2025 Christmas Bird Count
Sweden/Bridgton Area, Maine
Field Count Leader Instructions

Date

The Count will be held on **Saturday, December 27, 2025**. In case of severe weather, call Mary Jewett (420-0553) for instructions. We have set the first storm-free day after that, as a Storm Date in case the weather or other conditions make December 27 undesirable.

Forms and Maps

Tally Sheets, Field Report Forms, and maps are available online at https://mainelakes.org/swedencbc/ Please print them prior to count day. Contact Mary at mary.jewett@gmail.com if you have a problem accessing or printing these forms.

Fee

Audubon no longer requires the $5.00 fee from each field count participant. As part of this change, the CBC summary, *American Birds*, will no longer be printed on paper and mailed to participants; however, the summary will be made available online.

The Count Day

If you have any problems or questions on Count Day, call Mary Jewett (420-0553) before 7:30 a.m. If necessary, you can leave a voicemail message. Mary will also be checking email during the day - mary.jewett@gmail.com.

Please attach the tallies from any members of your group to your tally sheet before turning it in.

You may e-mail the tally sheet to *mary.jewett@gmail.com* ; or mail it promptly to Mary Jewett, 230 Main Street, Bridgton, ME 04009.

Note that your tally sheet includes information on weather (carry a thermometer in your car), starting and stopping times of each member of the group, and miles traveled by each member. Please include the names of all who participated, even if they were present for only part of the day. All information should be as accurate as possible.

To calculate the number of non-owling parties, use the number of parties starting out the day as your basic number. In many cases, this will be the only number required. However, if parties split up, the maximum number in the field at any given time during the day should be reported, and the basic number becomes the minimum. Party-hours are calculated by adding the number of hours each party spent in the field. Report party-hours as accurately as possible to the nearest quarter hour. Report party-miles to the nearest quarter mile. Note that owl watching is reported separately.

Take your "CBC Rare Bird Documentation Form" with you on the count. If you see a bird that is rare or unusual, take detailed notes and fill out the Documentation Form to hand in with your report. Get photos of the bird, if possible.

If you see a large red bow on or near a feeder, that feeder is likely being counted by a Feeder Watcher.

Remember that you don't need to identify every bird *you see*, but you must be able to confidently identify each bird *you report*.

The Official Count Period includes three days before and three days after Count Day. Any species seen on one of these days, but not seen on Count Day, can be reported separately. Keep your eyes open and let Mary know if any additional species are spotted.

Have Fun…and Good Birding!