



Sea Island Christmas Bird Count  
January 2019

Headed by Aaron Given, Town of Kiawah Island Wildlife Biologist, the CBC (Christmas Bird Count) is a volunteer-based bird census conducted annually every winter and took place on January 4th, 2019. This year marked the 8th annual Sea Island Christmas Bird Count, with 74 volunteers spread over Kiawah Island, Seabrook Island, John's Island, Wadmalaw Island, and Deveaux Bank.

There were 15 volunteers in five parties on Kiawah Island, with three feeder watchers. On Seabrook Island, there were 19 volunteers in seven parties with 10 feeder watchers. On John's Island, there were four parties with a total of 12 volunteers and one feeder watcher. There were nine participants in three parties and one feeder watcher on Wadmalaw Island. On Deveaux Bank, there were two volunteers in one party.

Compared to last year's count in the snow and ice, this year was mild with temperatures in the mid-'60s, overcast skies, and dense fog covering much of the coastal areas within the count circle. Rain began in the early afternoon and continued through the day which forced many participants to stop birding earlier than planned.

Despite the fog and rainy afternoon, the CBC did quite well and recorded 16,570 individual birds and 155 different species. Kiawah Island recorded 7,324 individuals of the 127 species. Seabrook Island (including the Freshfields territory) reported 2,988 individuals of 116 species. John's Island documented 3,482 individuals of 100 species, Wadmalaw Island had 2,259 individuals of 80 species, and Deveaux Bank noted 517 individuals of 31 species.

Each Island reported unique species for this year's count, listed below

<b>Kiawah Island</b>	<b>Seabrook Island</b>	<b>John's Island</b>	<b>Wadmalaw Island</b>	<b>Deveaux Bank</b>
Redhead, Surf Scoter, Black Scoter, Sora, American Coot, Parasitic Jaeger, Lesser Black- backed Gull, Great Black- backed Gull, Red-throated Loon, Northern Gannet, American Bittern, Reddish Egret, Northern Harrier, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Warbler, Field Sparrow, and Dark-eyed Junco	Ruddy Duck, Eurasian Collard-Dove, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, American White Pelican, Green Heron, Yellow- crowned Night- Heron, Yellow- throated Warbler, and Baltimore Oriole	Canada Goose, Blue-winged Teal, and House Sparrow	Gadwall, Rock Pigeon, Hairy Woodpecker, and Tree Swallow	Wilson's Plovers

<b>New Species for the CBC</b>	<b>Species Highlights</b>	<b>Notable Misses</b>
Reddish Egret	Hairy Woodpecker, Yellow- crowned Night-Heron, Peregrine Falcon, Parasitic Jaeger, Dark-eyed Junco, American Woodcock, Prairie Warbler	Most dabbling ducks, Common Ground Dove, Wilson's Snipe, American Pipit

Past Sea Island CBC numbers.

<b>Year</b>	<b># Participants</b>	<b>Party Hours</b>	<b>Party Miles</b>	<b># Individuals</b>	<b># Species</b>
2019	74	155.7	274.2	16,571	155
2018	35	37.8	84.5	17,157	144
2017	73	152.6	324.1	38,630	158
2016	55	143.5	384.3	21,528	158
2015	45	156.1	363.3	41,096	159
2014	51	121.0	335.1	24,067	154
2013	47	106.8	321.0	22,652	146
2012	23	27.0	73.0	19,029	132

Thank you to all the participants and volunteers for continuing to make this event a success. Not only is the bird count fun and educational for participants, but it also contributes valuable scientific data to aid in bird conservation across the country. Looking ahead to next year, the count will most likely occur on January 3, 2019. To volunteer for next year's CBC, contact Aaron Given at [agiven@kiawahisland.org](mailto:agiven@kiawahisland.org), and for more information on bird watching on Kiawah, visit our Bird Banding website at <http://kiawahislandbanding.blogspot.com/>.