

The 110th Christmas Bird Count

December 14, 2009 to January 5, 2010

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How can we predict the circumstances that will result in a record-breaking Christmas Bird Count season? It seems that favorable weather continent-wide would play in a positive way into the equation. Perhaps a well-publicized ornithological event in the fall season leading up to the CBC, such as a widespread invasion of winter finches or boreal raptors, would whet observers' appetites to get out and count birds during the busy holiday season.

The 110th Christmas Bird Count season saw neither; in fact (and yet again), Mother Nature did her best throughout the CBC period, especially in the CBC-circle-rich Northeast and mid-Atlantic states, to quell peoples' desire to leave their dwellings. A huge coastal blizzard slammed into the East Coast on the first weekend of the count period, blanketing many areas with record snow. An ice storm followed the next weekend; the stage was set for the eastern "snow belt" during the winter of 2009–2010 to be in the mid-Atlantic region, not to the north. It would be a remarkable December indeed if the weather over the entire continent was favorable during the entire CBC period—and December 2009 was *not* that winter!

Bird-wise it had been widely and accurately predicted that boreal species, birds of prey and the entire host of "winter finches," would stay northward in their food-laden haunts. Crossbills of both varieties and Bohemian Waxwings were found in decent numbers in the north and west where they are more usually expected, and a small echo flight of Pine Siskins occurred in the south central states, but no significant "winter finch" irruption occurred. Boreal raptors were mostly noted by their absence. Yet despite these factors, by just about every measure the 110th Christmas Bird Count was a record-shattering season.

This season, a new record high 2160 Christmas Bird Counts are included,

surpassing last season's short-standing record of 2124. Of the total, 382 counts are from Canada (a new record), 1671 from the United States, and 107 from Latin America, the Caribbean, Bermuda, and the Pacific Islands. A record level of participation is again included from Colombia; there are now more CBCs annually in Colombia than any country outside the United States and Canada. In the 110th season are 46 new circles—18 from Canada, 18 from the U.S., 8 from Colombia, and 2 new counts in Brazil; these new circles are listed in Table 1. We also welcome back the counts in the Manaus region of Brazil and hope for increasing coverage in South America over the next several seasons. Latin America and the Caribbean region represent the new frontier for the Christmas Bird Count, and as coverage increases, an ever-clearer picture of the overall state of birds of the Americas will emerge.

Although a record number of counts does not always equate to a record level of participation, during the 110th Christmas Bird Count we defied the odds and also set a new record for number of observers counting birds in the holiday season. We finally broke the 60,000-observer barrier; all told, 60,753 observers (51,482 field observers and 9271 feederwatchers) took part in the 110th CBC. Region by region, Canada hosted 11,814 observers (8336 in the field and 3478 at feeders), counts in the United States included 47,967 hardy souls (41,204 in the field and 5763 at feeders), and the farther-flung regions of the CBC produced 1972 participants (1942 in the field and 30 at feeders). The hardworking compilers of 58 counts hemisphere-wide marshaled 100 or more observers at feeders and in the field, and Table 2 lists the complete roster of these well-staffed circles completed during the 110th CBC.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the one overall number that was significantly lower

Table 1. New counts in the 110th (2009–2010) Christmas Bird Count.

