

Notes for Area Leaders

As always, make sure to keep track of the following as accurately as possible (and make sure your sub-group leaders do as well). The use of eBird checklists should greatly help capture this data:

- **Participation.** We need to record participants' names and email addresses for statistical purposes (it's used during NAS data entry) and compiler follow-up (in case of rarities, for example), if need be. Volunteers should be recording this information in their eBird checklist comments field.
- **The maximum and minimum number of parties.** If you start out with two parties and one of these splits part of the day into two parties, the number of parties is a minimum of two and a maximum of three. With the sharp increase in participation in recent years, it has become more difficult, but no less crucial to accurately track this info to determine the birds per party hour statistic. If all else fails, this statistic can be gleaned from each area's summary reports (please see the Area Leader Instructions for eBird).
- **The number of party hours in the field.** If four individuals bird together for eight hours, that represents 8 party hours. If two parties of two individuals each bird separately, each for eight hours, that represents 16 party hours. If in the last example one of the two parties breaks up into single individuals birding separately for four hours each, the total party hours are now 20 (one party of two for eight hours, one party of two for four hours, and two parties of one each for four hours each). Again, this information is vital.
- **Starting and ending times.** Please record these to the nearest quarter hour; again, using eBird will greatly facilitate tracking this information.
- **The number of miles traveled, both on foot and by car.** Calculate miles as you do party hours. For example, four individuals in a car for 20 miles represents 20 party miles. If each person drives separately in different parts of your area, the distance is 80 miles. Mileage totals can be obtained from the eBird summary report (using the compilation tool); splitting up the mileage total into its constituent parts can be done using the checklist comments from each eBird checklist.
- **Owling party hours and party miles.** Owling is tracked separately by the CBC folks at NAS, so please provide all owling information separately.
- Make sure that there is **no overlapping effort** if you have multiple parties covering your area.
- If anybody contacts you about **feeder watching**, please refer them to Kurt Hagemester (kurt.liz.h@gmail.com). Should they provide you directly with the results of their feeder watch efforts, please make sure that they report the time spent watching their feeder(s) and pass on their feeder watch results to Kurt H. as well – ideally, they should be recording their feeder watch in eBird and share their checklist with the A2CBCFeeders eBird account.

Final totals for each area should be reported using the count's checklist – since the checklist is in eBird species order, this should be a smooth process with the wider implementation of eBird for our CBC.

- Even though we do a compilation of the day's birds at the potluck/tally event, more often than not these numbers are preliminary. With increased numbers of participants and more parties out in the field getting all results collated by the time of the potluck can be a challenge, even with the use of eBird.
- In case of a report of an unusual species or an unusual number of a certain species the State compiler may ask for additional details to substantiate that observation. By and large, unusual species or numbers will be flagged by eBird (with an orange dot), and observers can simply add a comment describing the bird and observation. In case of a true rarity (a red dot in eBird), please make sure that as much detail as possible is captured; a photo or recording would be great. If need be, more follow-up may be required.
- Please make separate note of birds seen during the **count week** (CW, three days before and three days after count day), not seen during the count day.

Please review all CBC forms before the count begins so they can all be filled out accurately, completely, and in a timely manner.

If you have any questions about the count, please contact compiler Jacco Gelderloos at (734) 757-0596 or at JJGelderloos@yahoo.com.