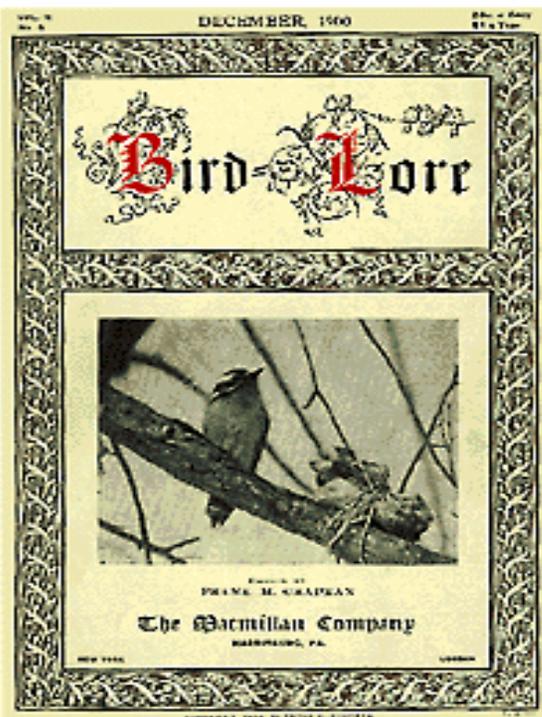


Audubon's Christmas Bird Count

106 Years of Counting Birds....

...72 of those by Chan Robbins!





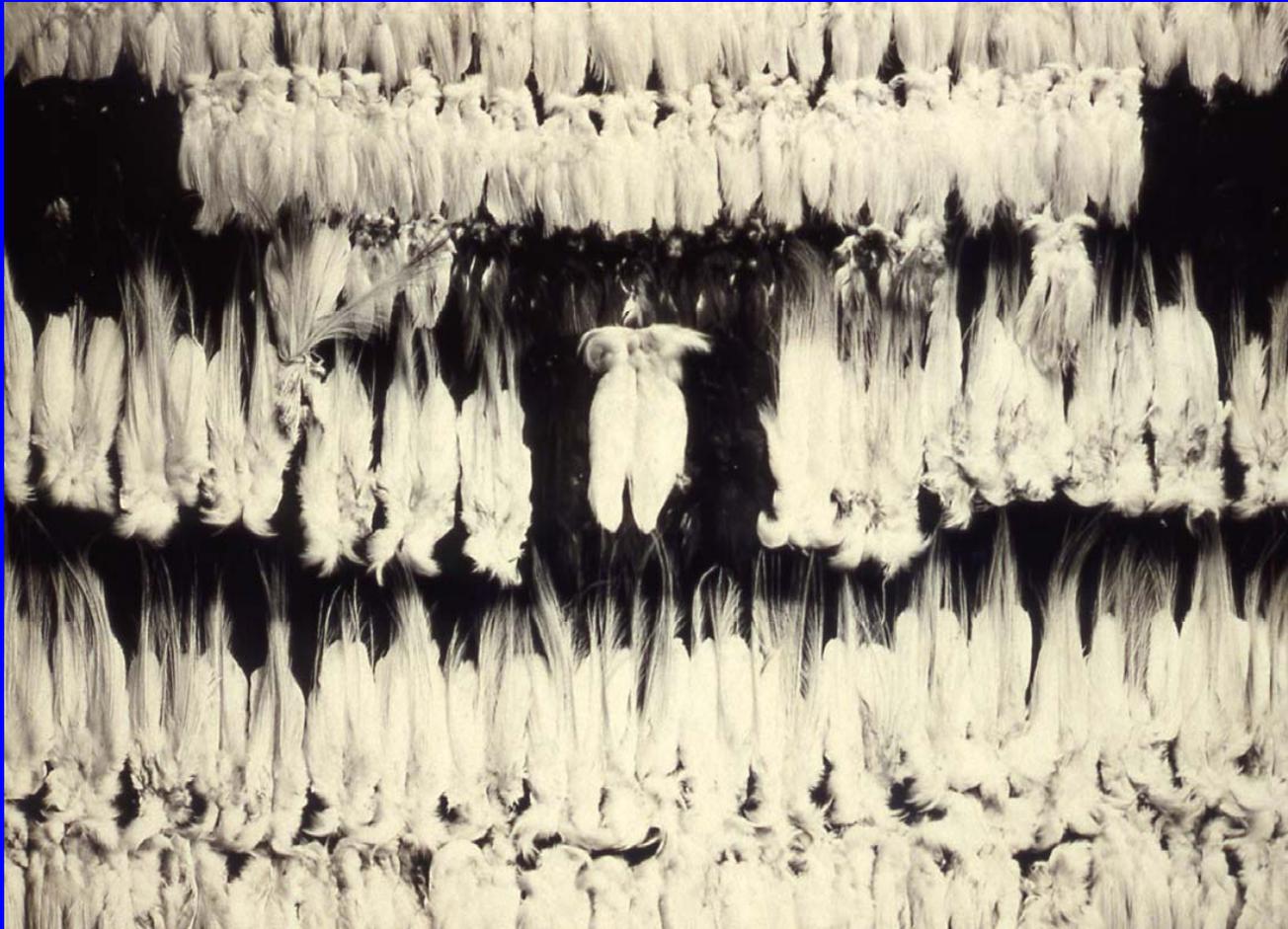
At the turn of the 20th Century, ornithologists and responsible hunters were becoming aware that the stocks of game species were being rapidly depleted. For the first time, the supply of fare for the table seemed exhaustible. Frank Chapman, a leading ornithologist of the day and editor of Bird-Lore, proposed an alternative activity, an activity that would prevent over-hunting while at the same time provide useful information about birds. He proposed a new kind of holiday Side, a Christmas Bird Census.

