

Parksville Qualicum Beach Christmas Bird Count -- 1991-2012

written by Sandra Gray

As BCPQ compiler since 1998 I have often been asked "How does this year's Count compare to other years?" ... now I have the answer in the table below. The increases in total species and individuals counted is noteworthy and reflects increased participation by experienced birders and the popularity of birding and feeding of wild birds in our community. As for weather ... we can be fairly sure it will be cloudy, highly likely that it will rain, and the sun may make an appearance! We have postponed twice to a January date due to snow. Weather is always the major factor in determining what birds are seen, where they are, conditions of visibility and access. Usually the Count is held on the first Sunday of the 'count window', which is now permanently set at December 14 to January 5. An official Feedercount was started in 1998 (99th) within the Arrowsmith Naturalist Club, then opened up to the public in 2004 (103rd). The Feedercount has increased our totals every year and brings in many more participants. Hours of effort varies (driving, walking & owling are combined below) according to the number of field observers, weather and driving conditions which all have a serious influence on the count.

The low, high and average numbers are in bold. See you next year!

COUNT #	TOTAL INDIVIDUAL BIRDS COUNTED	TOTAL SPECIES	# OF PARTICIPANTS (hours of effort by foot, car & owling)	# OF FEEDER COUNTERS (hours of effort)	WEATHER	DATE
92	18,740	93	19 - (43.3)		Partly cloudy	Dec 15, 1991
93	9,562	92	18 - (37.3)		Cloudy, light rain	Dec 20, 1992
94	15,398	94	38 - (74.1)		Cloudy, light rain	Jan 02, 1994
95	15,824	84	27 - (60)		Cloudy, AM light rain, PM heavy rain	Dec 17, 1994
96	16,723	94	25 - (57)		Cloudy, light rain	Dec 16, 1995
97	10,104	89	39 - (73.8)		Local fog	Dec 21, 1996
98	14,883	98	31 - (67)		AM clear, PM partly cloudy	Dec 20, 1997
99	21,441	104	36 - (78.5)	18	Clear	Dec 19, 1998
100	22,470	93	37 - (64)	9	Partly cloudy, light rain	Dec 19, 1999
101	19,181	97	41 - (64)	4	AM partly cloudy, PM partly clear, none/light rain	Jan 05, 2001
102	29,280	109	46 - (84)	2	Cloudy, light to heavy rain	Dec 15, 2001
103	28,208	100	38 - (69)	25	Cloudy, light to heavy rain	Dec 14, 2002
104	33,512	116	46 - (91)	14	AM partly cloudy, light to heavy rain. PM partly clear, light rain.	Dec 14, 2003
105	28,975	108	42 - (78.5)	27	AM partly cloudy, none to heavy rain. PM partly clear, no rain	Dec 19, 2004
106	26,207	112	37 - (85.75)	20	AM fog, sun, part cloudy. PM sun, partly cloudy.	Dec 18, 2005
107	27,517	117	38 - (78.75)	23	AM partly cloudy, light snow overnight. PM partly cloudy.	Dec 17, 2006
108	26,202	112	42 - (85.25)	21 (56)	Cloudy, light to heavy rain.	Dec 16, 2007
109	19,020	107	33 - (74.5)	25 (83)	AM cloudy, light to heavy snow. PM partly clear, light to heavy snow.	Dec 14, 2008
110	26,503	115	40 - (105.5)	36 (84.75)	Cloudy, light to heavy rain.	Dec 20, 2009
111	23,527	116	35 - (88.5)	37 (101)	Partly cloudy all day, mostly calm, no snow.	Dec 19, 2010
112	34,457	112	39 - (99.5)	21 (44)	Mostly sunny w/some cloud, calm inland, gusts on shore, no snow or rain.	Dec 18, 2011
113	33,843	114	47 - (99)	36 (104)	AM partly cloudy. PM light to heavy snow, windy.	Dec 16, 2012
averages	22,799	103	36	21	Cloudy, rain, sunny periods.	First Sunday of count window

