

**2009**  
**Mat Valley Christmas Bird Count (CBC)**  
**Feeder Counter Instructions**

**CBC COUNT DAY:** Sunday, December 20, 2009 - the only day that birds are counted.

**CBC COUNT WEEK:** December 17-19 & 21-23, 2009 - Species seen on one of these days, **that were not seen on Count Day**, can be added to our list of species seen on Count Day. It is not necessary to count the number of birds of a species seen during the Count Week days.

**CBC COUNT PROCEDURE:** On Count Day, count the highest number of each bird species that you observe at or near your feeders **at one time!** At the end of the day, the highest number you observed **at one time** will be the total for that species. **EXAMPLE:** As you watch your feeders, six Black-capped Chickadees can be seen. Those birds fly away and a short time later, four Black-capped Chickadees fly in. **Do not add the two counts together! Six BC Chickadees is still your highest count for BC Chickadees.** Count all species the same way. If you have feeders at more than one location around your house (some in front and some in back, etc.), unless you have several observers all observing at the same time and in communication with each other, don't add the high counts from the different locations together, or you may be counting some birds twice. When you have large numbers of birds of a species at one time, the best way to count them is by using the "overlay" method. Estimate how much space 5 or 10 birds take up, then overlay that amount of space as many times as it takes to cover all of the birds, by counting 5 - 10 - 15 - etc.

**CBC PARTICIPANT FORM:** CBC Feeder Counters use the same Participant Form that is used by Field Counters, but FeederCounters only need to fill in the "Name," "Feeder Counter Hours," and "Weather Condition" blanks. **Be sure to keep track of the number of hours that you watched your feeders and try to count for at least an hour**, since you will probably miss several species if you count for less than that. Provide whatever weather information you can, including low and high temperatures. Your Participation Form and Tally Sheet must be turned in after the Count.

**COUNT TALLY SHEET:** You may use whatever form you wish to record the numbers of birds as you count them. However, the **Count Tally Sheet** must be filled out and turned in after the Count is completed. The Tally Sheet lists almost all of the species of birds seen on past Matanuska Valley CBC's and, although many of the listed birds are not likely to be seen at your feeders, you never know what might show up.

**CBC RARE BIRD DOCUMENTATION FORM:** Some of the species listed on the Tally Form are marked with an asterisk (\*). If you see any of the species marked with an asterisk or see a species that is not listed on the form, you must fill out and turn in a Rare Bird Report for each rare species. The form is quite detailed, but without good substantiating documentation, the Christmas Bird Count Regional Editor will disallow any rare birds that we report, so it is important to fill it out completely. **If at all possible, try to photograph rare birds.**

**BIRDS WITH DEFORMED BEAKS:** If you observe any birds with deformed beaks at your feeders, please make a note of the species, how many you see, and how their beaks are shaped.

### **CBC WRAPUP MEETING AND POTLUCK**

Maggie and Dan Crowson have again generously offered their home off of Fairview Loop for our post-Count wrapup meeting and potluck dinner. Maggie will provide spaghetti with a choice of meat or meatless sauce, and coffee, tea, and cider. We ask that everyone bring a side dish, or garlic bread, snacks, salads, desserts, etc., and beverages (if you would like something other than coffee, tea, or cider).

Snacks from 5:00 to 6:00 PM and dinner from 6:00 to 7:00 PM,  
Sunday, December 20, 2009.

**We want to see all of you at the wrapup potluck meeting!!**

**DIRECTIONS TO DAN & MAGGIE'S HOME:** From Palmer, exit the Parks Hwy at the Hyer Road/Fairview Loop Exit. Turn left under the overpass, right on Frontage Road, and then left on Fairview Loop. After about 4.8 miles, which comes at the end of a long downhill segment of Fairview Loop, turn left onto Patty Drive. **If you're coming from Wasilla,** take Knik-Goose Bay Road and turn left on Edlund Road (about a half mile after passing Iditarod Headquarters). Turn left from Edlund onto Fairview Loop and after about one mile, turn right onto Patty Drive. Follow Patty Drive until you reach the last driveway that turns to the right (there will be a CBC sign posted there). Turn right into the driveway and follow the driveway until you reach the house. Enter the house through the garage on the right where you can leave your boots, coats, etc.

### **TURNING IN YOUR COUNT DATA**

After the potluck dinner, we will go through the species list and ask everyone to provide their Count data. If you aren't able to make it to the potluck, please call your data in to Dan and Maggie's at 373-7674 **before 7 PM on Sunday, December 20th** and mail your Participation Form/Tally Sheet as soon as possible to:

**MAT-SU BIRDERS**  
**P.O. Box 877378**  
**Wasilla AK 99687**

### **QUESTIONS**

**Call Bob Winckler (Count Compiler) at 376-8594 or cell # 354-8594 during the day on December 20th!**