



## The Contents of American Birds, Summary of the 98th Christmas Bird Count, 1997-98

The 98th Count was truly a season to remember; frequent **dramatic weather** in the fall prior to the official count period led to abnormally mild conditions across much of North America in December 1997.

### **Tens of thousands of participants flocked out in thousands of areas to count millions of birds of hundreds of species.**

The resulting totals are truly record-smashing; all-time high totals in number of counts (1780), number of participants (49,122), and total species observed in North America (650).

As might be expected from all that observer effort locating approximately two-thirds of the known avian species occurring north of Mexico, a number of new birds were added to the cumulative Christmas Bird Count species list: Band-tailed Gull, Ivory Gull, Xantus's Hummingbird, Green-breasted Mango, Berylline Hummingbird, and Nutting's Flycatcher.

Last season's record of 1700 counts was eclipsed by this season's effort; the 1780 counts included in the pages that follow include 1735 counts in Canada and the United States (including Hawaii), and 45 in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands. Among those counts are 43 new areas, welcomed into the traditional CBC fold.

### **Many areas achieved new species-high tallies during the 98th Count.**

The generally mild fall and good conditions on count day, plus the tremendous observer effort, nearly guaranteed such results. The five-year-old Mad Island Marsh, Texas count led the pack north of the border and racked up another record for the season: the all-time North American high species total, at 235. In Costa Rica, inclement weather at Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve lessened that count's stellar total from last season, but they still tallied the Latin American high of 343 species.

From southern Chile to the Alaskan arctic, and from Bermuda to Saipan, counters did their best.

Finding all the possible birds within each area's 177 or so square miles requires tremendous observer effort; the more people and field parties involved, the better the coverage. Good weather certainly encourages participation, both in the field and at feeders.

Nearly inevitably, the synthesis of lots of counts, excellent participation in good weather, and the general anticipation associated with the Christmas Bird Count enhance the competition and camaraderie that is part and parcel of this event.

PA PQ	Parc Auguebelle, PQ
RL ON	Red Lake, ON
BH MB	Birds Hill, MB

LR BC	Lardeay, BC
LS BC	Lower Slocan Valley, BC
NS BC	Nelson, BC
CG AK	Central Gulf of Alaska, AK
UN ME	Unity, ME
MN NY	Minerva, NY
SU NY	Southern Orange County, NY
NJ NJ	New Jersey Pelagic, NJ
CL VA	Central Loudon, VA
HC NC	Henderson County, NC
AL FL	Alafia Banks, FL
PR OH	Preble County, OH
FC TN	Fayette County, TN
SV TN	Shady Valley, TN
LC MS	Lauderdale County, MS
TU MS	Tupelo, MS
AT MI	Au Train, MI
TU MI	Tuscola U.F.A., MI
DY WI	Dyckensville, WI
KE WI	Kewaunee, WI
LK WI	Lake Koshkonong, WI
SS WI	South Shore, WI
ML IL	Mermet Lake, Massac County, IL
NE IL	Newton, IL
FL MN	Fond du Lac S.F., MN
LT LA	Lacassine N.W.R.--Thornwell, LA
DI ND	Dickinson, ND
HG TX	Harlingen, TX
DI NM	Dixon, NM
SR NM	Santa Rosa, NM
BL UT	Bear Lake, UT
LY WA	Lyle, WA
RR CA	Red Rock Canyon, CA
RO CN	Rota, Saipan, C.N.M.I.
RR MX	Rancho Rincon de Anacahuitas, Tamaulipas, Mexico
TL GY	Timberhead Rain Forest Lodge, Guyana
FP BR	Fazenda Paraiso, Brazil
RO PE	Rio Orosa, Loreto, Peru
SD CH	Senda Darwin Station, Isla Chiloe, Chile
SB RD	Salinas--Bani, Dominican Republic

SB PR	San Juan Bay Estuary, PR
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**Table 2. Counts with 150 or more species recorded on the 98th (1997-1998) Christmas Bird Count**

