

The Oceanside Christmas Bird Count (CBC) takes place around Christmas every year. An annual event organized by the National Audubon Society, Buena Vista Audubon (BVAS) has been sponsoring the local CBC for many years. 140 people participated in last year's Oceanside CBC and tallied 196 different bird species, which is the second-highest species total for the Oceanside count, surpassed only by a couple of 200-species counts recorded about 20 years ago.

The Christmas Bird Count began in 1900 as an alternative to a holiday hunting contest. Conservation was in its beginning stages, and there was concern about declining bird populations. Members of the Audubon Society began a new holiday tradition, a "Christmas Bird Census," that would count birds during the holidays rather than hunt them. Currently, there are over 2,500 individual CBCs conducted worldwide.

Stay tuned for the annual Christmas Bird Count-see the Calendar of Events and News section for this year's date!

This "Citizen Science" has been vital over the years, with the data collected by observers allowing researchers, biologists, and wildlife agencies to study the long-term health of bird populations across North America. This helps create strategies to protect birds and their habitats, and helps identify key environmental issues and impacts, such as climate change.