

**The 111th Christmas Bird Count**  
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**Counting birds in remote places can have its rewards. Bob Trotter, the compiler and often only participant (due to restricted military access to the island) on the Shemya Island, Alaska, count—so far west in the Aleutians that it's actually east longitude—always gets to count good numbers of Emperor Geese (*Chen canagica*).  
Photo/Bob Trotter**

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**ON THE COVER:** Much of the anticipation we feel when setting out on Christmas Bird Counts is from the expectation of finding the unexpected, or for that matter any brightly colored avian gem during the early winter period. While the Townsend's Warbler (*Setophaga townsendi*) can be found in large numbers on CBCs along the West Coast, it is also found as a vagrant in the East. One particularly lovely aspect of this species is that, unlike many other warblers, adult males retain their bright plumage through the winter—as illustrated by this stunning male in a setting especially fitting for the holiday season. Photo/Guy L. Monty

# The 111th Christmas Bird Count

December 14, 2010 to January 5, 2011

*Geoffrey S. LeBaron*

Each year as December 14th approaches, the thoughts of tens of thousands of us turn—with great anticipation tempered by slight trepidation—toward our plans for the upcoming Christmas Bird Count season. How will the ever-unpredictable early winter weather affect our plans and days afield? Has the fall season hastened lingering migrants on their way, or will an unexpected rarity grace our binocular fields and, we hope, digital camera cards? Will boreal waifs wander southward, or will there be hoards of hungry raptors to be tallied? Will all of our friends be attending the counts? And how about that pesky December weather?

In December of 2010, the stage had been set for the upcoming 111th Christmas Bird Count. In the tropical Pacific Ocean, another strong La Niña season—one with unusually cool surface temperatures in the central Pacific Ocean—was developing. The ENSO (El Niño-Southern Oscillation) cycle drives global weather patterns, and La Niña seasons often mean dry conditions in the southern portions of the United States—not good news for the decade-long parched areas of Texas, Oklahoma, and elsewhere in the Southwest. But it did portend for potentially decent weather over much of the continent during the 111th Christmas Bird Count season. Early fall cold snaps over much of the northern tier of the continent seemed likely to have pushed tardy and half-hardy species southward. It was “expected” to be an “on” redpoll season, two years since the last major flight. And based on observed wild food crops, biologists in the know had predicted a potentially good southward movement of many irruptive winter species of passerines.

So afield we went, and here are the important and rather spectacular facts from our combined efforts during the 111th CBC. Another all-time record number of Christmas Bird Counts was

submitted to the database—2215, smashing last season's short-standing record of 2160. Of that total of 2215 circles, 1714 were included from the United States, 394 from Canada, and a whopping 107 in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands. This record total was helped by two factors: an impressive list of new circles and a welcome influx of counts that for a variety of reasons have not been submitted to the database for some time. We welcome the 50 new counts into the CBC database (10 in Canada, 23 in the United States, and 17 in the Caribbean and Latin America), all listed in Table 1. Of particular note on the list of new circles is the first-ever CBC submitted from Haiti, at Les Cayes. For the historians among us, Les Cayes is the birthplace of none other than John James Audubon, and the start-up of this count represents a great effort on the part of participants there during the ongoing recovery from the earthquake and floods that have recently ravaged that island nation. And we especially welcome back into the database the counts that have been on hiatus for some time—great kudos go to the folks at Madison Audubon for helping facilitate things in Wisconsin. It's important to note that with the resubmission of data from these circles, we can begin to fill in holes in the cumulative Christmas Bird Count database. In fact, if there are missing years of data for any existing circle, we will gladly add the missing data to the database from past seasons.

Perhaps not surprisingly, given the new record number of counts included, we broke another short-standing record from the 110th CBC—that of the number of observers. Last season was the first time participation level reached 60,000 observers, and this year the total number of observers rose to 62,624 (52,850 in the field plus 9774 watching feeders in their yards). Region-wise, the numbers break out as follows: 8354 field