Count Code	Count Name
CANADA	
BCBW	Big White, British Columbia
BCSK	Soda Creek, British Columbia
MBTP	The Pas, Manitoba
NSSH	Sheet Harbour, Nova Scotia
QCLC	Lac-Etchemin, Québec
SKAV	Avonlea, Saskatchewan
SKBH	Birch Hills, Saskatchewan
SKCA	Cater, Saskatchewan
SKDE	Denholm, Saskatchewan
SKDO	Dorintosh, Saskatchewan
SKKN	Ketchen, Saskatchewan
SKLU	Luseland, Saskatchewan
SKMO	Morse, Saskatchewan
SKNF	Nisbet Forest, Saskatchewan
SKSL	Saltcoats, Saskatchewan
SKWH	Whitewood, Saskatchewan
YTDA	Dawson, Yukon Territory
YTTA	Tagish, Yukon Territory
UNITED STATES	
CACN	Carpinteria, California
CAEA	Eastern Alameda County, California
FLIS	Ichetucknee-Santa Fe-O'Leno, Florida
INTO	Topeka, Indiana
INWC	Warrick County, Indiana
KYRA	Russell-Adair County, Kentucky
LASC	Sweet Lake-Cameron Prairie N.W.R., Louisiana
MILE	Les Cheneaux, Michigan
MISP	Sturgeon Point, Michigan
MOCP	Cole Camp Prairies IBA, Missouri
NCCC	Cumberland County, North Carolina
NCCV	Catawba Valley, North Carolina
NJMI	Mizpah, New Jersey
NVEY	Ely, Nevada
SCFH	Four Holes Swamp, South Carolina
SCLO	Lowcountry, South Carolina
UTPA	Payson, Utah
UTTR	Torrey, Utah
CARIBBEAN, LATIN AMERICA	
BLCB	Cockscomb Basin, Belize
BRMC	Manaus-Camp 41, Amazonas, Brazil
BRMT	Manaus-Towers, Amazonas, Brazil
CLBV	Buenavista, Meta, Colombia
CLEC	El Cocuy P.N.N., Boyaca, Colombia
CLGU	Guanenta S.F.F., Alto Rio Fonce, Santander, Colombia
CLLL	Laguna La Cocha, Nariqo, Colombia
CLPS	Paramo de Siscunsi, Boyaca, Colombia
CLSY	Serrania de los Yariques P.N.N., Santander, Colombia
CLTA	Tama P.N.N., Norte de Santander, Colombia
CLTN	Tumaco, Nariqo, Colombia
ECRU	Rio Upano, Morona-Santiago, Ecuador
GMAN	Antigua, Guatemala
MXCC	La Cienega de Chapala, Jalisco, Mexico
NIRJ	Reserva El Jaguar, Jinotega, Nicaragua

Table 2. Counts with 100 or more participants in the 110th (2009–2010) CBC.

