

## Machias Seal Island (MSI) CBCs

Ralph Eldridge, one of the lighthouse keepers on Machias Seal Island, has undertaken “real Christmas Bird Counts” on December 25 in years that he has been posted to MSI during the CBC Count Period. Ralph’s data collection started in 1991; an earlier count was done in 1976.

Unfortunately, several years worth of data from this rather unique CBC area (who else reports a Northern Fulmar or notes many alcids on a CBC?) has (so far) been lost. Based on correspondence with Ralph, the following is a best estimate of when counts occurred and which counts have data.

1976 - data ok  
1991 - data ok  
1992 - data ok  
1993 - data ok  
1997 - data lost  
1999 - data lost  
2001 - data lost  
2003 - data lost  
2005 - data lost  
2007 - data ok  
2010 - data ok  
2011 - data ok  
2013 - data ok  
2015 - data lost  
2017 - data lost  
2019 - data ok  
2021 - data ok  
2023 - data ok

18 counts in total with data lost from 7 of them.

Note that the three counts in 1999, 2001, and 2003 are a bit speculative. Based on Ralph’s work schedule, he estimated that there would have been counts in about three additional years after 1996 and that spacing seemed most appropriate.

**From:** Ralph Eldridge <[lightrae1@gmail.com](mailto:lightrae1@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 1, 2024 8:58 AM  
**To:** Donald MacPhail <[dm@qcca.ca](mailto:dm@qcca.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: MSI CBCs

Good day, Don.

Sounds like you've been more than a little busy.

I did CBCs on MSI in 1997, 2005, 2015 & 2017, and sent them in, but I can't find copies. (too many file/computer changes.)

As you know, all my counts on MSI were actually conducted on Christmas Day.

I know that there were about 3 other counts after 1996 but stating specific years would be just guessing.

Best regards,  
Ralph.

Prepared by Donald MacPhail with input from Ralph Eldridge, Spring 2024
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