**Table 1. New counts in the 111th (2010–2011) Christmas Bird Count.**

Count Code	Count Name
<b>CANADA</b>	
ABEL	Elkwater-Cypress Hills, Alberta
ABMR	Milk River, Alberta
BCJF	Juan de Fuca, British Columbia
BCSW	Savona-Walhachin, British Columbia
MBBK	Brokenhead, Manitoba
NBBO	Boucoucher, New Brunswick
NBMA	Mactaquac, New Brunswick
SKCH	Churchbridge, Saskatchewan
SKHZ	Hazlet, Saskatchewan
SKKY	Kindersley North, Saskatchewan
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	
AKSH	Shageluk, Alaska
CAAV	American Valley, California
COEV	Eagle Valley, Colorado
COGM	Grand Mesa, Colorado
FLCH	Choctawhatchee River, Florida
IDTC	Trapper Creek, Idaho
INDW	Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore West, Indiana
KYCF	Cumberland Falls, Kentucky
NCHL	Holly Shelter & Lea-Hutaff Island, North Carolina
NCLL	Lake Lure, North Carolina
NDLW	Lostwood, North Dakota
OHGC	Greene County, Ohio
OKRS	Red Slough, Oklahoma
ORAS	Ashland, Oregon
ORTV	Tygh Valley, Oregon
TXKW	Kenedy County Wind Turbines, Texas
TXTA	Trinity River Audubon Center, Texas
UTDH	Dead Horse Point Intrepid Bike Trail, Utah
WICK	Cooksville, Wisconsin
WILU	Luck, Wisconsin
WIMH	Mount Horeb, Wisconsin
WIRI	Richland Center, Wisconsin
WIWL	Waterloo, Wisconsin
<b>CARIBBEAN, LATIN AMERICA</b>	
CLBU	Bucaramanga, Santander, Colombia
CLMG	Makaira National Park, Guajira, Colombia
CLPG	Punta Gallinas, Guajira, Colombia
CLPM	Corredor Biológico Pantano de Martos-Zaque Yonama, Colombia
CLRG	Corredor Biológico Represa del Guavio-Farallones, Colombia
CLVS	Valle de Sibundoy, Putumayo, Colombia
CRCA	Cacao-Area de Conservacion Guacaste, Costa Rica
CRCF	Western Cloud Forest, Balsa, Costa Rica
CROP	Osa Peninsula, Puntarenas, Costa Rica
CRSR	Santa Rosa-Area de Conservacion Guanacaste, Costa Rica
ECCA	Gareno, Napo, Ecuador
HTLC	Les Cayes, Haiti
MXBP	Bosque La Primavera, Jalisco, Mexico
MXDU	Durango, Mexico
MXHR	Hardy River and Confluence of Colorado River, Baja California, Mexico
MXHU	Huatulco, Oaxaca, Mexico
MXMM	Rancho Ecológico Monte Mojino (REMM), Sonora, Mexico

**Table 2. Counts with 100 or more participants in the 111th (2010–2011) CBC.**

Code	Count Name	# Observers	(Field + Feeder)
ABED	Edmonton, AB	439	(131 + 308)
MACO	Concord, MA	381	(210 + 171)
ORPD	Portland, OR	267	(146 + 121)
OREU	Eugene, OR	250	(151 + 99)
BCVI	Victoria, BC	239	(217 + 22)
CASB	Santa Barbara, CA	203	(199 + 4)
ABCA	Calgary, AB	195	(93 + 102)
CAOA	Oakland, CA	190	(169 + 21)
UTBC	Bryce Canyon N.P., UT	184	(24 + 160)
CAPR	Point Reyes Peninsula, CA	176	(176 + 0)
VAFB	Fort Belvoir, VA	172	(166 + 6)
NYIT	Ithaca, NY	169	(146 + 23)
WASE	Seattle, WA	166	(164 + 2)
ONLO	London, ON	159	(104 + 55)
NSHD	Halifax-Dartmouth, NS	154	(85 + 69)
ABSA	St. Albert, AB	153	(46 + 107)
CAMC	Marin County (southern), CA	153	(143 + 10)
SCHH	Hilton Head Island, SC	151	(151 + 0)
ECNM	Mindo-Tandayapa, Ecuador	149	(135 + 14)
CAWS	Western Sonoma County, CA	147	(147 + 0)
OHCF	Cuyahoga Falls, OH	146	(102 + 44)
BCVA	Vancouver, BC	142	(133 + 9)
WASD	Sequim-Dungeness, WA	141	(100 + 41)
AKAN	Anchorage, AK	140	(93 + 47)
DCDC	Washington, DC	138	(135 + 3)
COBO	Boulder, CO	136	(127 + 9)
CRLS	La Selva, Lower Braulio Carillo N.P., Costa Rica	133	(108 + 25)
CAOC	Orange County (coastal), CA	132	(131 + 1)
BCGS	Galiano-North Saltspring, BC	130	(119 + 11)
MANO	Northampton, MA	130	(115 + 15)
CASF	San Francisco, CA	129	(129 + 0)
NSWO	Wolfville, NS	129	(49 + 80)
BCPM	Pitt Meadows, BC	121	(110 + 11)
CTHA	Hartford, CT	119	(108 + 11)
ONTO	Toronto, ON	119	(115 + 4)
PAPI	Pittsburgh, PA	116	(80 + 36)
CASZ	Sonoma Valley, CA	112	(109 + 3)
CABE	Benicia, CA	111	(108 + 3)
CALC	Lincoln, CA	111	(93 + 18)
NSKI	Kingston, NS	111	(23 + 88)
PACH	Chambersburg, PA	111	(75 + 36)
CODE	Denver, CO	110	(92 + 18)
FLSC	Sanibel-Captiva, FL	110	(110 + 0)
ILFB	Fermilab-Batavia, IL	110	(106 + 4)
ONOH	Ottawa-Gatineau, ON	109	(86 + 23)
CAPA	Palo Alto, CA	108	(108 + 0)
CODV	Denver (urban), CO	108	(87 + 21)
SCSC	Sun City-Okatie, SC	108	(91 + 17)
OHCI	Cincinnati, OH	104	(91 + 13)
SKSA	Saskatoon, SK	104	(61 + 43)
AKFA	Fairbanks, AK	103	(74 + 29)
VACL	Central Loudon, VA	103	(102 + 1)
BCWR	White Rock, BC	102	(100 + 2)
FLGA	Gainesville, FL	102	(101 + 1)
OHRA	Ragersville, OH	101	(95 + 6)
BCLA	Ladner, BC	100	(92 + 8)
CASD	San Diego, CA	100	(100 + 0)