<b>Table 2a: Counts North of the United States—Mexican border</b>			
<b>Count Code</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Count Name</b>	<b>Species Recorded</b>
MM TX	1	Mad Island Marsh, TX	235
FR TX	2	Freeport, TX	216
SB CA	3	Santa Barbara, CA	208
MR CA	4	Morro Bay, CA	207
MD CA	5	Moss Landing, CA	200
CC TX	5	Corpus Christi, TX	200
PR CA	6	Point Reyes Peninsula, CA	199
OC CA	7	Orange County, CA	196

CS CA	8	Crystal Springs, CA	193
MC CA	9	Marin County (southern), CA	190
WS CA	9	Western Sonoma County, CA	190
CT TX	10	Coastal Tip, TX	189
SD CA	11	San Diego, CA	187
AN CA	12	Año Nuevo, CA	182
CF TX	13	Corpus Christi (Flour Bluff), TX	181
SA LA	14	Sabine N.W.R., LA	180
BP TX	14	Bolivar Peninsula, TX	180
OA CA	15	Oakland, CA	178
CB CA	16	Centerville Beach to King Salmon, CA	177
MP CA	16	Monterey Peninsula, CA	177
OV CA	16	Oceanside—Vista—Carlsbad, CA	177
AR CA	17	Arcata, CA	175
HF CA	17	Hayward--Fremont, CA	175
SJ CA	18	San Jose, CA	173
PA CA	19	Palo Alto, CA	172
SB TX	19	San Bernard N.W.R., TX	172
LB CA	20	Long Beach--El Dorado, CA	171
AR TX	20	Aransas N.W.R., TX	171
CO FL	21	Cocoa, FL	170
PA TX	21	Port Aransas, TX	170
LA TX	22	Laguna Atascosa, TX	169
RO TX	23	Rockport, TX	168
PP CA	24	Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA	167
SB NC	24	Southport, Bald Head & Oak Islands, NC	167
SF CA	25	San Francisco, CA	165
VE CA	25	Ventura, CA	165
WI NC	25	Wilmington, NC	165
BE CA	26	Benicia, CA	164
DN CA	26	Del Norte County, CA	164
LU CA	26	La Purisima, CA	164
RS CA	26	Rancho Santa Fe, CA	164
MI FL	26	Merritt Island N.W.R., FL	164
MU CA	27	Malibu, CA	163
HH SC	28	Hilton Head Island, SC	162
JA FL	29	Jacksonville, FL	161
CR LA	29	Creole, LA	161
CC CA	30	Contra Costa County, CA	160
SG CA	30	Santa Maria--Guadalupe, CA	160
MC NC	30	Morehead City, NC	160

CK TX	30	Choke Canyon, TX	160
LS TX	30	La Sal Vieja, TX	160
JC MS	31	Jackson County, MS	159
GA TX	32	Galveston, TX	158
ON CA	33	Orange County (northeastern), CA	157
CM NJ	33	Cape May, NJ	157
JB LA	34	Johnsons Bayou, LA	156
LT LA	34	Lacassine N.W.R.--Thornwell, LA	156
FD TX	34	Falcon Dam and S.P., TX	156
HO TX	35	Houston, TX	155
MC SC	36	McClellanville, SC	154
LA CA	37	Los Angeles, CA	153
NP FL	37	North Pinellas, FL	153
OC MD	37	Ocean City, MD	153
CA SC	37	Charleston, SC	153
SR TX	38	Sea Rim S.P., TX-LA	152
SP FL	39	St. Petersburg, FL	151
BR LA	39	Baton Rouge, LA	151
AP TX	39	Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R., TX	151
SA TX	40	Santa Ana N.W.R., TX	150

