Conducting a detailed assessment of bird populations within an IBA every ~ 5 years is very useful to (a) determine the current status of the IBA and prioritize conservation efforts, (b) keep online IBA information up to date and relevant to governments/decision-makers and conservation partners, and (c) justify the continued designation of the site as an Important Bird Area.

Conducting a detailed assessment of bird populations involves compiling recent (e.g. within 10 years) bird data for trigger species and species of conservation interest (see definitions above). Your IBA Coordinator will be able to assist you with this process. However, the following guidelines may be helpful for you to understand the process and what data is most useful for the purposes of conducting a detailed assessment and updating the online site summary.

**Guidelines**

- Aim to summarize the highest single-event count of each trigger bird species, as well as species of conservation interest, made within the IBA for each season in which the species is present in the IBA (e.g. Dec-Feb, Mar-May, Jun-Aug, Sep-Nov), for each year.
- High counts should include adult birds only.
- High counts should be of individual birds observed at a point in time (e.g. on a single day).
- In some cases, it may be possible to determine the maximum count from birds observed on separate days over a short period of time if there is evidence that the potential for double counting any given individual is minimal (consult your IBA Coordinator).
- Each count should be associated with a specific date, observer, location (as specific as possible, such as GPS coordinates) and reference.
- Bird Studies Canada and your IBA Coordinator will obtain data from the following sources:
  - eBird
  - Databases maintained by Bird Studies Canada (e.g. Breeding Bird Atlas, Coastal Waterbird Survey, Nocturnal Owl Survey, Breeding Bird Survey, Christmas Bird Count, etc).
  - Databases maintained by Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service
- Caretakers can greatly assist the IBA Coordinator by obtaining data from local sources, including:
  - Counts conducted by local conservation organizations (e.g. Ducks Unlimited, the Nature Trust, local conservation organization, etc)
  - Counts conducted by local Naturalist Clubs or groups (e.g. birding groups)
  - Counts conducted by BC Parks, the BC Conservation Corps, or other provincial agencies
  - Counts conducted by local researchers or academic institutions
  - Data from Christmas Bird Count circles solely for the specific counts that fall within IBA boundaries