Christmas Bird Count (CBC) Compiler

Volunteer Position Description

POSITION OVERVIEW

Audubon's Christmas Bird Count is conducted annually from December 14 to January 5 every year. During this time, 15-mile diameter count circles are surveyed by CBC participants on pre-established count dates. Each count circle must have a Primary Compiler who is responsible for recruiting, training and guiding participants on the count and summarizing and submitting data. The Primary Compiler may also designate other Secondary Compilers to help with data entry for the circle. The Compiler position is a volunteer role.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

1) Selecting the count date each year and recruiting and training participants to provide thorough coverage of the count circle.

2) Communicating with participants about the CBC and coordinating the count on the day of (e.g., ensuring all sectors are covered, identifying which participants will count where).

3) Obtaining permission to count in any non-public locations.

4) Planning and scouting survey areas or directing others to plan and scout.

5) Collecting, verifying, summarizing, and submitting required data to Audubon including bird observations, weather, and effort data. The primary compiler can designate others to help with data entry.

6) Providing any required documentation of rare birds directly to the Regional Editor.

7) Responding to the Regional Editor on any questions that arise about the count data.

8) Maintaining their own updated contact information within the Audubon system

CBC Participants
Photo: Luke Franke/Audubon

TIMLINE OF PROJECT DUTIES

October: Set up count dates and provide count information.

November: Updated public map showing circle locations and count dates goes online. Reach out to previous participants and start recruiting new participants to join your count.

December 14 through January 5: Conduct CBC. Scouting and/or training of participants may be needed before the actual count date.

December through February 28: Consolidate data collected in your circle and enter count data into Audubon's data entry portal. If applicable, submit required documentation of any rare birds to the regional editor. Online data entry opens December 14th and must be completed by the end of February each year.

February through April 15: Respond to any questions about your count data from the Regional Editor, who reviews data during this time.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions about the CBC Compiler role, you can reach out to cbcadmin@audubon.org