[click here to view larger version](#)



A Christmas Bird - Census

In 1900, there was a budding
conservation ethic, but...



...feather hats were still the rage



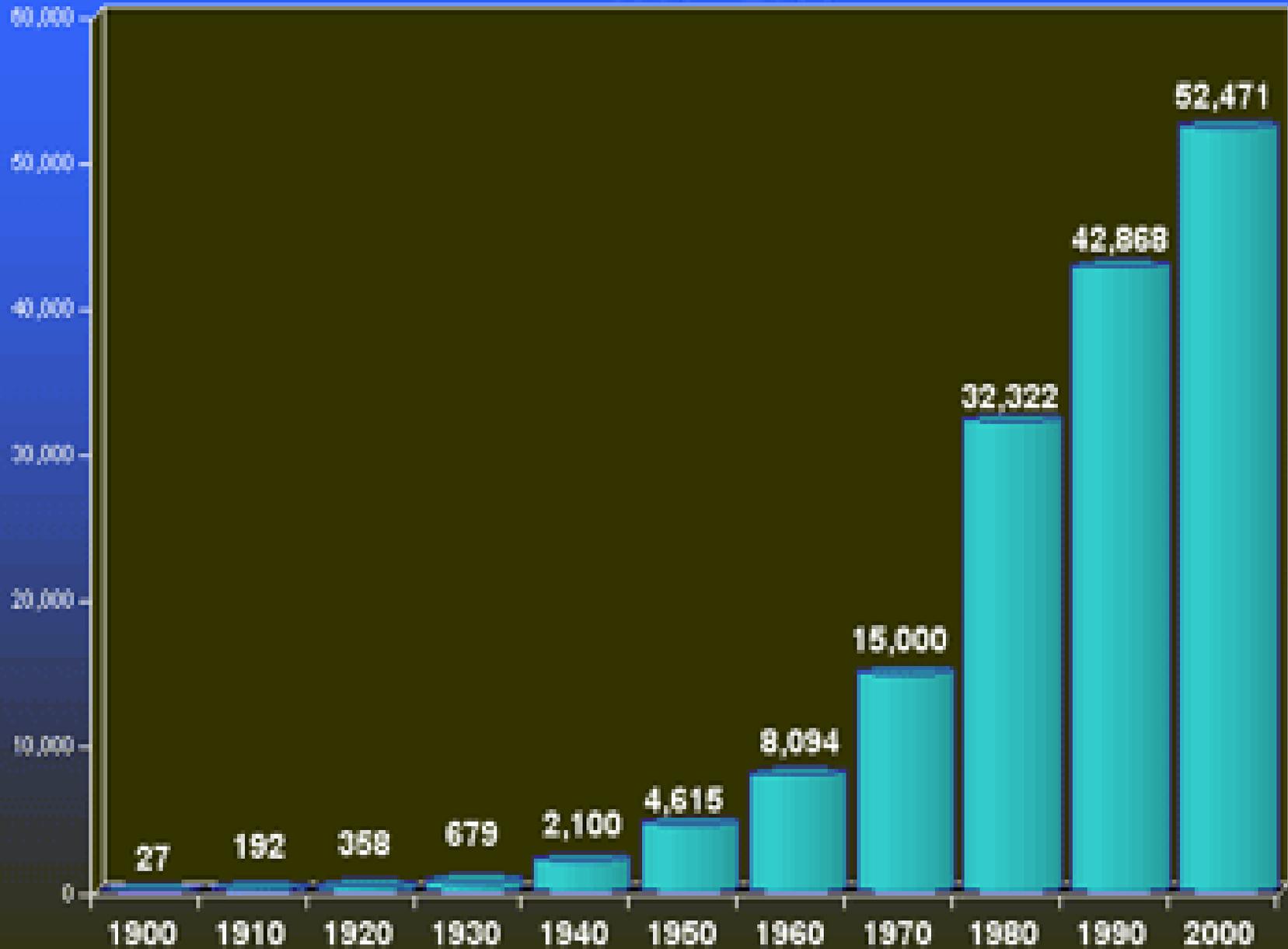
- Frank Chapman originated the “Christmas Bird Census” on Christmas Day of 1900...