<b>Table 2b: Counts South of the United States-Mexican Border</b>			
<b>Count Code</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Count Name</b>	<b>Species Recorded</b>
MO CR	1	Monteverde, Costa Rica	343
LS CR	2	La Selva, Lower Braulio Carillo, N.P., Costa Rica	333
AC RP	3	Atlantic Canal Area, R.P., Panama	325
PC RP	4	Pacific Canal Area, R.P., Panama	317
NM EC	5	Mindo--Tandayapa, Ecuador	302
CC RP	6	Central Canal Area, R.P., Panama	277
TL GY	7	Timberhead Rain Forest Lodge, Guyana	252
BC BL	8	Belize City, Belize	247
GJ BL	9	Gallon Jug, Belize	229
BE BL	10	Belmopan, Belize	222
ME BR	11	Manaus (east), Amazonas, Brazil	193
GR CR	12	Grecia, Costa Rica	191
VC RP	13	Volcan, Chiriqui, Panama	183
TR TR	13	Trinidad, West Indies	183
GF MX	14	Gomez Farias, Tamaulipas, Mexico	175

YS MX	15	Yecora, Sonora, Mexico	172
OJ MX	16	Oaxaca de Juarez, Oaxaca, Mexico	165
IT BR	17	Itirapina, Sao Paulo, Brazil	155
RR MX	17	Rancho Rincon de Anacahuillas, Tamaulipas, Mexico	155
SC MX	18	San Carlos, Sonora, Mexico	152

**Table 3. Counts with 100 or more participants on the 98th (1997-1998) Christmas Bird Count (fw = feederwatchers)**

<b>Count Code</b>	<b>Count Name</b>	<b># Participants</b>
ED AB	Edmonton, AB	523 (200 + 323 fw)
NB ON	North Bay, ON	355 (38 + 317 fw)
VI BC	Victoria, BC	333 (196 + 137 fw)
HA CT	Hartford, CT	226 (155 + 71 fw)
OA CA	Oakland, CA	195 (183 + 12 fw)
CA AB	Calgary, AB	189 (90 + 99 fw)
WI MB	Winnipeg, MB	167 (92 + 75 fw)
MC CA	Marin County (southern), CA	156 (159 + 3 fw)
PI PA	Pittsburgh, PA	151 (125 + 26 fw)
HH SC	Hilton Head Island, SC	151 (151 + 0 fw)
CO MA	Concord, MA	150 (95 + 55 fw)
AN AK	Anchorage, AK	145 (85 + 60 fw)
KL ON	Kleinburg, ON	138 (25 + 113 fw)
CF OH	Cuyahoga Falls, OH	134 (102 + 32 fw)
FB VA	Fort Belvoir, VA	133 (133 + 0 fw)
WS CA	Western Sonoma County, CA	132 (132 + 0 fw)
BO CO	Boulder, CO	130 (108 + 22 fw)
SB CA	Santa Barbara, CA	123 (123 + 0 fw)
VA BC	Vancouver, BC	121 (117 + 4 fw)
WR BC	White Rock, BC	120 (98 + 22 fw)
FA AK	Fairbanks, AK	119 (74 + 45 fw)
PR CA	Point Reyes Peninsula, CA	118 (118 + 0 fw)
PO MI	Pontiac, MI	118 (76 + 42 fw)
OH ON	Ottawa--Hull, ON-PQ	117 (82 + 35 fw)
EU OR	Eugene, OR	117 (94 + 23 fw)
PD OR	Portland, OR	116 (86 + 30 fw)
SC FL	Sanibel--Captive, FL	115 (115 + 0 fw)
HD NS	Halifax--Dartmouth, NS	113 (63 + 50 fw)

SR AB	Strathcona, AB	112 (40 + 72 fw)
SV AZ	Salt--Verde Rivers, AZ	105 (97 + 8 fw)
SE MD	Seneca, MD-VA	105 (102 + 3 fw)
GS CT	Greenwich--Stamford, CT	104 (72 + 32 fw)
SJ CA	San Jose, CA	103 (103 + 0 fw)
DC DC	Washington, DC	103 (100 + 3 fw)
FR TX	Freeport, TX	103 (101 + 2 fw)
DE CO	Denver, CO	102 (63 + 39 fw)