observers and 3613 feederwatchers in Canada, 42,295 afield and 6091 at feeders in the United States, and 2201 in the field and 70 observing feeders in the Caribbean and Latin America. Table 2 presents the list of 57 counts from Alaska to Ecuador exceeding the century mark for participation; these counts' hardworking and highly organized com-

pilars had the largest pools of observers to keep busy on their respective count days.

All those birders in all those locations were bound to tally a lot of birds of an amazing variety of species and, as always seems to be the case during the Christmas Bird Count season, would also turn up some remarkable rarities. All counts combined tallied 61,359,451

birds; 57,542,123 in the United States, 3,355,759 in Canada, and 461,569 in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands. This number is slightly lower than the total number of birds tallied in some recent seasons, but well within the expected range. The biggest factor that plays into the total number of birds is whether (or not, as was the case during the 111th season) huge winter roosts of robins, blackbirds, or other congregatory species are present within circles during the count period.

Species totals were impressive as well. In the United States during the 111th count, the total tally was 646 species, plus an additional 45 field-identifiable forms. One new addition was made to the cumulative Christmas Bird Count checklist—a lovely **Black-vented Oriole** that had been frequenting the Anzalduas-Bentsen, Texas, circle was tallied on count day. There are other new inclusions as well, though these come courtesy of the American Ornithologists' Union via the "splits" of Pacific Wren from Winter Wren and Eastern Whip-poor-will from Mexican Whip-poor-will. The latter taxon was included this season, but only from Guatemala. In Canada, 286 species were tallied, with four Canada-firsts being **Black-tailed Gull** from St. John's, Newfoundland; **Costa's Hummingbird** at Vancouver, British Columbia; **Acorn Woodpecker** at Abbotsford-Mission, British Columbia; and **American Redstart** at Glace Bay, Nova Scotia. The Black-tailed Gull at St. John's was a special coup for the 111th count—it was the only one tallied anywhere this season. All counts combined in all regions tallied 2250 species; 1604 of those were exclusively in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands. Counters at Rota, a remote island in the Pacific, sighted an amazing vagrant, an Abbott's Booby. This endangered species was far out of range at Rota—it only breeds at Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean. Needless to say the Rota record from the 111th count is the first sighting of this beleaguered seabird (total estimated population 6000) in the cumulative CBC database. And in Latin America,

**Table 3. Counts with 150 or more species recorded in the 111th (2010–2011) CBC.**  
**Table 3a. Counts north of the United States-Mexican border.**