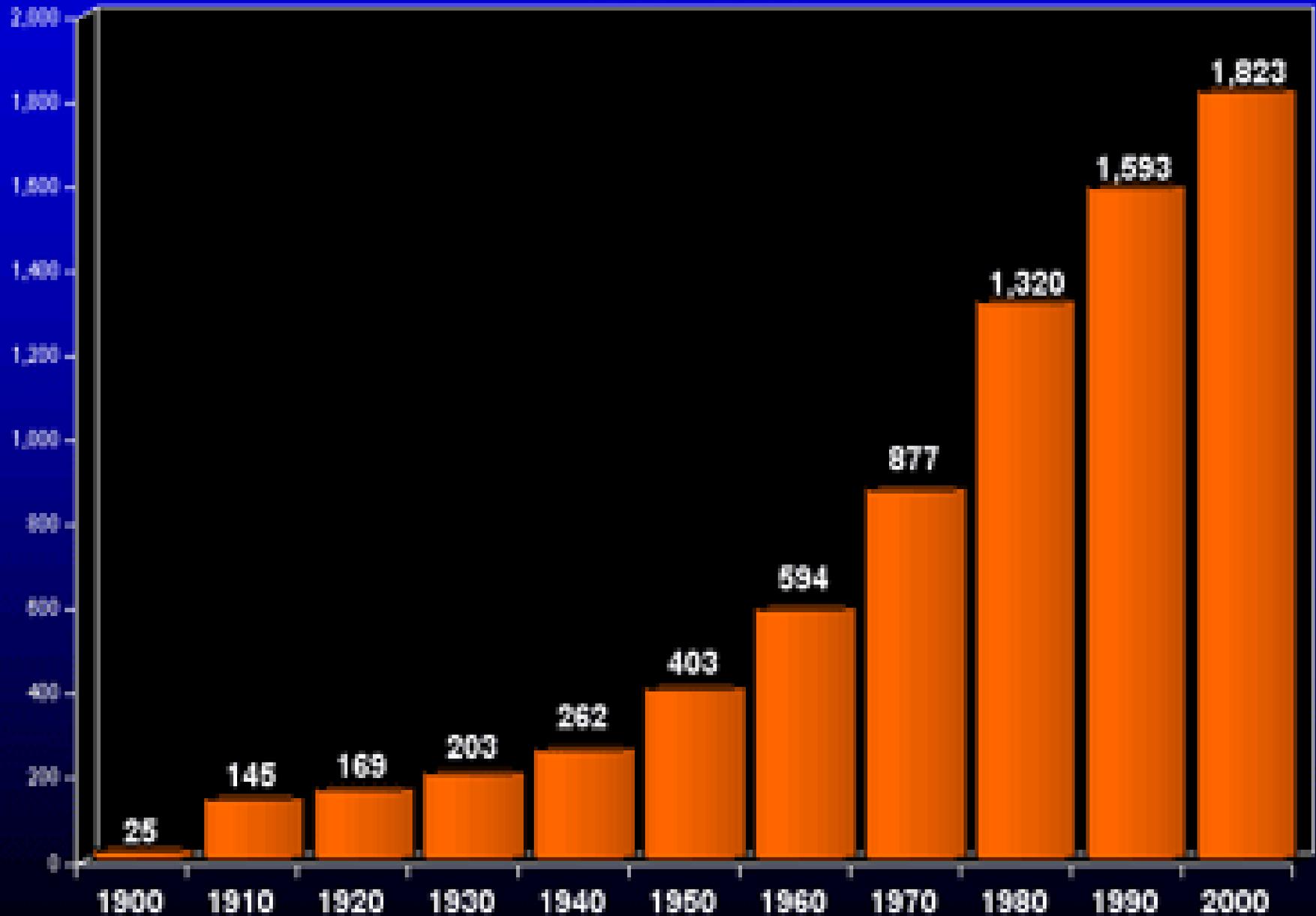
- ...but Chandler S. Robbins has defined the CBC since 1934

Number of Participants 1900 - 2000





Number of Christmas Bird Counts 1900 - 2000



Chan's personal contributions to the CBC (thus far...)

