

2011 Christmas Bird Count
Sweden/Bridgton Area, Maine
Field Count Leader Instructions



Date The Count will be held on **Wednesday, December 28, 2011**. In case of severe weather, call Jean Preis (647-2847) for instructions. We have set Thursday, December 29 as a Storm Date in case the weather or other conditions make Wednesday undesirable.

Forms and Maps Tally Sheets, Field Report Forms, and maps are available on-line at www.eskerridge.com/Sweden_CBC_2011.htm . Please print them prior to count day. Contact Janet at 647-4520 or mahannah@eskerridge.com if you have a problem accessing or printing these forms.

Tally Dinner The Tally Dinner will be held at 5:00 p.m. on the day of the count at Jean and Bill Preis's home, 170 Highland Rd. in Bridgton. The dinner is BYOF – Bring Your Own Food – it is not a potluck.

Fee The National Audubon Society requires each field count participant over age 18 to pay \$5.00 to have his or her birds included in the count. There is no fee for participants age 18 and under. It is very important that your tally include only those participants who have paid this fee (if over age 18), since our entire count could be invalidated if a participant does not pay. No fee is required from feeder watchers, but they will need to provide their name, address, phone number, and, if available, e-mail address.

The Count Day It will be up to you, as Leader, to be sure the people assigned to your route know what they are supposed to do on Count Day. Please be sure someone is covering the entire area, within reason, and that observers do not overlap. If you have any problems or questions on Count Day, call Jean Preis (647-2847) or Sue Black (647-8272) before 7:30 a.m. If necessary, you can leave a message on Jean's machine, or with her husband, Bill.

Arrange to collect the tallies and the \$5 fees from your group and bring them to the Tally Dinner. It would be helpful for Leaders to arrive at the dinner shortly before 5:00 p.m., so the paperwork can be compiled. If you can't make it to the dinner, please arrange for someone to attend in your place.

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

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. This 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.

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 Sue or Jean know if any additional species are spotted.

Have Fun...and Good Birding!