

110th Christmas Bird Count



Timmins Naturalists,
Wintergreen Fund for Conservation,
Bird Studies Canada and National Audubon Society

December 19th, 2009

What is the Christmas Bird count?

A coast-to-coast annual bird census. Volunteers count every bird and bird species over one calendar day - from midnight to midnight.

When did it all begin?

In 1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman was disturbed, as were many conservationists, at the slaughter of birds in the annual holiday event called the "side hunt". The team that shot the most birds and other small animals was the winner. As a protest, Chapman organized 27 friends in 25 locations on Christmas Day, 1900. Instead of shooting birds, they counted them.

Why?

Birds are indicators of the overall health of our environment. Christmas Bird Count data over time in any given area can provide valuable insight into the long-term health of bird populations and the environment.

Count rules are simple:

Each bird count is a circle 24 kilometers in diameter - approximately 450 square kilometers. Bird counters try to cover as much of the circle as possible within a 24-hour calendar day, counting each individual bird and species they see.

Today:

Over 45,000 people from all 50 states, every Canadian province, the Caribbean, Central and South America and the Pacific Islands participate in more than 1800 counts held during a two and a half week period. Visit the Timmins Naturalist website for more information.

2009 in Timmins / 16th Annual

December 19th. Our 24 kilometer count circle is centered at the junction of highway 655 and 101. We meet between 7:30 am and 8:00 am at Mike's Restaurant to coordinate coverage of the area. For those joining or leaving we meet again at 12:00 at Tim Horton's.

For more information
or to send your data.

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