**Grand Forks Christmas BIrd Count (CBC)**

The Grand Forks, ND / East Grand Forks, MN Christmas Bird Count is conducted each year on the first Sunday following the 14th of December. The count is made inside of a 15-mile circle (177 square miles) that is centered on U.S. 2, one mile east of the entrance to the Grand Forks International Airport. The circle includes all of Grand Forks, East Grand Forks, the Greater Grand Forks Greenway, the Red River for a few miles n. of Grand Forks/East Grand Forks, Kellys Slough N.W.R., a portion of the grassland/prairie in Oakville and Fairfield Townships, and a part of the Turtle River north of the Airport. To participate in the Christmas Bird Count go to the Grand Cities Bird Club web site: http://grandcitiesbirdclub.weebly.com

Approximately 1800 CBCs are conducted each year. Most are in the United States and Canada, but in recent years counts have also been held in Central and South America, Bermuda, the West Indies, and Pacific Islands. Over 50,000 volunteers participate. CBCs were started over 100 years ago to provide an alternative to the "side hunt", a competition in which teams competed to see who could shoot the most birds. A typical CBC held today is an event that has social, competitive, sporting, and scientific aspects.