

December 17, 2018

Dear Feeder Watcher,

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is coming up fast: **Saturday, December 22--unless it is extremely cold**, in which case we will postpone and hope for a better day. If we do decide to postpone, an email message will go out by 9 am on Count Day, and for those of you without email at home, there will be a message on the WISE answering machine (822-3575). ***If there is no message to the contrary, the count is on.***

- Please check your feeders more often than usual; **at least five times during the day.**
- Write down what time you first look, and what time you quit for the day. Also, give your **best estimate of the time you actually spend watching.**
- **Here's how you avoid counting the same bird over and over:** Record the maximum number of birds of each species that you see at any time. For instance, if you saw 4 gray jays at noon and 2 at 3 pm, record 4. You can be more precise with species where the sexes look different. Thus, if you saw 5 male pine grosbeaks and 3 females at 9:45, and 7 males and 1 female at noon, their total would be 10 (7 males+3 females).
- Do count any birds you see at your home, **even if they don't come to the feeder.**
- Did you see a rare bird—something that isn't listed on the count form? **Please document any rare bird.** A documentation form is included. Photos are helpful but not required.
- Want to review birds in advance or confirm a sighting? In addition to field guides, there is the Audubon online guide, where you can search for a bird, see several different views of it, and listen to its songs and calls: <http://www.audubon.org/bird-guide>

### SCHEDULE

**Wednesday, December 19: Start of Count Week.** Note any species (numbers are not important except on count day) you see at your feeder, or anywhere else in the Count Circle, between now and Tuesday, December 20. If we miss a species on Count Day but see it on Count Week, that's better than nothing. (The Count Circle's boundary is 7 ½ miles from the center of what's left of the Kenny Lake water body.)

**Saturday, December 22: Count Day.** Do your best to start at first light (best time for birds). It's fun to join your fellow birders over a hot drink at the Kenny Lake Library at dusk (3:45-ish) to tally the identified birds. If you can't be there, please mail or email your count form to WISE ([robin@wise-edu.org](mailto:robin@wise-edu.org)).

**Tuesday, December 25: Last day of Count Week.** Please call Robin @ 822-3575 if you saw any species that we missed on Count Day.

**THANK YOU, AND ENJOY!**