<b>Table 4. Regional high counts for the 98th (1997-1998) Christmas Bird Count</b>		
<b>Region</b>	<b># of CBCs</b>	<b>Highest Count (species total)</b>
St. Pierre & Miquelon	1	St. Pierre & Miquelon (41)
Newfoundland	9	St. John's (66)
Nova Scotia	13	Halifax--Dartmouth (108)
Prince Edward Island	2	Hillsborough (52)
New Brunswick	5	Cape Tormentine (58)
Quebec	24	Montreal (68)
Ontario	86	Blenheim (114)
Manitoba	22	Winnipeg (42)
Saskatchewan	7	Fort Walsh, Cypress Hills (43)
Alberta	25	Calgary (64)
British Columbia	50	Vancouver (139)
Northwest Territories	2	Hay River (16)
Yukon Territory	4	Whitehorse (27)
Alaska	35	Kodiak (86)
Maine	22	Greater Portland (84)
		York County (84)
New Hampshire	16	Coastal New Hampshire (107)
Vermont	16	Ferrisburg (86)
Massachusetts	32	Nantucket (127)
Rhode Island	3	South Kingstown (117)
Connecticut	16	Old Lyme--Saybrook (130)
New York	69	Southern Nassau County (134)
New Jersey	28	Cape May (157)
Pennsylvania	66	Southern Lancaster County (109)
Delaware	6	Rehoboth (138)

Maryland	21	Ocean City (153)
District of Columbia	1	Washington (126)
Virginia	38	Cape Charles (147)
North Carolina	38	Southport, Bald Head, & Oak Islands (167)
South Carolina	19	Hilton Head Island (162)
Georgia	18	Cumberland Island (144)
Florida	57	Cocoa (170)
Ohio	56	Millersburg (88)
West Virginia	15	Charles Town (75)
Kentucky	12	Louisville (90)
Tennessee	23	Reelfoot Lake (113)
Alabama	11	Gulf Shores (146)
Mississippi	17	Jackson County (159)
Michigan	52	Rockwood (89)
Indiana	37	Lake Monroe (109)
Wisconsin	39	Madison (94)
Illinois	52	Rend Lake (104)
Minnesota	41	Bloomington (73)
Iowa	24	Keokuk (88)
Missouri	24	Horton--Four Rivers (101)
		Mingo N.W.R. (101)
Arkansas	19	Lake Village (115)
Louisiana	21	Sabine N.W.R. (180)
North Dakota	17	Garrison Dam (50)
South Dakota	14	Pierre (60)
Nebraska	9	Lake McConaughy (76)
Kansas	23	Lawrence (89)
		Udall--Winfield (89)
Oklahoma	19	Tulsa (107)
Texas	84	Mad Island Marsh (235)
Montana	26	Bigfork (83)
Wyoming	17	Cody (57)
Colorado	34	Grand Junction (108)
New Mexico	25	Caballo (137)
Idaho	23	Bruneau (77)
		Nampa (77)
Utah	14	St. George (105)
Nevada	11	Truckee Meadows (102)
Arizona	28	Ramsey Canyon (148)
Washington	36	Sequim--Dungeness (136)
Oregon	36	Coos Bay (142)



		Tillamook Bay (142)
California	110	Santa Barbara (208)
Hawaii	10	Honolulu, O'ahu (56)
Guam	2	Southern Guam (28)
Saipan	2	Saipan (42)
Mexico	12	Gomez Farias, Tamaulipas (175)
Belize	3	Belize City (247)
Honduras	1	Lancetilla (105)
Costa Rica	4	Monteverde (343)
Panama	4	Atlantic Canal Area (325)
Colombia	2	Sabana de Bogota (122)
Ecuador	1	Mindo--Tandayapa (302)
Peru	1	Rio Orosa, Loreto (94)
Chile	1	Senda Darwin Station, Isla Chiloe (67)
Brazil	4	Manaus (east), Amazonas (193)
Guyana	1	Timberhead Rain Forest Lodge (252)
Trinidad	1	Trinidad (183)
Bermuda	1	Bermuda (91)
Bahamas	3	New Providence Island (108)
Dominican Republic	2	Salinas--Bani (67)
Puerto Rico	4	Cabo Rojo (105)
Virgin Islands	1	Tortola, BVI (59)