

Somerset/Johnstown, PA
Christmas Bird Count
2013
Instructions for Feeder Watchers

You are invited to help with this year's Christmas Bird Count by tallying the birds that come to your feeder on count day, **Sunday, December 15th, 2013**.

For your convenience, we are providing you with a form on which you can record your observations. We suggest that you divide the day into several observation periods (see attached form), each lasting about 10-15 minutes. Of course, how many observations you make and how long they last are up to you – just be sure that you keep a record of the total number of minutes (or hours) that you were watching birds for the count.

During each observation period, record the highest number of each species that you see at one time. Avoid estimating the number of birds. You might suppose that “there has to be at least 20 juncos out there,” but record only the number of juncos or other bird species that you actually see at one time. Use tally marks to record your observations for each period, since the number of individuals of a given species that you see at one time may well change within a single observation period. For example, at first you may see five juncos, but before the end of the period you may count seven at one time – seven is the number that you record as the high total for that observation period.

At the end of the day, find the highest **single** observation period total for each species and enter it in the “Highest Total” column on the right side of the form. The only exception to this rule involves species in which males and females can be separated – for these species you should add the highest number of males observed plus the highest number of females observed and put that total in the “Highest Total” column (this will be higher than any single observation period total). Add together the minutes from **ALL** of your observation periods and enter this total in the “Highest Total” column as well.

Please report your feeder count totals by email if possible, to Jeff Payne at paynemt@gmail.com or by mail- Jeff Payne 9755 Glades Pike Road, Berlin PA 15530. Please be sure to report your results by January 1st, 2014, and provide your name and address, so that we can send you a final report of the count totals.

If you know of others who may be interested in participating in the CBC or CBC Feeder Watch, please have them contact Jeff Payne at the above email or call me at [814 267-5718](tel:8142675718) eve or [814-279-8142](tel:8142798142) cell.

We appreciate your help with the count!

--Jeff Payne