Code	Count Name	# Observers	(Field + Feeder)
ABED	Edmonton, AB	483	(143 + 340)
MACO	Concord, MA	314	(162 + 152)
OREU	Eugene, OR	235	(144 + 91)
CASB	Santa Barbara, CA	224	(220 + 4)
BCVI	Victoria, BC	221	(193 + 28)
CAOA	Oakland, CA	200	(183 + 17)
ABCA	Calgary, AB	196	(91 + 105)
WASE	Seattle, WA	191	(183 + 8)
ORPD	Portland, OR	186	(133 + 53)
CAPR	Point Reyes Peninsula, CA	178	(178 + 0)
CAWS	Western Sonoma County, CA	173	(173 + 0)
BCVA	Vancouver, BC	170	(160 + 10)
NSHD	Halifax-Dartmouth, NS	167	(94 + 73)
SCHH	Hilton Head Island, SC	167	(167 + 0)
ECNM	Mindo-Tandayapa, Ecuador	160	(160 + 0)
VAFB	Fort Belvoir, VA	159	(153 + 6)
ABSA	St. Albert, AB	156	(42 + 114)
COBO	Boulder, CO	152	(125 + 27)
AKAN	Anchorage, AK	147	(95 + 52)
CASZ	Sonoma Valley, CA	145	(142 + 3)
OHCF	Cuyahoga Falls, OH	142	(99 + 43)
WASD	Sequim-Dungeness, WA	140	(109 + 31)
ONLO	London, ON	137	(83 + 54)
CAOC	Orange County (coastal), CA	136	(127 + 9)
CAMC	Marin County (southern), CA	133	(126 + 7)
ONOH	Ottawa-Gatineau, ON	130	(93 + 37)
NSWO	Wolfville, NS	129	(57 + 72)
WIMA	Madison, WI	128	(115 + 13)
SCSC	Sun City-Okatie, SC	123	(115 + 8)
TXMM	Matagorda County-Mad Island Marsh, TX	121	(121 + 0)
CODE	Denver, CO	119	(94 + 25)
CAVE	Ventura, CA	118	(116 + 2)
TXAU	Austin, TX	118	(118 + 0)
CALC	Lincoln, CA	116	(96 + 20)
CAPA	Palo Alto, CA	116	(116 + 0)
CASJ	San Jose, CA	116	(115 + 1)
CRLS	La Selva, Lower Braulio Carillo N.P., Costa Rica	116	(116 + 0)
FLSC	Sanibel-Captiva, FL	115	(115 + 0)
CODV	Denver (urban), CO	114	(93 + 21)
MANO	Northampton, MA	114	(100 + 14)
CTHA	Hartford, CT	113	(102 + 11)
ILFB	Fermilab-Batavia, IL	112	(108 + 4)
OHCI	Cincinnati, OH	112	(95 + 17)
PAPI	Pittsburgh, PA	112	(87 + 25)
NSKI	Kingston, NS	111	(21 + 89)
SKSA	Saskatoon, SK	110	(54 + 56)
ONTO	Toronto, ON	109	(105 + 4)
CASF	San Francisco, CA	108	(105 + 3)
ECYY	Yanayacu, Ecuador	108	(107 + 1)
FLSR	Sarasota, FL	108	(90 + 18)
MBWI	Winnipeg, MB	108	(74 + 34)
DCDC	Washington, DC	107	(105 + 2)
MTMI	Missoula, MT	106	(69 + 37)
ABSR	Strathcona, AB	105	(26 + 79)
BCPM	Pitt Meadows, BC	102	(96 + 6)
CABE	Benicia, CA	101	(98 + 3)
AKFA	Fairbanks, AK	100	(69 + 31)
CACS	Crystal Springs, CA	100	(98 + 2)



With more people supplying hummingbird feeders during the winter, and with an increasing awareness that many species of hummers do wander in the fall, each CBC season some wonderful records are included. This Buff-bellied Hummingbird (*Amazilia yucatanensis*) at Glynn County, Georgia, provided the state's first CBC, and second overall, record. Photo/Dan Vickers

may have one simple cause: fewer roosts of communally wintering species within count circles. As we learned back in the 88th CBC, one big “blackbird” roost can triple the total number of birds seen cumulatively on all counts!

Species-wise, given the increasing coverage in Latin America, it's not surprising that the total list of bird species also rose. During the 110th Christmas Bird Count, observers in all regions detected 2319 species, up about 200 from the 109th count. With increasing coverage in the species-rich tropics of Latin America, we can expect the total list to grow by leaps and bounds over the years. But even in this early stage of counts in South America, the overall tallies of some groups are very impressive: this season's list includes 175 species of hummingbirds and 147 species of tanagers, each tally representing roughly half of the world's total species of these “New World” specialty birds. In the more traditional areas of Christmas Bird Count coverage, in Canada 379 species were tallied, including **Jack Snipe** (at Greater Masset, British Columbia) and **Rustic Bunting** (at Creighton, Saskatchewan), both new to the cumulative Canadian list. Meanwhile in the United States, observers found 654 species and 42 additional forms, including a U.S. first CBC

during the 110th count than for the past several seasons is the total number of birds tallied: 55,951,707. Of that overall total, 51,581,105 birds were counted in the United States, 3,138,839 in Canada, and 1,231,763 elsewhere. This could be in large part due to the effect of

inclement weather—even with a record number of people out in the largest-ever area of coverage, challenging conditions may suppress the number of birds detected—and to the lack of irruptive species in the United States. Or, this lower-than-average number of birds

