

Some Guidelines for Contributing to the Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley CBC

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General guidelines for counting birds for CBC

1. You may count any bird that can be identified by sight or sound.
2. When i.d. to species is not certain (especially when an uncommon species is under consideration), it's preferable to use more general i.d. categories: "Accipiter sp.", "Red-naped/Red-breasted Sapsucker", or "gull sp.", for example.
3. Avoiding double counting in situations such as long stationary counts at feeders or yards, or when walking through the same area on a return hike.
4. For all checklists be sure to include:
 - a. Duration of your count
 - b. Distance traveled (one way distance only for out and back routes)
 - c. Mode of transportation (usually on foot)
 - d. Numbers of birds detected, by species

Documentation of rare birds

Occasionally, participants in CBC will be lucky enough to encounter an unusual species. We'd like to include that bird in the count, but some documentation is needed. Especially surprising birds (rare birds discovered during the count) are most in need of good documentation.

Diagnostic photos and/or audio recordings are preferred, but the following details are helpful as supplements or substitutes:

- Shape
- Size
- Color and pattern
- Other diagnostic field marks
- Behavior
- Habitat
- Vocalizations
- Previous experience with species

Species for which documentation is needed include: 1) any bird which is flagged in eBird as rare for our location and season, and/or 2) birds in this list below, which is customized for the Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley count:

Snow Goose
Ross's Goose
Cackling Goose
Eurasian Wigeon
Greater Scaup
Common Goldeneye
Vaux's Swift
Virginia Rail
Iceland ("Thayer's") Gull
Neotropic Cormorant
Least Bittern
American Bittern
Golden Eagle
Zone-tailed Hawk
Ferruginous Hawk
Northern Pygmy-Owl
Long-eared Owl
Williamson's Sapsucker
Red-naped Sapsucker
any *Empidonax* flycatcher
Cassin's Vireo
Plumbeous Vireo
Pacific Wren
Cactus Wren
American Dipper
Mountain Bluebird
Varied Thrush
Cassin's Finch
Vesper Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
Hooded Oriole
Bullock's Oriole
Tricolored Blackbird
Black-and-white Warbler
Summer Tanager