

Palo Alto Christmas Bird Count: Instructions for Party Leaders

1) The count is meant to be a fun event, but is also part of Audubon's Citizen Science program. To get a representative count for your area, put in as much time as you can manage.

2) When you download or receive your **forms**, please immediately **FILL OUT THE TOP LINE OF EVERY PAGE**. Regions are numbered 1 to 8; your "party" number is assigned by your region coordinator. Familiarize yourself with the forms (especially the substantially revised bird order) ahead of the count.

COUNT DAY:

3) On count day, have each party member enter contact information on the **participant list**. Check entries for LEGIBILITY. Let your party members know about the countdown (below).

4) On the **Party Count Statistics form**, include

- Time and mileage information for each team (sub-party). (If you take a non-birding pause, the "Hours" might be less than the difference between start and stop times.) Record any owling separately.
- Temperature (range) and weather.
- Summary of all areas covered.

5) Any birds with a "**W**" in the left column of the checklist require a **write-up** (Rare bird documentation form -- be sure to include description on reverse of form).

AFTER COUNTING:

6) The day ends with a **countdown** at the Rinconada branch of the Palo Alto Library (directions below), where we try to tally everything seen during the day. If you attend, you get to announce your own rarities and other neat finds! Arrive after 5 PM. Dinner (charge for pizza and salad) is at 6:15, followed by the countdown. BYO beverages (and, if you like, some to share); a refrigerator will be available. **Important: alcoholic beverages are not allowed.**

7) **Return your completed forms** to your region coordinator at or before the countdown, or drop them off at the library desk before the countdown. If you cannot do any of those, please try to inform your coordinator pre-countdown of any **“W”** or other interesting species found; then mail your forms to Al Eisner, 3538 Farm Hill Blvd. #4, Redwood City, CA 94061, or email clean full-size copies to eisner@slac.stanford.edu. If you prefer to enter bird totals electronically, please contact Al in advance.

Directions to the Palo Alto Library’s Rinconada Branch for the Countdown:

Take Newell Road north from Embarcadero Road in Palo Alto. Make the first right turn on Art Center Drive. There is ample parking in lots reachable from here. The library is the modern building on the **north** side of Art Center Drive. If you enter from there, the Embarcadero room (where we will meet) is on your right. The library desk is reached by instead continuing straight through the next door.