

122nd Christmas Bird Count recap

Audubon's 122nd Christmas Bird Count (CBC) season is officially completed. The annual count takes place from December 14 through January 5. The CBC for 2021 was from Tuesday, December 14, 2021 through Wednesday, January 5, 2022. Complete national results will not be published until all of the data has been confirmed and verified by the official regional editors. As of February 6, 2022, there are 1,645 counts submitted and just under 32 million birds counted. If you are interested in seeing individual count data, go to <https://netapp.audubon.org/cbcobservation/>. At the top of the page click on Current Year, then select a country, then a state or region, and then scroll through the list of Count Areas for your selection..

Fort Worth Audubon conducts two CBCs in Tarrant County. The Fort Worth CBC is always held on the first Saturday after December 14. This year the Ft. Worth CBC was held on December 18, 2021. The second CBC is the Village Creek Drying Beds CBC. It has been always been held on the Friday between Christmas Day and New Year's Day. This year the VCDB CBC was held on December 28, 2021. Here are the Count Summary Reports for each:

Ft. Worth CBC / Count Code TXFW

(Center of 15-mile circle located in White Settlement, TX, near Clifford St. And Comal Ave.)

The day's count totals were 111 species observed and 16,929 total individuals counted.

Fortyfive volunteers helped in this year's count. They traveled 65 miles by foot, 226 miles by auto, and 3.5 miles by canoe.

The weather at dawn was 47 deg. F, increasing to 54 deg. F as the day progressed. There was a constant wind out of the north, from 15 MPH gusting to 35 MPH. The wind impacted the number of birds seen. Red-winged Blackbird (3,180 individuals) and Double-crested Cormorant (2,414 individuals) were the species with the highest totals observed. There were no unusual or accidental visitor species seen this year. Urban expansion is becoming a huge impact on wild areas within this circle.

Village Creek Drying Beds CBC / Count Code TXVC

(Center of circle located at the dry beds in north Arlington, TX, near River Legacy Park)

The day's count totals were 99 species observed and 6,946 individuals counted.

Seven volunteers conducted this year's count. They traveled 65 miles by foot and 179 miles by auto.

The weather for this year's count was unseasonably warm, 68 deg. F at dawn, increasing to 75 deg. F in the afternoon. Mild winds were out of the East between 0 and 15 MPH. The numbers of birds and

species seen has been greatly impacted by urban expansion. This

count circle includes what is referred to as the Mid-cities of DFW

(Arlington, Bedford, Euless, Hurst, west Irving and north

Midlothian.) The drying beds and several linear park systems

predominately make up the birding habitat. It is small wonder that

urban birds (Rock pigeons, grackles) and waterfowl seeking out

secluded ponds make up the majority of species observed.

However, this count circle has also frequently produced the rare

accidental visitors. This year, a Northern Shrike and Little Gull were

reported. The Northern Shrike is the first reported sighting in

Tarrant County.

The Christmas Bird Count offers a great way to improve birding skills. Volunteers are needed to continue these two counts. The individual teams within each circle can always use more eyes and

ears to find birds. Identification skills will follow. If you are

interested in joining next years CBC, send an email to avianadmin@fwas.org and the CBC Count Chairperson will get back to you.

