

# 2012 Eugene Christmas Bird Count

*Dick Lamster, Count Coordinator*

It was cold but it was not raining when 157 hearty souls went bird watching on Sunday, December 30, 2012, for the 71st Eugene Christmas Bird Count (ECBC). One hundred thirty-six species were seen during a full day of bird watching. See Dan Gleason's recap beginning on page 4 in this issue. The data will also be available on the National Audubon Society's website at [www.christmasbirdcount.org](http://www.christmasbirdcount.org). Our code is OREU. In addition to in-the-field volunteers, Herb Wisner coordinated over 100 Feeder Watchers.

The record for the ECBC is 140 species, so this was a very successful count. The birders in the field walked for 184 hours and covered 132 miles. They also drove 58 hours and covered 472 miles. Eight teams spent 11 hours looking for owls before sun-up.

At the end of the day, 105 cold, dirty, and tired birders came to the LCAS-sponsored Chili Feed to talk about all the birds seen and to participate in the Count Down. Allison Mickel prepared 10 gallons of homemade vegetarian chili for everyone to eat. Sandy Poinsett and Kathy Wilson assisted Allison in organizing the room, setting up tables and chairs, serving chili, and cleaning up afterwards. Charlie Thomas, Bruce Wilson, and others also helped with the cleanup. The Chili Feed was a fun way to end a great day of birding.

I personally want to thank Allison and her crew for the Chili Feed, Dan Gleason for compiling the results, Barb Gleason for providing maps, Herb Wisner for coordinating the Feeder Watchers, and the 26 Team Leaders for their leadership. Without the hard work of the Team Leaders assembling their teams, guiding them all day long, and then reporting the results, the ECBC would not be the great event that it is.

Be sure to put Sunday, December 29, 2013, on your calendar for the 2013 ECBC. Please join a team or watch birds in your yard and have a full, fun day of bird watching. Your results are entered into the 113-year record of all the Christmas Bird Counts around the continent and are used by scientists for research on bird life. Thanks again to all of you who participated and helped to make the 2012 ECBC one of the biggest and best in the world!

# 2012 Oakridge Christmas Bird Count

*Cheron Ferland, Co-Coordinator*

The Oakridge Christmas Bird Count (CBC) has been regaining its footing over the past four winters after a 25-year hiatus. It was held on Saturday, December 22, 2012. The day offered a host of winter weather experiences from blizzard-like, icy conditions, to partly cloudy and gray, to glistening sunshine.

Ten volunteers left the Oakridge Hostel after a tasty breakfast and recorded 60 species with 1,030 individuals. This count has lots of access since a large part of the count circle includes the Willamette National Forest. However, due to snow pack some of the higher elevations above 3,000 feet were not accessible by vehicle.

This count is well known as being “Mountain Quail central,” and this species was recorded again this year to carry on the tradition. Additionally, we lucked out and got an appearance from one of the local Great Gray Owls, which was documented on film by local botanist Adrienne Marble. We also documented three Red-shouldered Hawks, which is a record for this count and follows on the heels of increasing reports of this species in Oakridge over the past four years.

## **2012 Florence Christmas Bird Count**

*Kit Larsen, Count Coordinator*

The Florence Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is always invigorating. The 29th Florence CBC was held on Saturday, December 15, 2012. It was a tough day for a count, with cold rain and wind, which sometimes limited access to viewing locations and hindered visibility. Forty-three people took to the field for the count, and thirteen people turned in records from their feeders.

The counters found 124 species with 10,400 individuals noted. These totals were below normal for the count, which averages 128 species and 17,300 individuals.

There were a few surprises. For the first time in 29 years, a Wilson’s Warbler was documented on the count. And for the fourth time in count history, a Pigeon Guillemot made an appearance. Eight Black Phoebe were reported, and 103 Eurasian Collard-Doves was a high for this species.

Species missed that are usually found on the count included Sharp-shinned Hawk, Dunlin, American Dipper, Black-bellied Plover, White-tailed Kite, and Black-legged Kittiwake.