

2011
Mat. Valley Christmas Bird Count (CBC)
Feeder Counter Instructions

CBC COUNT DAY: Sunday, December 18, 2011 - the only day that birds are counted.

CBC COUNT WEEK: December 15-17 & 19-21, 2011 - 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: Feeder Counters only need to fill in the "Team Designator," "Name," "Feeder Counter Hours," and "Weather Condition" blanks on the Participant Form. **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.**

CBC WRAPUP MEETING AND POTLUCK

This year we're meeting at a new location. Peggy and KC White have offered to let us meet at their home in Wasilla. Peggy will provide meaty spaghetti, vegetarian chili, garlic bread, spiced cider, coffee, tea, and sparkling juice. We ask that everyone bring either vegetable side dishes, hors d'oeuvres, salads, or desserts, etc., and beverages (if you would like something other than spiced cider, coffee, tea, or sparkling juice).

Snacks from 5:00 to 6:00 PM and dinner from 6:00 to 7:00 PM
on Sunday, December 18, 2010.

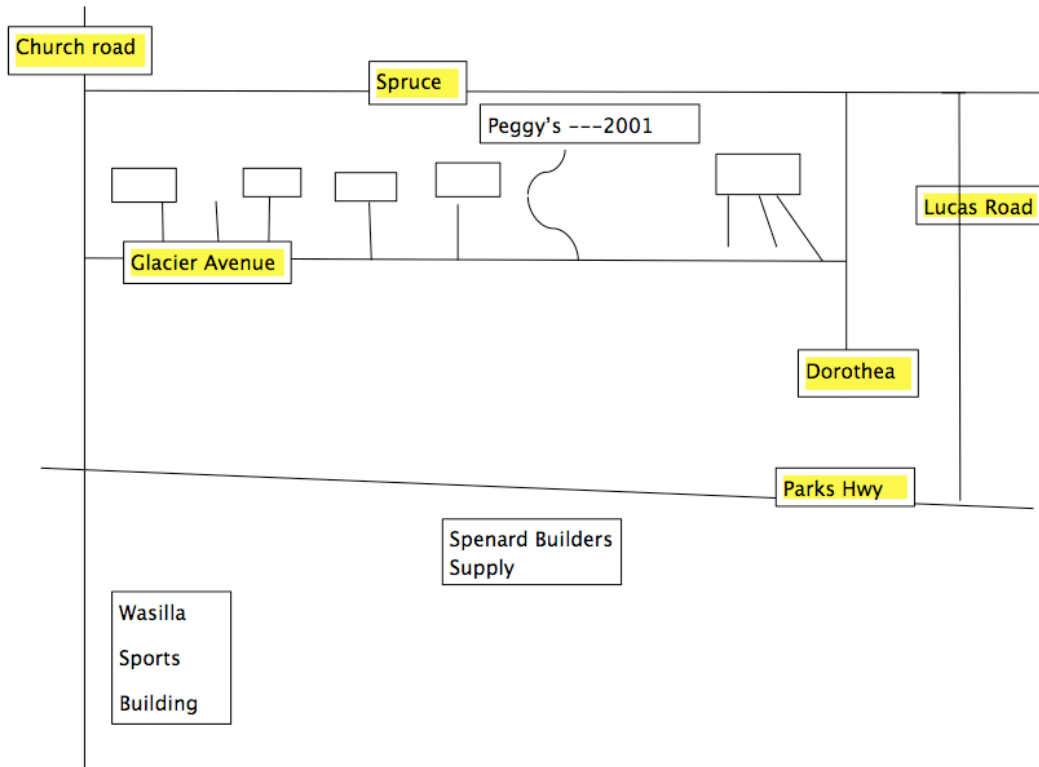
We want to see all of you at the wrapup meeting and potluck!!

DIRECTIONS to Peggy and KC's Home

See the map below! As you come up the street to Peggy and KC's home, you'll see Peggy's real estate sign in the driveway. As you come up the driveway, try to park to the left first, and go into the house through the big porch. If the parking lot is full, you can park in front of, or to right of the garage, but still enter the house by the left side via the big porch. If the parking areas fill up (doubtful), there is a little lot at the bottom of the hill.

Please remove your street shoes/boots when you enter the house!

IF YOU GET LOST, CALL **376-7367 FOR RESCUE!!**



TURNING IN YOUR COUNT DATA

After the potluck dinner, we'll 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 Peggy & KC's at **376-7367** **between 5 & 7 PM on Sunday, December 18th** 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 18th!