Count Code	Rank	Count Name	Species Recorded
TXMM	1	Matagorda County-Mad Island Marsh, TX	236
TXGF	2	Guadalupe River Delta-McFadden Ranch, TX	222
CASD	3	San Diego, CA	220
CASB	4	Santa Barbara, CA	211
TXFR	5	Freeport, TX	206
CAPR	6	Point Reyes Peninsula, CA	198
CAOC	7	Orange County (coastal), CA	195
CAMD	8	Moss Landing, CA	194
TXSB	9	San Bernard N.W.R., TX	193
CACS	10	Crystal Springs, CA	192
CAOV	11	Oceanside-Vista-Carlsbad, CA	191
CARS	12	Rancho Santa Fe, CA	189
CACB	13	Centerville Beach to King Salmon, CA	186
CAIO	14	Thousand Oaks, CA	185
TXAP	15	Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R., TX	184
CAMP	16	Monterey Peninsula, CA	183
TXPA	16	Port Aransas, TX	183
CAWS	18	Western Sonoma County, CA	181
CAAR	19	Arcata, CA	180
TXCC	19	Corpus Christi, TX	180
TXCF	21	Corpus Christi (Flour Bluff), TX	179
CAMC	22	Marin County (southern), CA	178
TXWS	22	Weslaco, TX	178
CAOA	24	Oakland, CA	177
CASF	24	San Francisco, CA	177
TXAZ	24	Anzalduas-Bentsen S.P., TX	177
CAMR	27	Morro Bay, CA	175
TXLA	28	Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., TX	174
CASZ	29	Sonoma Valley, CA	172
CABE	30	Benicia, CA	170
FLNR	30	West Pasco (New Port Richey), FL	170
NCSB	30	Southport-Bald Head-Oak Islands, NC	170
CALB	33	Long Beach-El Dorado, CA	169
CAPA	33	Palo Alto, CA	169
CALA	35	Los Angeles, CA	168
FLSP	36	St. Petersburg, FL	167
NCWI	36	Wilmington, NC	167
SCMC	36	McClellanville, SC	167
CAHF	39	Hayward-Fremont, CA	166
CASM	39	Sacramento, CA	166
TXCK	39	Choke Canyon, TX	166
CAPP	42	Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA	165
LASA	42	Sabine N.W.R., LA	165
SCLP	42	Litchfield-Pawleys Island, SC	165
TXAR	42	Aransas N.W.R., TX	165
CAPS	46	Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley, CA	163
CASJ	46	San Jose, CA	163
TXBP	46	Bollivar Peninsula, TX	163
TXKI	46	Kingsville, TX	163
TXLS	46	La Sal Vieja, TX	163
CASC	51	Santa Cruz County, CA	161
CAVE	51	Ventura, CA	161
FLZE	51	Zellwood-Mt. Dora, FL	161
TXSA	51	Santa Ana N.W.R., TX	161
VACC	51	Cape Charles, VA	161
CAAN	56	Año Nuevo, CA	160
CACU	56	Cachuma, CA	160
TXBV	56	Brownsville, TX	160
FLNP	59	North Pinellas, FL	159
FLSB	59	South Brevard County, FL	159
FLSR	59	Sarasota, FL	159
TXBZ	59	Brazos Bend, TX	159
CASS	63	Salton Sea (south), CA	158
TXRO	63	Rockport, TX	158
TXSR	63	Sea Rim S.P., TX	158
FLAL	66	Alafia Banks, FL	157
NCBP	66	Bodie-Pea Island, NC	157
TXGA	66	Galveston, TX	157
CADN	69	Del Norte County, CA	156
CARC	69	Rio Cosumnes, CA	156
FLAB	69	Aripeka-Bayport, FL	156
FLTA	69	Tampa, FL	156
NCMC	69	Morehead City, NC	156
ORTB	69	Tillamook Bay, OR	156
SCWB	69	Winyah Bay, SC	156
AZRC	76	Ramsey Canyon, AZ	155
FLCO	76	Cocoa, FL	155
FLGA	76	Gainesville, FL	155
FLJA	76	Jacksonville, FL	155
FLMI	76	Merritt Island N.W.R., FL	155
GASV	76	Savannah, GA-SC	155
CAES	82	Escondido, CA	154
NJCM	82	Cape May, NJ	154
ORCV	82	Coquille Valley, OR	154
SCHH	82	Hilton Head Island, SC	154
CASL	86	San Jacinto Lake, CA	153
AZGV	87	Green Valley-Madera Canyon, AZ	152
TXOR	87	Old River, TX	152
CASG	89	Santa Maria-Guadalupe, CA	151
FLTT	89	Ten Thousand Islands, FL	151
GAGC	89	Glynn County, GA	151
MDOC	89	Ocean City, MD	151
TXST	89	San Antonio, TX	151
CACR	94	Calero-Morgan Hill, CA	150
CAEA	94	Eastern Alameda County, CA	150
FLSA	94	St. Augustine, FL	150
LALT	94	Lacassine N.W.R.-Thornwell, LA	150
MSSH	94	Southern Hancock County, MS	150



