

National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count 2020-2021

Guidelines for the 121st Audubon Christmas Bird Count

Audubon will fully support any compiler who decides to cancel their count for this year. If a compiler would like to proceed with the CBC, they must abide by the guidelines below.

Dear CBC Compilers,

First and foremost, we hope this message finds you and your loved ones well. We are living through unprecedented times, but the most important things are still those we choose to spend our time with.

Due to the COVID19 outbreak, this year's Christmas Bird Count will require a few changes if your count is to take place at all. The two options for Christmas Bird Count compilers are as follows:

Option 1: *Run a COVID-19 safe and socially distanced CBC, **if** local rules allow. [Must wait until November 15 at the earliest to choose this option in order to better understand status of COVID outbreak in your region during the CBC.]*

Option 2: *If option 1 is not possible, cancel this season's CBC for your location. [Can choose this option now if you wish.]*

If you choose option 1, below are the guidelines that we urge you to follow:

1. Wait until November 15 at the earliest to confirm CBC will take place, **if** local regulations allow.
1. Cancel **all** in-person compilation gatherings.
1. Social distancing and/or masking are **required** at all times in the field.
1. Carpooling may **only** occur within existing familiar or social "pod" groups.
1. Activities **must** comply with all current state and municipal COVID-19 guidelines.

If you feel it is not safe to move forward with your CBC and choose option 2, please know that Audubon fully supports your decision to cancel. The safety of our compilers and community scientists will always be our top priority.

If you would like to take some more time before deciding whether or not to move forward with the 121st Christmas Bird Count, please do so and check in with us around the beginning of November once you have made your decision.

One note: There will be little to no impact on the scientific value of the Christmas Bird Count by missing or altering one count season. So again, we urge you to prioritize your safety and the safety of others when making your decision.