

# FORT BRAGG CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FEEDER/YARDWATCH INSTRUCTIONS

**Count Day is Sunday, December 27, 2020**

## HOW TO COUNT YOUR BIRDS

EQUIPMENT NEEDED: Tally sheet, field guide and binoculars.

*Please note how much time you actually spend counting your birds.*

1-- Count the individual birds of each **species** in view at one time. Tally the **highest** number of each species on the tally sheet. If during your count you note higher numbers of the same species you would adjust your tally of that species to that higher number.

*For example:* When you start your count, you note 5 White-crowned Sparrows and 4 House Finches, record those numbers for the species. Later during your count, you note that there are 10 White-crowned Sparrows and 7 House Finches, 10 and 7 would be your tally for those species, **not** 15 and 11. **Do not add the counts together.** By following this method you will never report an individual bird more than once during the count.

2-- Count everything that you can see without leaving your site, even birds that don't visit your feeder(s) such as birds in birdbaths and birds in your bushes and trees. **Don't** count bird just flying over such as Canada Geese on their way to somewhere else.

3-- Organize your final count on the tally sheet provided, unless you are using eBird. Don't forget to fill in the other information requested. Be sure to include the total time that you counted. All of this information is vital to the Count.

4-- If you do happen to see a rare winter bird, (e.g. Nashville Warbler), try photographing it. You will need to write down a detailed description and fill out the Rare Bird Documentation Form. Do this as quickly as possible, while the information is fresh in your mind.

5-- Mail or e-mail the completed tally sheet to: Johanna Jensen, 661 North Harold Street, Fort Bragg, CA 95437. johanna@mcn.org Or follow the instructions for sharing an eBird checklist with the CBC CAFB account.

For questions and additional information call 964-8163 or e-mail johanna@mcn.org. Please feel free to pass this information along to your neighbors and friends!

*MENDOCINO COAST AUDUBON SOCIETY*  
THANKS YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

## Using eBird for your CBC checklist - Yard/Feeder Watching

This year you have the option of submitting your yard/feeder watch results on eBird. Using eBird makes your data available immediately and even better, provides automatic tallies. This allows us to include yard/feeder results in the Zoom tally-up on the 28th. Once you start using eBird you might find it useful for your personal use, like keeping track of what birds come to your yard over the seasons and years.

If you are new to eBird, there is plenty of excellent help available on the Support page:

<https://support.ebird.org/en/support/solutions/48000298808>

Start with "Get started with eBird" and go from there. Set up an account, complete a checklist (even just birds in your yard), and share it with the CBC CAFB account, just to make sure you've got it dialed in. (I can delete shared checklists from that account, so don't worry about cluttering it up.)

Note that there are two ways you can enter a checklist: from the mobile app, or through the website. Use whichever works best for you.

If you've already set up an account, but don't use eBird regularly, it's worth going through a few of the Support articles to get more familiar with the way it works. While the app and the website are remarkably intuitive and easy to use, there are still a lot of nuances, and the more you understand the easier it gets to use. You want to get really familiar with the process of entering sightings on a checklist so you can do it quickly, especially if you are using the app in the field.

Some tips on how to use this for the Count:

1. You will still need to follow the CBC protocols for feeder-watch counting. In particular, you should share only one checklist for the day, even if you count at several different times. Use the highest number observed at one time for each species. This will avoid counting the same birds multiple times.
2. Detailed instructions for sharing a checklist can be found here:  
<https://support.ebird.org/en/support/solutions/articles/48000625567-editing-and-sharing-checklists#anchorShareChecklists>
3. Count Week starts on Thursday the 24th and ends at midnight Wednesday the 30th. Feel free to share checklists throughout that time. Great way to practice the whole process. Have fun with it!