**The Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*) is a partially irruptive migrant woodpecker, usually tallied on CBCs in the West. It does, however, show up well out of range, and this one (present for some time at a feeder) was tallied on New York's Conesus-Hemlock-Honeoye Lakes count. Photo/Fred A. Jordan**

184 species of hummingbirds and 148 species of tanagers are included this season. These numbers represent well over half of the species known to exist in each group, and both are endemic families to the Americas. As the CBC expands its coverage in Latin America, it is likely that these tallies will go up—even as we learn more about the off-season distribution of the Nearctic breeding species wintering in Central and South America.

Tallying all those species found during the 111th count is no mean task—species totals on counts ranged from *one* (Common Raven—still the only species ever recorded at Prudhoe Bay, Alaska) to a mind-boggling 423 at Mindo-Tandayapa, Ecuador. The neotropical Christmas Bird Counts in Latin America have a major jump-start on species tallies over counts conducted in Canada or the United States, but some very impressive species tallies were to be found across the board. Table 3 lists the counts with the fortunate combination of observer skill, geographic location, and just plain luck to tally 150 or more species. Perennial leader Matagorda County-Mad Island Marsh, Texas, once again tops the U.S./Canada list at 236 species—continuing congratulations to

this well-attended and magnificently run count. Despite some less-than-favorable weather conditions on the West Coast, a number of California counts were within striking distance of the top U.S. spot this season; who knows what will happen in future seasons. It's interesting to note that there are 98 counts on this list from the United States and Canada—quite a few more than have reached the 150-species mark in recent seasons. The potential reasons for this will be explored below.

Even though most attendees on Christmas Bird Counts can't aspire to a species total of 150 or more, other yardsticks are equally important. Some of these are our own internal competitions—exceeding our own count's record number of species or individuals, finding new species to the count, or just having the satisfaction of providing great and thorough coverage of our areas during potentially inclement conditions. Or we can aspire to the highest species tally in our region; Table 4 lists the counts able to make that claim during the 111th Christmas Bird Count.

End of story, correct? Not so fast...let's delve into the story behind the story. That's usually where the really good stuff is lurking. Given the weather predictions and avian expectations leading into the 111th CBC period, it's interesting to see how things played out. Weather-wise, the La Niña worked as advertised. While many areas had experienced colder-than-average conditions leading up to the CBC (especially in Ontario and much of the northeastern United States), observers across much of the continent were blessed with relatively good counting conditions with regard to storms and precipitation. While the Northeast was cold during the count period, the Midwest was quite mild for much of the time, and the West Coast had cool and damp (though not overly stormy) conditions. A late snowstorm also impacted counts from the Northeast through the Mid-Atlantic, but all in all, participants on the 111th CBC didn't have many challenging weather conditions to vie with. Thus, unlike the past several seasons, the main