- compiled 131 Christmas Bird Counts since 1934
- compiled 15 different named CBCs in four states
- participated on 351 Christmas Bird Counts since 1934
- only two seasons ago was Chan topped in either compilation or participation totals

Chan is still actively both compiling and participating on CBCs each season

CBCs Compiled by Chan Robbins

- Belmont, MA: 1934, 1936-40, 1944, 1946-47
- Carter Range, NH: 1942
- Mount Washington, NH: 1942
- Bowie, MD: 1943-46
- Southeastern Worcester County, MD: 1946-47
- Southern Dorchester County, MD: 1947-2005 (except 1954 & 1960)
- Susquehanna Flats-Sassafras River, MD: 1947
- Kent Island, MD: 1998
- Ocean City, MD: 1948-1998 (except 1953 & 1960)
- Southern Anne Arundel County, MD: 1948
- Wicomico (Charles County), MD: 1948
- Crisfield, MD: 1949
- Garrett County, MD: 1949, 1954
- Midway Atoll: 1960

Citizen Science



[About Citizen Science](#)

[Christmas Bird Count](#)

[CBC Survey](#)
(requires Adobe Reader)

[Get Involved](#)

[Current Year's Results](#)

[Historical Results](#)

[Data Entry/Review](#)

[History & Objectives](#)

[Compiler's Page](#)

[Bibliography](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Great Backyard Bird Count](#)

[eBird](#)

[Join Audubon](#)

[Bird conservation](#) > [Christmas Bird Count](#) >

The 106th CBC, December 14th 2005 to January 5th 2006

Stormy weather doesn't deter birders

[105th CBC Photo Gallery](#)

The 106th Christmas Bird Count field season has finished, and now the current year's database of observations is developing through online submissions. You can check it out in real time-select a state, choose your count, and see the results. While birding conditions varied greatly, CBC participants took to the field and covered their traditional areas. Birders even completed some of the counts along the hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast and these will provide crucial data for tracking the recovery of that region.

Counting conditions were trying for some CBCs, with heavy rainstorms along the Pacific coast and snowstorms in the Rockies and Northeast. However, participants successfully completed their counts even in the face of difficult weather. In addition, birders completed a good number of counts along the storm-ravaged Gulf Coast this season, excellent news as we measure the recovery of natural areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

Meanwhile, as the results of the 106th Count take shape online, we invite you to use the historical results tool. Or take a look at reports from earlier seasons in Christmas Bird Count issues of American Birds in the "Annual Summaries" section below.



CBC Partners:



[Bird Studies Canada](#)



[Instituto Humboldt](#)



[The National Network BirdObservers- RNOA](#)





CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

[My Roles](#) | [My Account](#) | [Exit](#)

My Projects > CBC > My Roles

My Roles:

Participant

- ▶ MDS

Compiler

- ▶ [MDS](#) [Southern Dorchester County](#) [2005-12-26](#) **Status:** Data Entry Begun

Regional Editor

- ▶ You do not have regional editor role on any CBC region.

Adminstrator

- ▶ You do not have admin role for CBC.

Welcome Chandler Robbins

To continue, select desired action from the list provided.

If you're not Chandler Robbins, click [here](#).

Has your email address changed? Have you moved? Click [here](#) to update your account profile.

Technical problems? General questions? Contact cbcadmin@audubon.org.

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Southern Dorchester County

Compiler: Chandler Robbins

Region: Maryland
Circle: Southern Dorchester
County

12/26/2005

Count#: 106

ID: MDSO

Lat/Long: 38.3667 -76.0333

[Post the Count Date](#)

[Edit Participants List /](#)

[Pay Circle Fees](#)

[Enter/Edit Secondary
Compiler](#)

▶ [Enter/Edit Count Data](#)

[Circle Status](#)

[Start and End Times](#)

[Effort](#)

[Weather](#)

[Bird Checklist](#) ◀

[Add Species to Checklist](#)

[Add Total Species](#)

[Special Aspects](#)

[Count Reports](#)

[? HELP](#)

Bird Checklist for Count Circle

Information on Count Week and US/HC/LC is available in the [HELP](#) section.

1. Select a Species

Greater White-fronted Goose
Snow Goose
Snow Goose (blue-white intergrade)
Ross's Goose
Brant
(large forms) Canada Goose
Trumpeter Swan
swan sp.
Eurasian Wigeon
American Green-winged Teal
scaup sp.

