Christmas Bird Count information and instructions

Designated census route: Each group (party) should run a census-style route where they cover the route in-depth, counting every bird encountered. No other group should cover that area—we need to ensure that no double- counting occurs.

Counting while driving back roads Do a tally on a sheet of paper for the total number of birds you see example ; you see 3 crows a and you notice a road kill stop and watch what comes in maybe 5 magpies come in a raven and another crow Crows 4 magpies 5 ravens 1 then you drive further and see 2 more magpies add that to the tally now magpies are 7. You will have many magpies by the end of your tally. Note if retracing the same road Counting when retracing census route: If a group needs to retrace their path along a census route, birds should not be recounted. However, if other species or new individuals of the same species are encountered, they should be included in the census results. For instance, if you walk down a trail and see 10 robins on the way out, then retrace your steps, seeing 15 robins and a crow on the way back, your tally would be 15 robins and 1 crow. Then just add that to the total tally

Counting Large flocks like red polls or snow buntings Make a sweep of a sub group say 10 birds then notice how big that area is and sweep the whole flock counting groups of the same size counting by 10s ( estimating ) If others are doing the same compare numbers just do your best .

Feeder watchers: Please remember that, for birds coming to feeders, it is the highest number of individuals seen and heard at one time that should contribute to the total number for that species. Feeder watchers should look for the maximum number of each species visible (or within earshot) at any one time as their maximum count. They should not keep adding chickadees for their entire watch period.

 If doing a feeder watch at your home for more that 15 minutes count the birds as a feeder watch keeping separate from your tally count . If watching a feeder in a yard as you are driving a route do a maximum observed count and add it to your tally . You can stop along your driving route where and as long as you need . Don’t trespass on private property, be aware that some people may stop you and ask if you are lost or need directions - just introduce yourself and explain.

For each species seen, record the number observed on count day, or enter “cw” if the species was observed during count week only. The count week runs from three days before to three days after the count day. The count week can therefore extend outside the official count period; for example, if your count is run on December 17, the first day of the period, your count week is still from three days before to three days after your count (December 14 through 20).

SAFETY GUIDELINES The Christmas Bird Count should be a fun and enjoyable experience, but safety should always come first. Conducting your CBC in a safe manner is your responsibility, and if you are ever concerned about your safety, do not survey. Keep the following safety guidelines in mind for your count: GENERAL SAFETY TIPS Bring a cell phone (make sure it’s charged!)
Tell a friend or relative where you are going and when you will return. Bring a first aid kit.
Bring more food and water than you think you will need.
Bring a partner!

CAR SAFETY Ensure your car is in good working condition and has a full gas tank.
Decide if your car needs snow tires or chains.
Bring a winter emergency car kit. For information on what goes in a car emergency kit and what to do if you get stuck in the snow, see: https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/rsrcs/sfttps/tp201012-en.aspx.
Make sure you have your spare tire, jack, and tire repair kit (and ensure you know how to use them!)

ROAD CONDITIONS Check the forecast for road conditions and visibility before you leave home.
Do not continue your count if road conditions are hazardous (e.g., icy roads, blizzard, etc). Use your judgment. Stay safe.