**Table 3b. Counts with 150 or more species south of the United States-Mexican border.**

Count Code	Rank	Count Name	Species Recorded
ECNM	1	Mindo-Tandayapa, Ecuador	423
ECYU	2	Yanayacu, Ecuador	412
CRPR	3	Pacific Rainforest Aerial Tram-Carara Reserve, Costa Rica	377
CRLS	4	La Selva, Lower Braulio Carrillo N.P., Costa Rica	368
CRRF	5	Rain Forest Aerial Tram, Costa Rica	358
CRCF	6	Western Cloud Forest, Balsa, Costa Rica	346
CRMO	7	Monteverde, Costa Rica	311
RPPC	8	Pacific Canal Area, Panama	298
MXSB	9	San Blas, Nayarit, Mexico	271
RPAC	10	Atlantic Canal Area, Panama	261
BLPG	11	Punta Gorda, Belize	259
ECGA	11	Gareno, Napo, Ecuador	259
RPPC	13	Central Canal Area, Panama	255
BLBE	14	Belmopan, Belize	251
CROP	15	Osa Peninsula, Puntarenas, Costa Rica	250
GMAV	16	Atitlan Volcano, Guatemala	237
BLBC	17	Belize City, Belize	228
BLGJ	18	Gallon Jug, Belize	213
BLCB	19	Cockscomb Basin, Belize	205
MXES	20	Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico	201
NIRJ	21	Reserva el Jaguar, Jinotega, Nicaragua	189
TRTR	22	Trinidad, W.I.	186
RPVC	23	Volcan, Chiriqui, Panama	184
MXAL	24	Alamos, Sonora, Mexico	176
ECLA	25	Loma Alta, Ecuador	174
GMTK	26	Tikal, Guatemala	172
CLCO	27	Cordillera Occidental, Valle del Cauca, Colombia	168
CRCA	28	Cacao-Area de Conservacion Guancaste, Costa Rica	165
MXHU	29	Huatulco, Oaxaca, Mexico	163
CLRP	29	Reserva de Planalto, Caldas, Colombia	163
MXEC	31	El Cuyo, Yucatan, Mexico	162
MXCZ	32	Coast of Central Veracruz, Mexico	157

weather story was the *lack* of storms, rather than their negative impacts!

Bird-wise, however, predictions fizzled. The anticipated redpoll and winter finch flight, for the most part, did not happen. Purple Finches did make a good movement well to the south (both in the East and Midwest), and there were good (though not exceptional) numbers of Pine Siskins in many regions, but in general the redpolls and crossbills apparently stayed well north of where most Christmas Bird Counts are conducted. Winter boreal raptor numbers were low; in fact, Snowy Owls were seen in below-average numbers on many counts where they are expected. Bohemian Waxwings were around in good numbers on some counts, especially in the northern Rockies, but these winter wanderers did not stage any major irruption. One slight good news report is for Evening Grosbeak; generally mentioned as declining for many seasons now, their numbers were up somewhat across western Canada and significantly up in California. One wonders what happened to this species in the areas in between those two regions—perhaps Evening Grosbeaks vacated much of the

Rocky Mountain States region in both directions?

The 111th Christmas Bird Count further documents the colonization of North America by the Eurasian Collared-Dove. The movement continues to spread across the continent; this species' numbers are increasing in Virginia, in the Mountain West, and ever northwestward in the Prairie Provinces and now even to Southeast Alaska. And this season the circle with the high count for Eurasian Collared-Dove was of nearly 2000 birds in Pueblo, Colorado! Other exotic or introduced species are equally important to monitor, and the CBC database provides a valuable tool toward that result. The status of parrots, especially in Florida, Texas, and California, is being watched to help understand when species actually become established as breeders. The Purple Swamphen in central Florida is here to stay; first tallied during the 108th CBC, numbers of this big purple rail have increased with each season despite efforts to eradicate it. Fears that it could out-compete the native Purple Gallinule and/or other swamp breeders in Florida have proven