Species Quick Locator

Type Species Name

Jump to Next Species >

[Show Scientific Names](#)

[Show Common Names](#)

[Show French Names](#)

Add to List >

[Sort by Name](#)

[Sort by Taxonomy](#)

2. Review Your List

Save >

Species	# or cw	US	HC	LC	max #	count total	Delete
Snow Goose (white form)	<input type="text" value="3475"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7935 in 103	19	<input type="checkbox"/>
Snow Goose (blue form)	<input type="text" value="150"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4950 in 95	51	<input type="checkbox"/>
					46800		

Chan's involvement with the CBC program

- Joined Editorial Board of *Audubon Field Notes* in 1947
- Associate Editor for Bird Distribution and Christmas Bird Counts for *AFN* 1948-1951
- Editor-in-Chief of *AFN* 1952-1954
- Technical Editor of *AFN* 1954-1974; 1979-1989
- Editorial Advisor for *AFN* 1975-1978

In Summary: 42 years of continuous involvement with management of CBC program

- Edited Christmas Bird Count for 6 years
- Also Editor-in-Chief of *AFN* for 2 of those 6 years
- Technical Advisor for *Audubon Field Notes* for 21 years, Editorial Advisor for 4 years, and Technical Advisor again for another 11 years

CBC Analyses on Local Basis

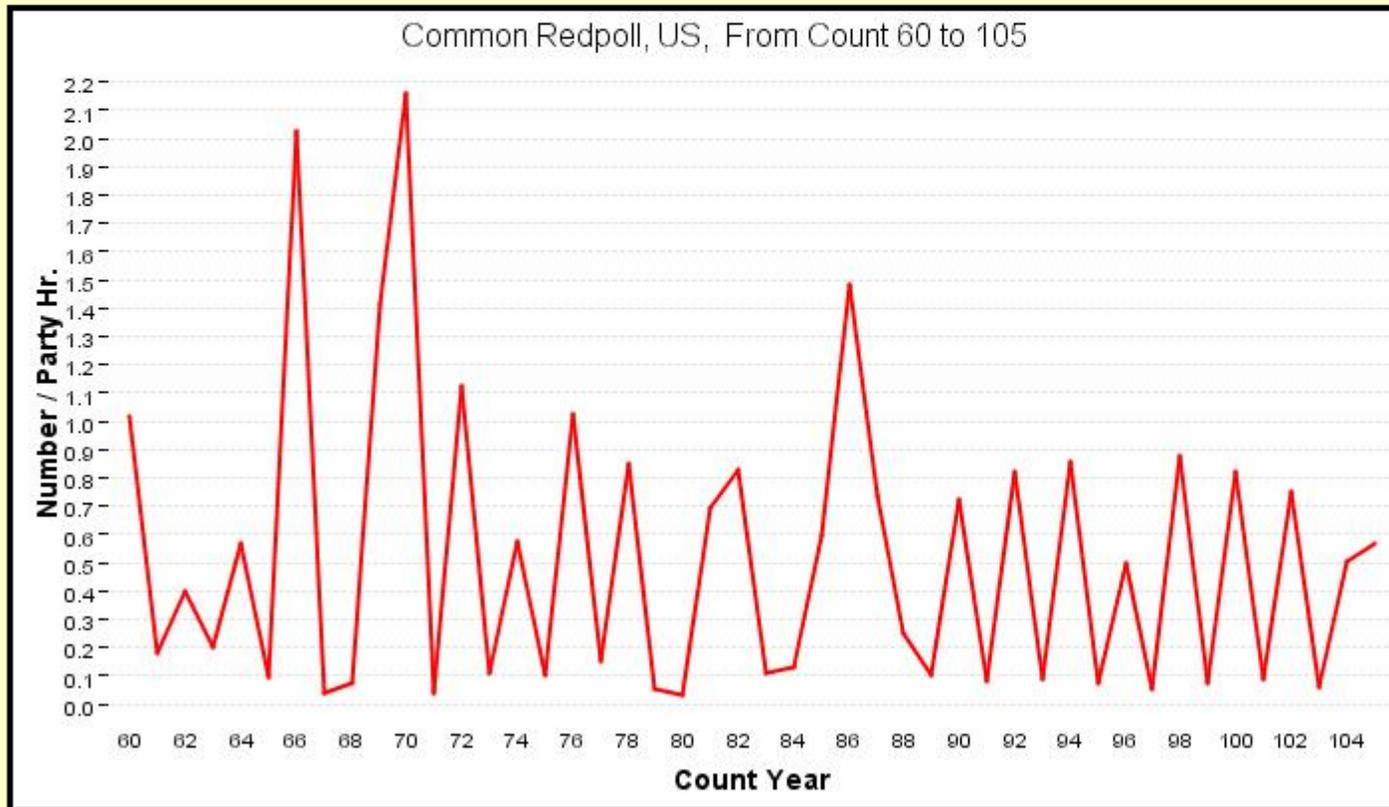
- Track individual count results over time
- Monitor species of interest
- Evaluate species guilds together, based on local CBC results
- Local habitat analyses based on status of species surveyed by CBCs
- Compare local results with regional trends



Results: Graphing

Please use Icons below to return to the query page. DO NOT USE YOUR BROWSER'S "BACK" BUTTON

The graph below was generated using the number of birds reported per party hour; a measure of the amount of time spent searching for birds or the amount of effort expended. This is one way to standardize Christmas Bird Count data over time. Some years, there may have been a lot of people counting birds, while other years there may have been fewer participants in the field. As CBC participation fluctuates (as the number of CBC Count Circles increases), raw count numbers may also fluctuate (more counters can often lead to more birds reported). The graph below is one way of correcting for the differences in effort over time. Other types of statistical corrections for differences in effort also exist, and you may download these data for your own use.



