

THE 111TH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT IN NEW YORK STATE

A decade has passed since the National Audubon Society discontinued publication of complete Christmas Bird Count data, choosing instead to make CBC data accessible exclusively through an online database. Despite its many obvious advantages, this database poses a number of inconveniences—and even serious obstacles—to potential users of CBC data, some of which were discussed six years ago in an editorial note in *The Kingbird* (Volume 55, pp. 107-109). This note concluded that a static and comprehensive archive of the data collected each year is an invaluable safe-guard against the ambiguities that inevitably creep into dynamic databases as taxonomy and review standards change over time.

Since that time, *The Kingbird* has hosted data from NYS CBCs with the intention of preserving such an archive and presenting it in an easily browsable format. Despite its merits, this printed archive has come at a considerable cost in terms of space allocations in this quarterly journal, and it has been pointed out that the key qualities of the archive are its permanence, comprehensiveness, and accessibility—not the print medium itself. Indeed, a browsable digital file format is arguably the preferable means of presenting the archive.

This year, the complete results of the 111th Christmas Bird Count in New York State have been collated and archived in a document that may be downloaded and printed from the NYSOA website:

<http://www.nybirds.org/Publications/kingbird.htm>

Hard copies of this file, formatted to the page size of *The Kingbird*, are also available upon request from Shaibal S. Mitra, Biology Department, College of Staten Island, Staten Island, NY 10314.