**Table 4. Regional high counts for the 111th (2010–2011) CBC.**

Region	# of CBCs	Highest Count (species total)
St.-Pierre et Miquelon	2	Ile St.-Pierre (47)
Newfoundland	11	St. John's (64)
Nova Scotia	19	Halifax-Dartmouth (129)
Prince Edward Island	2	Hillsborough (55)
New Brunswick	18	Grand Manan Island (75)
Quebec	32	Quebec (71)
Ontario	113	Long Point (105)
Manitoba	19	Winnipeg (43)
Saskatchewan	32	Saskatoon (46)
Alberta	39	Calgary (64)
British Columbia	89	Ladner (144)
Northwest Territories	4	Hay River (14)
Nunavut	2	Rankin Inlet (2)
Yukon Territory	12	Whitehorse (25)
Alaska	38	Ketchikan (83)
Maine	29	Greater Portland (110)
New Hampshire	16	Coastal New Hampshire (111)
Vermont	18	Ferrisburg (81)
Massachusetts	32	Mid-Cape Cod (131)
		Nantucket (131)
Rhode Island	4	Newport County-Westport (140)
Connecticut	16	New Haven (131)
New York	69	Montauk (129)
New Jersey	30	Cape May (154)
Pennsylvania	69	Harrisburg (100)
		Southern Lancaster County (100)
Delaware	6	Cape Henlopen-Prime Hook (137)
Maryland	24	Ocean City (151)
District of Columbia	1	Washington (102)
Virginia	44	Cape Charles (161)
North Carolina	49	Southport-Bald Head-Oak Islands (170)
South Carolina	24	McClellanville (167)
Georgia	26	Savannah, GA-SC (155)
Florida	68	West Pasco (New Port Richey) (170)
Ohio	61	Toledo (99)
West Virginia	19	Charles Town (84)
Kentucky	16	Land Between the Lakes (93)
Tennessee	30	Reelfoot Lake (116)
Alabama	10	Gulf Shores (149)
Mississippi	18	Southern Hancock County (150)
Michigan	67	Anchor Bay (92)
Indiana	42	Goose Pond (103)
Wisconsin	52	Kenosha County (120)
Illinois	58	Union County (101)
Minnesota	47	Bloomington (60)
		St. Paul (north) (60)
Iowa	28	Keokuk (85)
Missouri	27	Columbia (108)
Arkansas	22	Holla Bend N.W.R. (122)
Louisiana	22	Sabine N.W.R. (165)
North Dakota	19	Fargo-Moorhead (59)
South Dakota	16	Pierre (80)
Nebraska	11	Lake McConaughy (109)
Kansas	20	Wichita (101)
Oklahoma	20	Tishomingo N.W.R. (130)
Texas	106	Matagorda County-Mad Island Marsh (236)
Montana	32	Bigfork (84)
Idaho	26	Nampa (106)
Wyoming	19	Casper (69)
Colorado	45	Pueblo Reservoir (118)
New Mexico	32	Caballo (123)
Utah	24	Salt Lake City (97)
Nevada	14	Truckee Meadows (103)
Arizona	35	Ramsey Canyon (155)
Washington	42	Sequim-Dungeness (137)
Oregon	41	Tillamook Bay (156)
California	119	San Diego (220)
Hawaii	11	Waipi'o, O'ahu (51)
Northern Mariana Islands	5	Southern Guam (48)
Mexico	29	San Blas, Nayarit (271)
Belize	5	Punta Gorda (259)
Guatemala	3	Atitlan Volcano (237)
Nicaragua	2	Reserva El Jaguar, Jinotega (189)
Costa Rica	8	Pacific Rainforest Aerial Tram-Carara Reserve (377)
Panama	4	Pacific Canal Area (298)
Colombia	27	Cordillera Occidental, Valle del Cauca (145)
Ecuador	6	Mindo-Tandayapa (423)
Chile	1	Drake Passage, South Atlantic Ocean (18)
Trinidad	1	Trinidad (186)
Bahamas	4	New Providence Island (110)
Dominican Republic	2	Puerto Escondido (81)
Haiti	1	Les Cayes (60)
Puerto Rico	3	Arecibo (125)
British Virgin Islands	2	Tortola (53)
U.S. Virgin Islands	3	St. Croix (67)
Bermuda	1	Bermuda (101)

false, and this species is now an established—and countable!—exotic part of the North American avifauna. Reintroductions of some other native species also continue to flourish; Trumpeter Swans are spreading throughout the Midwest and increasingly in the East, and Aplomado Falcons have a strong foothold in South Texas.

Throughout their range as reflected in the Christmas Bird Count, Northern Bobwhites and Loggerhead Shrikes, plus to a certain extent American Kestrels, continue to decline. In fact in several areas where bobwhites were formerly common, they are likely now only included because of released, farm-reared birds. All three species illustrate the plight of shrubland birds; this transitional habitat is fast disappearing across much of North America.

Two other interesting phenomena were detected during the 111th count. Woodpeckers of most species were noted as being tallied in high or even record numbers across much of the Midwest, from Wisconsin and Minnesota to Indiana and Iowa. Was this a result of good breeding success in the heartland of the continent during the summer of 2010, or an artifact of mercifully decent counting conditions during the CBC period? It will be interesting to see how woodpecker numbers play out in this region over the next few seasons. The second event noticed both to the north—in Ontario—and to the south—in the Mid-Atlantic—was a major movement of Black-capped Chickadees. While chickadees are not often thought of as irruptive species, in fact they often do undertake large-scale population-level movements. But it can be very hard to document such flights for such a widespread and common species. This season, at both the northern and southern edges of their wintering range, such a flight was detected. A number of other common and widespread species can also undergo such movements, and are equally challenging to document, including Barred Owl, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Blue Jay.