Table 3. Counts with 150 or more species recorded in the 110th (2009–2010) 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	231
CASB	2	Santa Barbara, CA	216
TXGF	2	Guadalupe River Delta-McFadden Ranch, TX	216
CASD	4	San Diego, CA	205
TXFR	5	Freeport, TX	203
CAMD	6	Moss Landing, CA	202
CAMR	7	Morro Bay, CA	201
CAOC	7	Orange County (coastal), CA	201
TXSB	9	San Bernard N.W.R., TX	199
CAOV	10	Oceanside-Vista-Carlsbad, CA	193
CAPR	10	Point Reyes Peninsula, CA	193
CARS	12	Rancho Santa Fe, CA	191
CACS	13	Crystal Springs, CA	186
CAMC	13	Marin County (southern), CA	186
CAWS	15	Western Sonoma County, CA	183
TXWS	15	Weslaco, TX	183
CATO	17	Thousand Oaks, CA	182
SCMC	18	McClellanville, SC	181
CACB	19	Centerville Beach to King Salmon, CA	180
CAAR	20	Arcata, CA	179
CASC	21	Santa Cruz County, CA	178
TXCC	21	Corpus Christi, TX	178
CASJ	23	San Jose, CA	177
TXAZ	23	Anzalduas-Bentsen S.P., TX	177
CAMP	25	Monterey Peninsula, CA	176
CAVE	25	Ventura, CA	176
CAOA	27	Oakland, CA	175
SCWB	27	Winyah Bay, SC	175
TXAR	27	Aransas N.W.R., TX	175
CABE	30	Benicia, CA	173
LALT	30	Lacassine N.W.R.-Thornwell, LA	173
NCSB	30	Southport-Bald Head-Oak Islands, NC	173
CALB	33	Los Angeles, CA	172
CASZ	34	Sonoma Valley, CA	170
CAAN	35	Año Nuevo, CA	169
CAPS	35	Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley, CA	169
FLJA	35	Jacksonville, FL	169
TXCK	35	Choke Canyon, TX	169
CAPA	39	Palo Alto, CA	168
CAHF	40	Hayward-Fremont, CA	167
CALB	41	Long Beach-El Dorado, CA	166
TXPA	41	Port Aransas, TX	166
TXAP	43	Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R., TX	164
TXCF	43	Corpus Christi (Flour Bluff), TX	164
FLMI	45	Merritt Island N.W.R., FL	163
FLNR	45	West Pasco (New Port Richey), FL	163
FLSP	45	St. Petersburg, FL	163
FLZE	45	Zellwood-Mt. Dora, FL	163
GASV	45	Savannah, GA-SC	163
CAPP	50	Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA	162
LASA	50	Sabine N.W.R., LA	162
CAON	52	Orange County (northeastern), CA	161
FLNP	52	North Pinellas, FL	161
SCLP	52	Litchfield-Pawleys Island, SC	161
TXKI	55	Kingsville, TX	160
AZNO	56	Nogales, AZ	159
CASF	56	San Francisco, CA	159
NCBP	56	Bodie-Pea Island, NC	159
TXSA	56	Santa Ana N.W.R., TX	159
TXLS	60	La Sal Vieja, TX	158
CAES	61	Escondido, CA	157
CASM	61	Sacramento, CA	157
NCMC	61	Morehead City, NC	157
VACC	61	Cape Charles, VA	157
TXSR	65	Sea Rim S.P., TX	156
CASS	66	Salton Sea (south), CA	155
FLCO	66	Cocoa, FL	155
NCMA	66	Mattamuskeet N.W.R., NC	155
NCWI	66	Wilmington, NC	155
AZRC	70	Ramsey Canyon, AZ	154
CAMU	70	Malibu, CA	154
TXBP	70	Bolivar Peninsula, TX	154
CARC	73	Rio Cosumnes, CA	153
CALU	73	La Purísima, CA	153
CASU	73	San Juan Capistrano, CA	153
MSSH	73	Southern Hancock County, MS	153
FLSR	77	Sarasota, FL	152
ORCB	77	Coos Bay, OR	152
AZGV	79	Green Valley-Madera Canyon, AZ	151
CACR	79	Calero-Morgan Hill, CA	151
FLGA	79	Gainesville, FL	151
FLAB	82	Aripeka-Bayport, FL	150
NJCM	82	Cape May, NJ	150
TXAU	82	Austin, TX	150
TXBZ	82	Brazos Bend, TX	150
TXGA	82	Galveston, TX	150