Download



Convert



Create



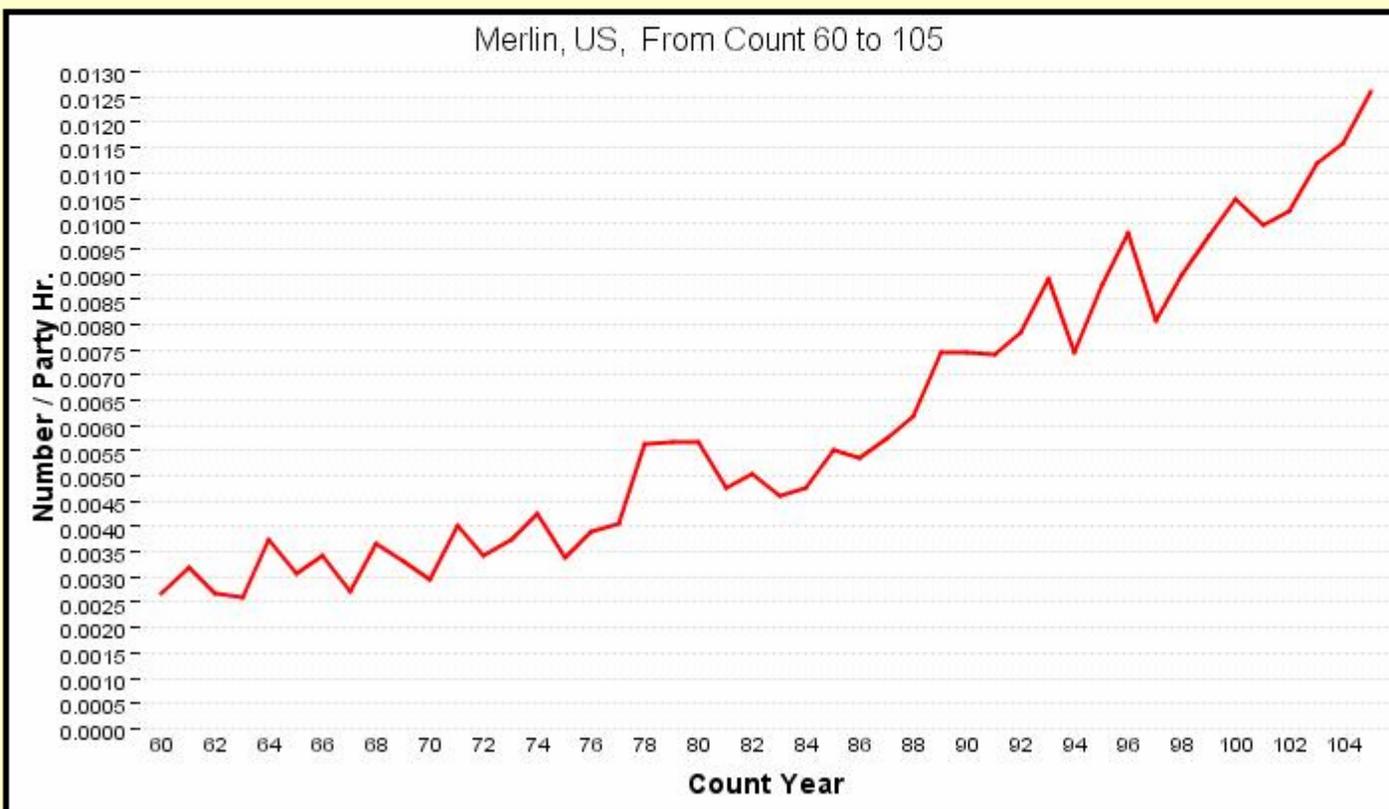
Historical



Results: Graphing

Please use Icons below to return to the query page. DO NOT USE YOUR BROWSER'S "BACK" BUTTON

The graph below was generated using the number of birds reported per party hour; a measure of the amount of time spent searching for birds or the amount of effort expended. This is one way to standardize Christmas Bird Count data over time. Some years, there may have been a lot of people counting birds, while other years there may have been fewer participants in the field. As CBC participation fluctuates over time (as the number of CBC Count Circles increases), raw count numbers may also fluctuate (more counters can often lead to more birds reported). The graph below is one way of correcting for the differences in effort over time. Other types of statistical corrections for differences in effort also exist, and you may download these data for your own use.