Recent Christmas Bird Count seasons have seen an increase in the number of

accepted records of species formerly considered impossible to find in North America during the non-breeding season. The 111th count was no exception; Swainson's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk (north of Florida), Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and an increasing variety of wood-warblers were tallied, documented, and accepted in various locations across the north and east. There was even a Bobolink carefully documented and well photographed at Halifax-Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. In recent past seasons we've also had well-documented and accepted records of other "impossible" species, such as Scarlet Tanager and Swainson's Thrush. The explanation for this phenomenon (or perhaps these phenomena) can only be hypothesized. On one hand, there is an increasingly large and well-skilled pool of observers deployed each Christmas Bird Count season, and in recent years the affordability and ease of use of digital camera equipment has enabled the convincing documentation of such finds. Thus, we may be detecting a phenomenon that has always existed. On the other hand, as climate changes and migration risk factors increase, there could be a rising number of long-distance neotropical migrant birds that do not move south as they are expected to and may well be able to better survive at least into the early portions of the northern winter season. If the latter is the case and if more of these birds survive with moderating winter temperatures, we may actually see an increase in the frequency of such formerly unheard of records.

As mentioned earlier, some new species were included this season for the first time thanks to the splitting of Winter Wren and Whip-poor-will by the American Ornithologists' Union. Birders have long recognized both of these possibilities; Pacific Wren and the "new" eastern Winter Wren (both having been split from the Old World "Wren," also now named Eurasian Wren, which retains the original scientific name) and Eastern Whip-poor-will and Mexican Whip-poor-will have been field identified by birders for quite some time. In the pipeline, though with timing uncertain,



The Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*) is a large, skulking sparrow of western North America, normally tallied in varying numbers on counts in the Southwest. This one, however, was a real surprise when it was discovered on count day in the Newport County-Westport, Rhode Island-Massachusetts, circle. Photo/Carlos Pedro

are several other candidates for splitting including Fox Sparrow (into four species), Marsh Wren (eastern and western), Yellow-rumped Warbler (into not two but three species!), Western Scrub-Jay (coastal and inland forms), and other less well-defined (or studied) species.

In the pages that follow you'll find a series of feature articles that highlight many aspects of the Christmas Bird Count. Leading things off is a short feature by Gary Langham, Audubon's new Chief Scientist. For several years Gary has been with Audubon California leading a team of researchers studying the potential effects of varying climate change scenarios on birds of conservation concern, heavily using CBC data from California. Gary's daughter participated on her first CBC this past season; please note his invitation to share your CBC stories with Audubon. Next you'll find the article that represents the fruits of the labor of quick data entry by compilers of counts around the Gulf Coast this season—many thanks for your hustle! This Gulf Coast analysis provides the yardstick by which we can measure the effects and recovery of the Gulf Coast region in the aftermath of the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster. Other features highlight both exceptional experiences and local data analyses from counts across the hemisphere. Many of us have wonderful Christmas Bird Count tales to tell; we welcome hearing yours either by email or in manuscript form as a potential future feature article in *American Birds*.

So much of our annual experience on Christmas Bird Counts revolves around our anticipation of the days afield—and the fruits of our efforts in the birds we find. On my first count this season, we

had a beautiful clear day—with unusually cold conditions. Virtually all fresh and brackish water was frozen, though there was no snow cover. At least it wasn't windy, often an issue in my portion of the circle. For much of the day my two field companions and I marveled at how few birds we seemed to be finding—it was slim pickings in the coastal thickets and along the rocky shoreline. We did find some great birds in ones or twos; an Orange-crowned Warbler here, a gaggle of Harlequin Ducks there, but we were tending to focus on the things we weren't finding.

Around midday we received a cell phone call—the folks in the neighboring area of the circle, directly across the bay, had just discovered a Green-tailed Towhee, a fantastic bird at any season in New England! The compiler of the circle was one of my field companions, and he gave us permission to drop things and to look for the towhee. But that would have meant abandoning him for the rest of the day on our area, resulting in much-reduced coverage. We stayed true to our area, and as we tallied our final list for our area at the end of the day we were stunned to discover that though the birds were few and far between, we'd still tallied more than 90 species in our area alone! Folks in the other areas had the same "bird-free" impression for the day, and yet in the final result we had shattered our long-standing record for number of species with 140. On that particular day, our greatest memory was not of *not* seeing the Green-tailed Towhee, but instead of having a rewarding day and remarkable results in our own area. Here's to many more great CBC experiences and memories for all of us! 🐦