record of **Bare-throated Tiger-Heron** at Anzalduas-Bentsen, Texas. The tiger-heron, which had been discovered on December 21, obligingly stayed until the Anzalduas-Bentsen's count date on January 5—the last day of the count period—and disappeared some days thereafter. This bird was not only new for the cumulative United States Christmas Bird Count list, but also a first record for both the U.S. and American Birding Association listing areas.

As far as species tallies on individual Christmas Bird Counts, 86 counts north of the United States-Mexican border and 26 counts south of that geographical division were blessed with location, habitat diversity, and luck of the draw to tally 150 or more species this season. Table 3 presents the complete roster; Matagorda County-Mad Island Marsh, Texas retains the crown north of the border at 231 species, despite foggy conditions for much of the day. California counts did very well this season, perhaps as a result of the generally favorable weather on weekends in the southern coastal areas of the Golden State. South of the border, participants at Mindo-Tandayapa, Ecuador, also retain their crown with 418 species, but the Yanayacu, Ecuador, tally continues to climb steadily since that count's inception in the 107th season—this year for the first time they broke the 400-species barrier at 414. Several counts in Central and South America are situated in regions where more than 400 species are regularly possible; with increasing coverage in Latin America these sky-high species totals may become more prevalent. These lofty tallies, often with many species by ear, are a true testament to the dedication and expertise of Christmas Bird Count participants across the hemisphere.

In more northerly regions, counters on most CBCs can never expect to encounter such numbers of species. But tally comparisons with other local counts (in addition to the potential to add a new species or two to any given count's list) often provide an extra

impetus to get out birding on a cold early winter's day. Table 4 displays the list of all the regional high Christmas Bird Counts tallies from the 110th CBC. Great job one and all!

In the overall picture of the Christmas Bird Count database several trends continue continentally, and some new overwintering patterns are suggested. On the negative side, two gallinaceous species—Northern Bobwhite and Gray Partridge—continue their long-term declines in nearly all regions, at least as mentioned by regional editors in their summaries. On the positive trend side, the Eurasian Collared-Dove continues to expand in both range and numbers northwestward from their initial colonization in Florida in the 1980s. For overwintering species, both Broad-winged Hawks and Vermilion Flycatchers appear to be present in increasing numbers, especially in the southeastern states and along the Gulf Coast, in recent seasons. It will be interesting to follow these species in future years to see if these are just pulses, or true overwintering trends. This illustrates the greatest value of the cumulative Christmas Bird Count database—the ability to track species on a continental basis over the long term. We have been following the recovery of the Gulf Coast since Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Ike; the next decades will be even more critical to assist our understanding of the recovery of the Gulf of Mexico and the Gulf Coast from the impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill of 2010.

The scientific value of the Christmas Bird Count database is a shining example of the incredible contribution to conservation science that birdwatchers can make. As avian aficionados, we seem to have a mutually dependent relationship with the objects of our ardor. Birds need birders; we help define their ecological needs, monitor the health of their populations, and protect the environment upon which we all depend. And birders need birds; they give us beauty, song, and wonderment, and

Table 3b. Counts south of the United States-Mexican border.