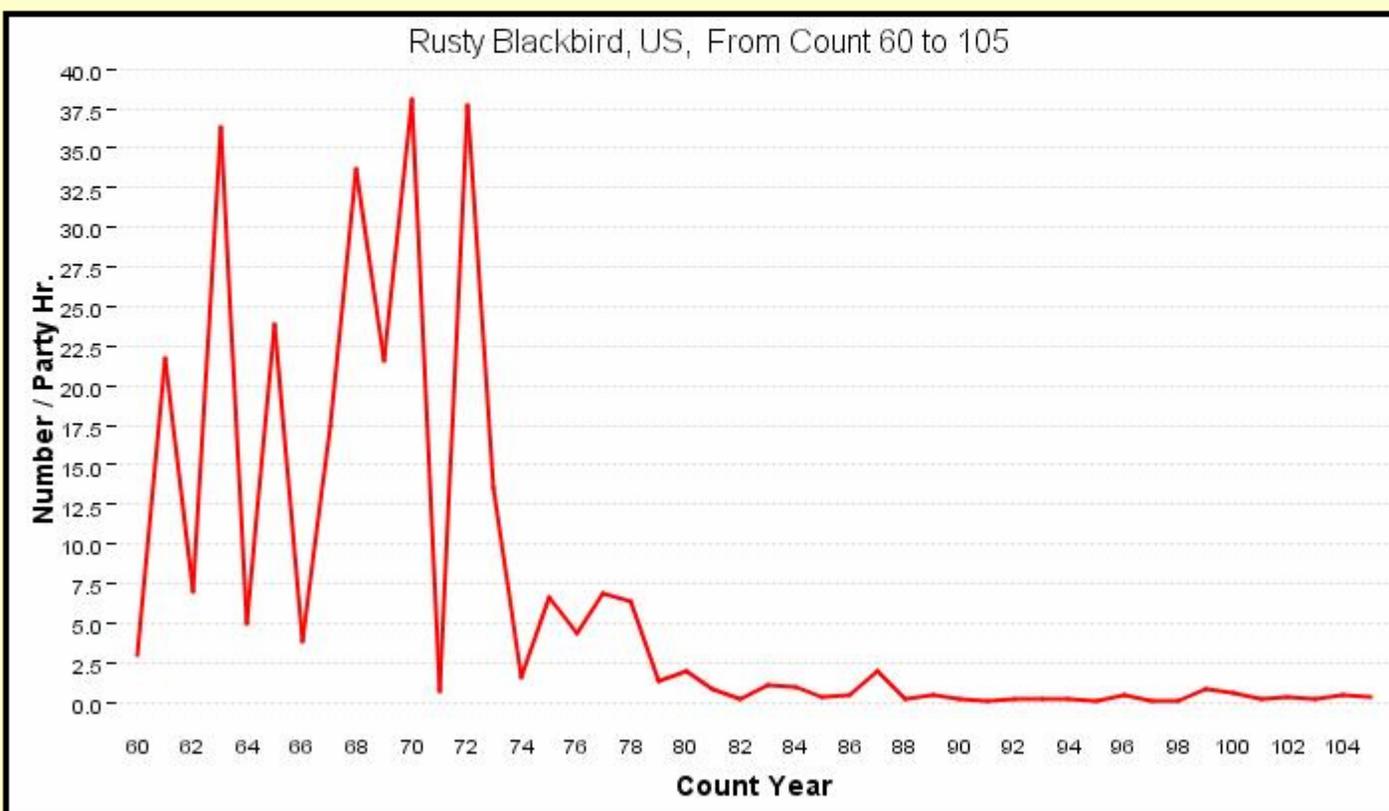




Results: Graphing

Please use Icons below to return to the query page. DO NOT USE YOUR BROWSER'S "BACK" BUTTON

The graph below was generated using the number of birds reported per party hour; a measure of the amount of time spent searching for birds or the amount of effort expended. This is one way to standardize Christmas Bird Count data over time. Some years, there may have been a lot of people counting birds, while other years there may have been fewer participants in the field. As CBC participation fluctuates (as the number of CBC Count Circles increases), raw count numbers may also fluctuate (more counters can often lead to more birds reported). The graph below is one way of correcting for the differences in effort over time. Other types of statistical corrections for differences in effort also exist, and you may download these data for your own use.



Download



Convert



Create



Historical

Quotes, “Chanecdotes,” and CBC Ruminations...

- Greg Butcher, Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon: “In my early years at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Chan was a CLO board member. He was very influential in getting CLO to commit to Citizen Science projects—now recognized as being the Lab’s forte.”

More from Greg Butcher...

