



2018/19 Audubon 119th Christmas Bird Count FLST Stuart, FL, December 16, 2018

CBC Data Information Forms - explained

Enclosed please find the:

- ✓ **Team Participant Data Sheet.** This form records:
 - Names, phone #'s, e-mails and addresses of all participants for the National record. Your local compilers use this information to contact birders if there are any questions regarding a species sighting, description or location.
 - *The Time and Effort it takes to participate in the CBC. It is critical to record the number of miles you hike, boat, drive, bike, walk, ride the golf cart or paddle to get those precious bird numbers.*
 - The type of weather you and the birds are encountering on this data collection day. For example: One year when JDSP burned within a week of the count, the count numbers for that year were extremely low just due to the smoke in the area. We also had inches of rain another year with equally bad numbers. So, the weather & outdoor elements in which you bird are important.
- ✓ **Team Species Count Form – Check List**
 - 1st section - Record those species of birds you find in our count circle.
 - NOTE: species printed in ***bold italic*** are considered unusual visitors to our circle.
 - 2nd section - Special instructions, form completion & submittal information.
 - 3rd section - Record species seen but not listed on count day.
 - 4th – section - Co-compiler contact information
- ✓ **Large Flock Documentation Form –**
 - Large is a comparative term and is different for every species, time of year and those pesky environmental issues. For example 100 robins is not a HUGE flock – large yes. For tree swallows 500 can be large but when they swoop and dive from east to west in front of you for 10 minutes then that is HUGE. However, if you see 100 Kirkland Warblers that is news worthy.
 - Directional flight issues can take 2, 3 or 4 small flocks seen in separate circle areas into a large/huge flock when they combine in another circle area. The smaller flocks gain importance when they join up; this is why we need to know your location, the compass direction of the flight and time of the large-ish flocks you see. Yes we need details.
- ✓ **Florida Christmas Bird Count Documentation Form, Rare Bird Form -**
 - This form will be provided if you have a rare (unusual) bird sighting.
 - If you have a rare bird sighting: 1) contact Laurie or Nancy immediately, 2) take good pictures (you can make field drawings) as we have to be able to see the bird well enough to identify field marks., 3) have more than one person verify the sighting.

A “rare bird” is generally a bird species that is not usually seen within the count circle, or state. Also, a common species in rare plumage can also be considered rare such as a leucistic (white or partially white) vulture or hummingbird or have Albinism where there is an absence of melanin, which gives color to the skin, feathers, hair and eyes. Vertebrates with albinism are not only white (sometimes pale yellowish) in color but they also have very pale eyes, often pink or red.

➤ *When in doubt, document it and the compilers will make the final call.*