save the contact information for future counts. If it is helpful, please reassure property owners that Madrone Audubon has insurance to cover participants during our activities.

We are again using 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). If the weather is absolutely horrible, disregard the above!

Our count circle is in need of owl counters. If you or any members of your team plan to count owls before dawn, please contact me.

As usual, **unusual** birds (those out of range or season) should be described in **written detail**. National Audubon has asked for the addition of photographic documentation when possible. If you or a member of your party has a camera that can be safely brought into the field and used on the count, the CBC editors would appreciate it. Do not risk your valuable instruments if the weather is inclement or the terrain is rough. Madrone Audubon is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items, so please use your good judgment if you choose to bring photographic equipment.

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 often the eagles pass from one area to another and this information helps to keep on 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.

All CBC forms, maps and letters are also available on our Madrone Audubon website as well as an FAQ about the CBC and other interesting information. Check it out at <http://audubon.sonoma.net> Don't forget to visit the site again in late January to view the post-count results of the 53st Annual Western Sonoma County Christmas Bird Count.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I sincerely appreciate all of your hard work and continued support of this very important Citizen Science tradition! I look forward to seeing you on Sunday, January 1, 2023. Until then, have a beautiful holiday season!

Peter Leveque, CBC Chair and Co-compiler
Stacy Li Deputy CBC Deputy Chair and Co-compiler
Madrone Audubon Society

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