

San Jose Christmas Bird Count 2023

Sunday, December 17th, 2023

Covid and Reporting Instructions

A Covid-free event

Due to Covid-19, there are restrictions and guidelines this year provided by SCVAS and the National Audubon Society. Here is a summary:

1. Of course, first and foremost, If you are feeling sick or are showing symptoms within 48 hours of your start time, stay home. 17th, 2023.

Obviously, we will hate to lose birders who don't feel well but we are lucky to be having a count at all and we expect to miss our normal bird totals. It can't be helped. We'll get by.

2. Masks are required **only** if you can't social distance, whether you are outside or inside. We need to follow all local regulations and restrictions. Vaccinations are not required but of course, we do recommend them.



3. When carpooling with people from outside your normal group of contacts, please wear masks inside of vehicles. We have become used to the idea that we don't have to wear masks around others, but in close quarters, we could be spreading illness before we realize we're sick.

4. As has been the case for the last few years, there will be no countdown dinner. Please send photos and stories regarding your most interesting species and experiences to your compiler. Without the benefit of hearing stories and such at our countdown dinner, we'll be wanting to let everyone know about the great birds you saw and the interesting experiences you had. There will be a video countdown released within a few days that will contain all the photos (of people, birds, etc) and stories you've shared with us.

Forms

Here is a list of this year's forms.
Each party leader should get:

- **Party Worksheet.**
- **Eagle Log.**
- **Clements ordered Bird List**
- **Rare Bird Forms—**
(At least 2 copies)



Each leader will have a leader packet with these forms in it. I'd like to go over the forms for this year so even if it isn't your job to fill them out, you will have an idea what kind of information is being collected. Below is an explanation of each form. Each party leader fills out the form and gives it to the sector leader who gives it to the compiler.

Filing online: SCVAS is working hard to make filing your CBC paperwork as easy and safe as possible. All forms are now "fillable" meaning you can fill them out online. The forms can then be sent in to the compiler. Work out with your sector leader how you will get forms to them.



Filing by scan or cell phone photo:

Scan it, take a picture of it or fill it out using the fillable PDF. Whatever works. Please hold onto paperwork long enough for me to verify to you that I received and can read it. Don't throw anything away until I let you know I got it and can read it.

Filing printed: San Jose sector leaders can submit paperwork to compiler Mike Azevedo geochelone@aol.com after the event.

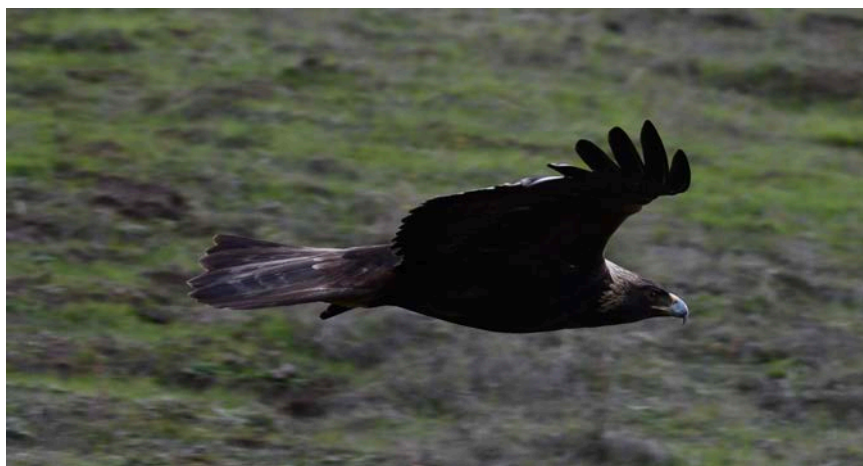
But some of you may not be comfortable with filing ANYTHING online and if this is the case, you can simply gather up all paperwork in an envelope and either hand delivering it to SCVAS at 22221 McClellan Rd, Cupertino, CA 95014 or mailed to Mike Azevedo, 2540 Eisenhower Place, Manteca CA 95337. Please notify me by email what you intend to do.

Filing by ebird:

An increasing number of you are using ebird not only to post your findings but to submit your data. Ebird creators have a new tool called "ebird Trip Report". This allows you to bird at a number of locations, report at each of these locations and then group them together to submit as a party report. More information: <https://ebird.org/news/ebirding-on-christmas-bird-counts>

- **Party Worksheet.** This will need to be filled out in the field. It should be printed out and carried with you.
- **Eagle Log.** Different parties see the “same sky” so eagles are often moving from party area to party area and even from sector to sector. This log helps us determine duplicate sightings. "Adult" and "Immature" are no longer tracked on the Bird Tally forms. It is important that all of this information is included on the Eagle Log.

The eagle log should be handed out to each party, filled out moments after sightings. You can fill



out the virtual copy or take cell photos or scan and attach to the submission email. Please look over the eagle log prior to handing it in to be sure that there is enough information for me to determine where the eagles were so I can compare them to other party sightings.

- **Bird Tally Sheet** The list includes birds expected on the count. Birds rarely seen and requiring a write-up (Rare Bird Form, see below) are in bold. Birds hardly EVER seen are not on the list and also require a write-up.
- **Rare Bird Forms.** The Rare Bird Committee will make final judgments on all unusual species.

ALL birds reported in bold or under ‘Additional Species’ (not on the list) MUST have a Rare Bird Form filled out. Write-ups MUST be done at the time of the sighting, BEFORE consulting a field guide. Write-ups done hours later are not acceptable. Please get all critical identification information down on paper immediately.

Transcribing later is OK as long as it uses information written immediately after the observation. Sketches and/or photographic evidence are excellent and encouraged. An old rule insisting that two observers must be present may still apply but the RBC uses all information provided to determine the veracity of the sighting. Sightings must have enough information to convince the RBC that the sighting was of the bird in question. The experience of the birder, corroborating reports, follow up sightings, photographs, detailed information, previous sightings and the likelihood the bird might be present are all taken into account.

The rare bird committee reserves the right to allow exceptions to these rules if they believe the sighting is accurate.

Thanks again and have fun out there!