

The Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) continues to extend its range and numbers across much of North America. Most of this species' expansion is to the north and west from its original point of colonization in Florida, and during the 109th count its northern frontier was established from sea to sea all the way across Canada. This bird was photographed at the western edge of Canadian occurrence at Terrace, British Columbia. Photo/Diane Weismiller



## A vian Gems of all Descriptions

The Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) is familiar and widespread on Christmas Bird Counts across much of North America, and can be a regular feature in the field and at feeders throughout the Midwest. But this partial albino male cardinal at Salina, Kansas, must have presented quite an identification challenge for observers there. Photo/Carl Hensley



When a new Christmas Bird Count is conducted in Latin America, there is a good chance that new species will be included in the cumulative CBC database. This lovely Red-headed Tanager (*Piranga erythrocephala*), a first for the overall count, was tallied at the new CBC in Barranca Rancho la Liebre, Sinaloa, Mexico. Photo/Rene Valdes



One of the North American waterfowl most sought after by birders is the Emperor Goose (*Chen canagica*), a species primarily of the coasts of the Bering Sea. They do occasionally wander down the Pacific Coast to be tallied on CBCs, and this bird was found on the restarted Coquille Valley, Oregon, count. Photo/Steve Dimock



The "big" grebes of North America—Clark's and Western—are real carrots when found in the East, but are regularly counted on open water during CBCs in many areas of the West. The usual challenge is identifying Clark's from Westerns, but this season observers at the Balmorea, Texas, CBC were presented with a real treat—both species present with young birds. These Clark's Grebes (*Aechmophorus clarkii*) were among those with young there. Photo/Kelly B. Bryan



Observers heading to regions other than the United States and Canada for their Christmas Bird Counts often yearn for new and exciting bird species to add spice to their CBC, year, or life lists. However, as so often happens when birding, sometimes other highlights emerge. This past season among the expected 15 or so Northern Parulas (*Parula americana*) encountered at New Providence Island, Bahamas, was this stunning male with aberrant plumage. Photo/Neil McKinney

## *from the 109th Christmas Bird Count*

Birders in the northern Rockies may expect to find interesting western owls, perhaps even members of a species (the Spotted Owl, *Strix occidentalis*) that has been the recent epicenter of conservation issues. But the Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) is the expected species in the northern Rockies, and this one was tallied on Idaho's Moscow-Pullman CBC. Photo/Paul Holick



This first winter Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*), nicely compared in front of a third-winter American Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*), was tallied on the Kalispell, Montana, Christmas Bird Count. Rare in the interior and west, this Iceland Gull provided the second CBC record—and third overall state record—in Montana. Photo/Daniel Casey



For birders interested in “little brown jobs” and especially sparrows, the Gulf Coast, Texas, and southwestern states are the place to be on a CBC. An amazing diversity of sparrows can be found on counts there, and this Le Conte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*) was photographed on the Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R., Texas, count. Photo/Greg Lavaty



Thick-billed Kingbird (*Tyrannus crassirostris*) is a central Mexican species, and birders hoping to add this bird to their American Birding Area life list ordinarily would hope to find it as a rarity in southeastern Arizona. But neotropical kingbirds often surprise us, and this vagrant kingbird was tallied at Palos Verdes Peninsula, California. Photo/Ross Landry