

**2018
COLLETON RIVER
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

A brief history of this event:

The first Audubon Christmas Bird Count started in 1900. Prior to the turn of the 20th century, hunters engaged in a holiday tradition known as the Christmas "Side Hunt". They would choose sides and go afield with their guns - whoever brought in the biggest piles of feathered quarry won. Conservation was in its beginning stages in that era and many observers and scientists were becoming concerned about declining populations. Beginning on Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman, an early officer in the Audubon Society, proposed a new holiday tradition - a "Christmas Bird Census" that would count birds instead of hunting them. Twenty five bird counts were held that day in locations ranging from, northeastern centers, Toronto, Ontario and Pacific Grove, CA. The data collected by observers over the past century in the Western Hemisphere allow Audubon researchers, conservation biologists, wildlife agencies and other interested individuals and groups to study the health and status of bird populations across North America. The Audubon count is the longest running citizen science survey in the world. Counts can be held on any day from December 14 to January 5 inclusive.

Colleton River participated in the 118th CBC as part of the Hilton Head Island Audubon 15 mile "count circle". Hilton Head Audubon count had record participation again this year, even with the last-minute date change. On December 2017, HHI had the 6th highest number of participants (292) in the country. This year, there were 320 participants: 232 field observers and 88 feeder watchers! HHI Audubon continues to add new birders to our count, with 99 first-timers this year. Check out this link to learn more about the HHI Audubon and perhaps join:

<http://www.hiltonheadaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/ECOBON-Final-February-2019.pdf>

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Total Birds Counted	25,561	24,665	25,353
Total Species	137	139	130
Total Participants	320	292	254

Colleton River members have been participating in the CBC since 2000. Our total bird numbers were down this year as we encountered fewer flocks of bird but our species count held within range.

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Total Birds Counted	1260	1445	1445
Total Species	73	77	66
Total Participants	32	28	30

**Thanks to ALL for being flexible with helping with the 2018 count!
Mark you calendars, the 2019 event is scheduled for Monday - December 16th!**

If interested in joining the Colleton River Birding Club, please contact Stephen Dickson (stephendickson@me.com) and get your name added to the email list for birding field trips and meetings.

Stephen Dickson & Karen Anderson (Co-Chairs)