Count Code	Rank	Count Name	Species Recorded
ECNM	1	Mindo-Tandayapa, Ecuador	418
ECYV	2	Yanayacu, Ecuador	414
CRML	3	Fila Costera (la Merced), Costa Rica	399
CRRF	4	Rain Forest Aerial Tram, Costa Rica	382
CRLS	5	La Selva, Lower Braulio Carrillo N.P., Costa Rica	367
CRMO	6	Monteverde, Costa Rica	338
CRPR	7	Pacific Rainforest Aerial Tram-Carara Reserve, Costa Rica	314
RPPC	8	Pacific Canal Area, Panama	304
RPCC	9	Central Canal Area, Panama	287
RPAC	10	Atlantic Canal Area, Panama	282
BLBE	11	Belmopan, Belize	239
BLPG	12	Punta Gorda, Belize	234
GMAV	13	Atitlan Volcano, Guatemala	233
BLBC	14	Belize City, Belize	225
BLGJ	15	Gallon Jug, Belize	202
ECLA	16	Loma Alta, Ecuador	195
BRME	17	Manaus (east), Amazonas, Brazil	188
MXES	18	Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico	178
TRTR	18	Trinidad, W.I.	178
BRMD	20	Manaus (Ducke), Amazonas, Brazil	176
GMTK	21	Tikal, Guatemala	172
NIRJ	21	Reserva el Jaguar, Jinotega, Nicaragua	172
RPVC	23	Volcan, Chiriqui, Panama	170
BRMT	24	Manaus-Towers, Amazonas, Brazil	168
MXCZ	25	Coast of Central Veracruz, Mexico	160
MXAL	26	Alamos, Sonora, Mexico	150



One crown jewel of any birder's day in the field is a first record, and this Bare-throated Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma mexicanum*), present in Anzalduas-Bentsen, Texas, for some time prior to the actual count day, obligingly stayed to be tallied. This bird represents the first CBC, Texas, and ABA area records. Photo/Rick Nirschl

they provide us with an overwhelming desire to get out and experience the natural world. The power of birders has become so strong that we can actually sometimes track not only overall population trends, but even individual birds. And as we watch and help them, they greatly improve our quality of life.

After the death of my mother in the spring of 2009, my father struggled with the loss of his dearest birding, and life's companion. A series of health issues ensued, ultimately resulting in a cancer diagnosis and some significant radiation treatment. Throughout the entire process, we kept an eye on the birding list serves,

Table 4. Regional high counts for the 110th (2009–2010) CBC.

