

6027 Creekside Drive
Swartz Creek MI 48473
5 December 2009

Dear Michigan CBC Compiler,

The 2009-2010 Christmas Bird Count season is upon us. No changes have been made to the forms or requirements for this season.

Please find enclosed the current year's instructions and reporting forms for Michigan Christmas Bird Counts. If you are not the person responsible for compiling your count this season, please make sure this packet of information reaches your successor, and please let me know who the current compiler is so I have their name and contact information.

Please take a moment to read through these important reminders:

1. COMPILERS: There are currently two people who will be compiling the Christmas Bird Counts for Michigan this year. I will be the primary compiler, and will be assisted by Andrew Luxon. We will be working as a team on both the counts submitted to the National Audubon Society (NAS) and counts submitted as "Michigan-only" counts. The results will be compiled both with and without the "Michigan-only" counts. The results of NAS-reported counts will be available on the NAS website and will be summarized in *American Birds*. The results of the NAS and "Michigan-only" counts combined will be summarized and published in *Michigan Birds and Natural History* (MBNH).
2. FORMS/DATA: Compilers who enter their data online for NAS are NOT required to submit paper forms to me for the Michigan compilation to be published in *Michigan Birds and Natural History*. Only the "Michigan-only" counts need to send me the paper forms. I will download the data from the National Audubon database on the internet for those counts to include in my compilation. However, documentation for any rare or unusual species should still be sent to me as described in the enclosed Documentation Requirements.
3. DOCUMENTATION: Documentation requirements for unusual species are the same as last year and are the same for ALL counts, whether reported to NAS online or as "Michigan-only". Please carefully read the enclosed document titled "Documentation Requirements" to refresh your memory on the requirements. These requirements are an attempt to provide as much consistency as possible between the several outlets for CBC data, including fulfilling NAS requirements for their database, the requirements of the Winter Bird Survey published in MBNH, and the requirements of the Michigan Bird Records Committee. Any species reported on a count that is not documented according to these requirements may be excluded from the statewide compilation for MBNH, the NAS database and summary, the Winter Bird Survey, or all three.

Please work as hard as possible to get documentation for review birds. I know this is often difficult to ask of participants, but it is important to maintain a quality database. There are several birds on the list that are frequently misidentified, and although

documentation is not a complete remedy, it will help people understand the significance of their sighting. The most important thing is to let people know what needs review before they go into the field. I encourage you to provide the enclosed documentation requirements to your participants along with blank rare bird documentation forms. Please encourage participants to carry digital cameras or other similar devices when possible to obtain photographs to use as documentation.

4. POSTING YOUR COUNT DATE AND CONTACT INFO: Please take a moment to visit the new Michigan Audubon CBC web site: http://michiganaudubon.org/research/surveys_forms_data/christmas_count.html. On this site, you will find a listing of all CBC's in Michigan along with compilers' contact information (phone number and/or email address) and count dates. Please check to be sure your count's contact information is accurate. Also, if you would like your count date listed on the web site, please let me know. Please send your current contact information and count date to me via email at glenn.palmgren@comcast.net or call me at 517-672-6278. I will update my records and forward your information to the MAS webmaster to update the web site.
5. "GOING NATIONAL": I continue urge compilers of the "Michigan-only" counts to consider becoming a National count. Some Michigan-only counts do not meet the requirements for NAS and I've already spoken with most of those compilers. However, if your Michigan-only count meets the NAS requirements, I will continue to encourage you to register your count with NAS. Michigan-only counts are printed only in Michigan Birds and Natural History and are not added to the NAS database. Please contact me (or NAS directly) if you are interested in the possibility of "going national." The more data that can be added to the national database, the more useful it will become for everyone.

Please remember to submit your count data either to me using the enclosed data form (for Michigan-only counts) or online to NAS, and provide all required rare bird documentation by **15 February 2010** to ensure your count's data are included in *American Birds* and *Michigan Birds and Natural History*. Best wishes and good birding!

Sincerely,



Glenn Palmgren
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517-672-6278

Enclosures