

Christmas Bird Count Tally Sheet 2008

December, 2008

Greetings from the Mad Birders!

Thank you for volunteering to participate in the Mad River Valley/ Northfield Christmas Bird Count Feeder Watch! The count takes place on Friday, December 19th. We estimate that approximately 40 birders will join us on our count day by going out into the field looking for birds or by counting feeder birds at home.

The information you need to participate in the Count is provided in this document. We ask Feeder Watchers to count for at least one hour. You may split this hour into 15 or 30-minute blocks during the day if you like.

More than 50,000 observers across North America participate each year in this all-day census of early-winter bird populations. The results of their efforts are compiled into the longest running database in ornithology, representing over a century of unbroken data on trends of early-winter bird populations across the Americas.

We thank you for being part of this Mad Birders project and making a valued citizen science contribution: "Counting is the first step in learning how environmental threats are affecting our birds – and in helping to protect them."

Here is what you need to do to participate:

1. Commit to counting for at least one hour on 12/19/08.
2. Let us know that you plan to count. You can contact Dawna Foreman or anyone on the list below to sign up.
3. Follow the feeder watch protocol described on the next page.
4. At the end of the day, fill out your tally sheet and return it to Bridget Butler.
5. Join our super fun end-of-the-day CBC potluck held at 6 PM on 12/19/08. We'll provide directions and more information once you sign up!

If you have any additional questions, please contact our Feeder Watch Coordinator, **Dawna Foreman**, by email: birddiva@madrivervalley.biz or call 496-7811.

Many Thanks!

Pat Folsom pfols@gmavt.net
Jeannie Elias moosewoman@madriver.com
Bridget Butler bridget@birddiva.com
Nancy Turner nancyturner@madriver.com

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Protocol for Feeder Watchers For the Mad River Valley/Northfield Christmas Bird Count

Count Date: Friday December 19, 2008

Send Data To: Bridget Butler
33 North Elm Street, Apt. 2
St. Albans, VT 05478

Christmas Bird Count Feeder Information

- ❑ **Count the birds** in your backyard on December 19, 2008.
- ❑ **Watch the birds** for at least one hour; this can be split into 15 or 30-minute time periods. Preferred times for watching are morning and late afternoon before dusk.
- ❑ **How to count:** Scientists use our data to analyze bird populations, so it is very important that everyone count their birds in exactly the same way. For each kind (species) of bird that you see, keep track of the *highest number of individuals* that you observe at any one time. Use a "tally sheet" to help keep track of your counts. Your tally sheet should look something like the following:
 - Purple Finch - 3, 5, 3, 1
High Count = 5

 - Blue Jay - 1, 3, 6, 2
High Count = 6

Be careful not to count the same bird over and over! Don't add another Blue Jay to your tally every time you see a Blue Jay at the feeder. *You could be seeing the same individual again and again.* If you record only the highest number of individual birds that you see in view at one time, you're sure to never count the same bird more than once!

For tips on counting larger flocks of birds visit: www.birdsource.org

- ❑ **Submit your bird checklist** (found on the next page) by email or by snail mail to: Bridget Butler (**see Send Data to: at the top of this page**)
- ❑ **For more information:** Learn about the 106 year history of the Christmas Bird Count on line at: <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/>

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Ducks, Geese & Other Waterfowl

- _____ American Black Duck
- _____ Mallard
- _____ Canada Goose
- _____ Common Merganser
- _____ Red-breasted Merganser

Grouse & Turkey

- _____ Ruffed Grouse
- _____ Wild Turkey

Hawks, Eagles & Vultures

- _____ Cooper's Hawk
- _____ Red-Tailed Hawk
- _____ Rough-legged Hawk
- _____ Sharp-shinned Hawk

Owls

- _____ Barred Owl
- _____ Great Horned Owl

Pigeons & Doves

- _____ Mourning Dove
- _____ Rock Pigeon

Woodpeckers

- _____ Downy Woodpecker
- _____ Hairy Woodpecker
- _____ Northern Flicker
- _____ Pileated Woodpecker

Shrikes

- _____ Northern Shrike

Crows & Jays

- _____ American Crow
- _____ Common Raven
- _____ Blue Jay

Titmice & Wrens

- _____ Black-capped Chickadee
- _____ Tufted Titmouse

Nuthatches

- _____ Red-breasted Nuthatch
- _____ White-breasted Nuthatch

Creepers

- _____ Brown Creeper

Mockingbirds

- _____ Northern Mockingbird

Thrushes

- _____ American Robin *Waxwings*
- _____ Bohemian Waxwing
- _____ Cedar Waxwing

Starlings

- _____ European Starling

Sparrows

- _____ American Tree Sparrow
- _____ House Sparrow
- _____ Song Sparrow

Finches & Other Songbirds

- _____ American Goldfinch
- _____ House Finch
- _____ Purple Finch
- _____ Common Redpoll
- _____ Dark-eyed Junco
- _____ Evening Grosbeak
- _____ Northern Cardinal
- _____ Pine Grosbeak
- _____ Horned Lark
- _____ Pine Siskin
- _____ Red Crossbill
- _____ Snow Bunting
- _____ White-winged Crossbill

Orioles & Blackbirds

- _____ Common Grackle

Others

- _____ _____
- _____ _____
- _____ _____
- _____ _____
- _____ _____
- _____ _____
- _____ _____
- _____ _____

Feeder Watcher Information:

Name:
Address:
Phone:
Email:
Hours Spent Counting Birds:

RETURN TO:

Bridget Butler
 33 North Elm Street, Apt. 2
 St. Albans, VT 05478