Region	# of CBCs	Highest Count (species total)
St.-Pierre et Miquelon	2	Saint-Pierre et Miquelon Islands (45)
Newfoundland	11	St. John's (61)
Nova Scotia	20	Halifax-Dartmouth (114)
Prince Edward Island	2	Prince Edward Island N.P. (53)
New Brunswick	11	Cape Tormentine (56)
Québec	31	Montréal (68)
Ontario	111	Blenheim (115)
Manitoba	17	Winnipeg (46)
Saskatchewan	30	Saskatoon (43)
Alberta	36	Calgary (63)
British Columbia	88	Victoria (143)
Northwest Territories	5	Fort Simpson (18)
		Hay River (18)
Nunavut	3	Arviat (2)
		Rankin Inlet (2)
Yukon Territory	12	Whitehorse (27)
Alaska	37	Ketchikan (82)
Maine	28	Greater Portland (99)
New Hampshire	15	Coastal New Hampshire (97)
Vermont	17	Ferrisburg (71)
Massachusetts	32	Nantucket (118)
Rhode Island	4	Newport County-Westport (133)
Connecticut	15	New Haven (126)
New York	66	L.I.: Brooklyn (123)
New Jersey	28	Cape May (150)
Pennsylvania	70	Harrisburg (96)
Delaware	7	Cape Henlopen-Prime Hook (121)
Maryland	24	Ocean City (149)
District of Columbia	1	Washington (92)
Virginia	40	Cape Charles (157)
North Carolina	44	Southport-Bald Head-Oak Islands (173)
South Carolina	25	McClellanville (181)
Georgia	26	Savannah, GA-SC (163)
Florida	68	Jacksonville (169)
Ohio	61	Toledo (95)
West Virginia	19	Ona (79)
Kentucky	14	Land Between the Lakes (88)
Tennessee	29	Reelfoot Lake (112)
Alabama	11	Gulf Shores (142)
Mississippi	17	Southern Hancock County (153)
Michigan	66	Anchor Bay (88)
Indiana	40	Goose Pond (108)
Wisconsin	42	Madison (93)
Illinois	58	Union County (107)
Minnesota	48	Bloomington (63)
Iowa	28	Keokuk (88)
Missouri	27	Horton-Four Rivers (99)
Arkansas	22	Holla Bend N.W.R. (125)
Louisiana	22	Lacassine N.W.R.-Thornwell (173)
North Dakota	18	Garrison Dam (52)
South Dakota	16	Pierre (77)
Nebraska	11	Lake McConaughy (78)
Kansas	23	Udall-Winfield (101)
Oklahoma	19	Tishomingo N.W.R. (124)
Texas	105	Matagorda County-Mad Island Marsh (231)
Montana	32	Stevensville (82)
Idaho	25	Nampa (92)
Wyoming	20	Cody (57)
Colorado	43	Pueblo Reservoir (115)
New Mexico	30	Caballo (132)
Utah	24	Silver Reef (108)
Nevada	14	Henderson (108)
Arizona	34	Nogales (159)
Washington	39	Sequim-Dungeness (143)
Oregon	39	Coos Bay (152)
California	120	Santa Barbara (216)
Hawaii	8	Honolulu, Oahu (51)
Northern Mariana Islands	5	Saipan (45)
Mexico	23	Ensenada, Baja California (178)
Belize	5	Belmopan (239)
Guatemala	3	Atitlan Volcano (233)
Nicaragua	2	Reserva El Jaguar, Jinotega, Nicaragua (172)
Costa Rica	6	Fila Costera (la Merced), Costa Rica (399)
Panama	4	Pacific Canal Area (304)
Colombia	36	Rio Blanco, Caldas, Colombia (145)
Ecuador	5	Mindo-Tandayapa (418)
Brazil	4	Manaus (east), Amazonas, Brazil (188)
Chile	1	Drake Passage, South Atlantic Ocean (23)
Trinidad	1	Trinidad (178)
Bahamas	3	New Providence Island (118)
Dominican Republic	2	Puerto Escondido (63)
Puerto Rico	3	Cabo Rojo (122)
British Virgin Islands	2	Tortola (45)
U.S. Virgin Islands	3	East End, St. Croix (50)
Bermuda	1	Bermuda (100)



The White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) is a lovely sprite of a bird, and this individual on the Santa Maria-Guadalupe, California, CBC this season supplied only the second overall CBC record of the species. The only other record, from the 89th count, was also in California, at Ventura. Photo/Alex R. Abela

and whenever it was possible, we went out birding. Nesting Piping Plovers, a yearling Blue Grosbeak, and a wonderful display of shearwaters kept us entertained. On the day of Dad's last radiation treatment, in celebration of the end of that part of his life's journey, we decided to look for five Sandhill Cranes that had spent the previous weeks in a nearby cranberry bog and were being tracked by the local birding community. We had a truly wonderful experience that evening as the five cranes flew out of the bog over our heads against a spectacular sunset. Those were the last birds my father saw; his cancer claimed him a few days later.

My father never did go on a CBC; but as a scientist he appreciated the value of the data generated, and as a conservationist, he marveled at the passion and dedication of those of us who do the count. Birds gave him a lifetime of joy and helped him through rough times in the Pacific Ocean during World War II and the rougher days of his final journey. I hope we are all so blessed.

This summary is dedicated to my father, Francis Newton LeBaron, a Ph.D. biochemist, avid birder, U.S. Navy veteran, and dedicated conservationist who passed away on November 2, 2009. 🐦