- “I want to thank Chan for helping promote the Christmas Bird Count and Citizen Science at CLO, and for helping me get the resources and funding to develop and analyze the 30-year CBC database at the Lab. It was that core data set that enabled the computerization of the entire CBC database.”

From Frank Gill, Senior Ornithologist for the National Audubon Society:

- “Chan simply sets the highest standards possible for a CBC compiler—a model for all.”

Chanecdotes I

- From Dan Niven: Dan's father started a new CBC (all effort on foot), which was rejected by Chan when he was CBC Editor for too little effort and too few species!
- The count was accepted in its second year—with more effort included
- Dan Niven: “I think most birders in this country are probably only a few steps removed from Chan, since he has been active in so many broad-based activities for so long. That's a lot of people to have influenced.”

Chanecdotes II

- During initial testing of online CBC data entry application, Chan was one of the first “dovekie” beta testers
- Chandler S. Robbins was the first person to ever enter CBC data online
- Always “on call” for advice, help, and support—and always willing to help publicize the CBC (i.e., CBS Sunday Morning on 25 December 2005!)

CBC Scientific Peer Review

- Completed in November 2003
- Final report published in 104th CBC issue of *American Birds*
- Heartily embraced CBC, but recommended tweaks to methodology to improve value to research
- Also recommended embellishment of weather and effort in CBC Historical Database
- Chan, of course, was a panel member and co-author of the final papers

CBC Data are now accepted as valuable, and frequently used in Research Projects

- Scientific papers in refereed journals: over 200 since 1970
- Avian winter abundance patterns in state references: over 150 since 1970
- Field Guides and Distribution Atlas: data used for early-winter range maps
- Environmental Impact Statements: CBC provides baseline data
- PFW and USFWS: CBC data used for comparison

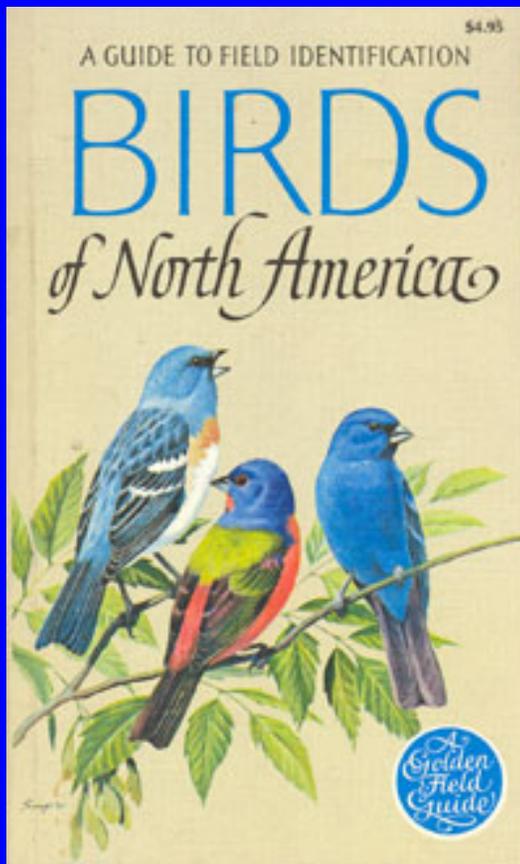
A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|
M|N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z

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Chan has been instrumental in the acceptance of CBC as a useful data set by the scientific community



- Set up Winter Bird Survey in MD based on CBC methodology
- Complete NAOC session on CBC data use at St. Louis in 1998
- Has fostered a culture of acceptance of Citizen Science datasets at PWRC *and beyond*



Welcome to the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, the oldest and largest citizen science event in the world. For over a hundred years, people have gathered together during the winter holiday season to count birds. For many people, this is an annual tradition that has passed from one generation to the next. In the process, they have created a vast pool of bird data that is the most comprehensive available for mid-December to early January. It is a fertile source of information on the status and distribution of early winter bird populations and is studied by scientists and interested people the world over. And it all starts with you!

While there is a specific methodology to the CBC and you need to count birds within an existing Christmas Bird Count circle, everyone can participate! If you are a beginning birder, you will be able to join a group that includes at least one experienced birdwatcher. If your home is within the boundaries of a Christmas Bird Count circle, then you can stay home and report the birds that visit your feeder or join a group of birdwatchers in the field. If you have never been on a CBC before and you want to participate in a count this year, including feeder counting, please contact your count compiler prior to the count and prior to signing up for the count [here](#).

Christmas Bird Count (CBC) season is December 14 through January 5 each year. Your local count will occur on one day between those inclusive dates. If you have more than one local count, they will probably be conducted on different dates within the CBC season. You can pick the most convenient date, or participate in more than one count.

If you would like to register and participate in the 104th count, please click [here](#); or click [here](#) if you want to find a count near you.



Christmas Bird Count Circles in the Western Hemisphere.



