

ANNOUNCING THE 112th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SEASON AND LOCAL COUNTS

The National Audubon Society's (NAS) longest-running wintertime tradition, the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC), will take place throughout the Americas from Wednesday, December 14, 2011 to Thursday, January 5, 2011.

There will be at least 12 Christmas Bird Counts in West River SD and Black Hills of Wyoming, 9 of which are official counts, that contribute data to the NAS data base and 3 unofficial counts that don't contribute data to the national data base.

What are Christmas Bird Counts (CBC)?

Each Christmas season tens of thousands of volunteers will count and record each individual bird and bird species they encounter during one calendar day, within a 15 mile diameter circle. The results are compiled into the longest running database in ornithology, representing over a century of unbroken data on trends of early-winter bird populations across the Americas. The censuses provide valuable data about the number of bird species and numbers of each species occurring within set geographic areas on an early winter day.

Last year's count shattered records. A total of 2,215 counts and 62,624 people tallied over 60 million birds. Counts took place in all 50 states, all Canadian provinces, plus 107 count circles in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands. The first ever CBC tally was submitted from Haiti, where the count circle is located at Les Cayes, the birthplace of John James Audubon.

Note to Potential First-timers: Christmas Bird Counts are open to birders of all skill levels. While there is a specific methodology to the CBC and you need to count birds within an existing Christmas Bird Count circle, everyone can participate! If you are a beginning birder, on most counts you will be able to join a group that includes at least one experienced birdwatcher. Feeder watchers and backyard watchers are needed too.

What to bring?

Participants should bring lunch, drinking water, warm clothing and footwear. Binoculars, field guides and spotting scopes are suggested, for those who have them.

A five-dollar fee is paid by adult field participants on official counts and forwarded to the National Audubon Society (NAS). Feeder watchers do not need to pay the fee, and all observers 18 and under may count for free. These fees help to cover the costs of generating materials for Compilers, producing an annual CBC summary issue, and maintaining the CBC website and database.

Rapid City, Sturgis, Piedmont, Bison, Pierre, Shadehill Reservoir, Sundance, Badlands and Spearfish CBC are official Christmas Bird Counts, that send their count's data into the NAS database, contributing to the vast data base and thus request \$5 donation of participants. Hot Springs, Pine Ridge and Wind Cave are not official counts and do not request a fee.

For more information on each count:

Below we list the actual counts in Western SD and Black Hills of Wyoming. We give you some more details on some counts and the compilers name and contact info. Please contact him/her for more information about the count.

We have also included a list of counts in eastern SD and NE Wyoming. We include a few of the counts in North Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska, which are near SD.

INTERNET REFERENCES

Nationwide (all states):

<http://www.audubon.org/newsroom/press-rooms/christmas-bird-count-press-room>

<http://birds.audubon.org/get-involved-christmas-bird-count>

<https://netapp.audubon.org/cbcregistration/>

South Dakota:

<http://www.homepages.dsu.edu/palmerj/SDOU/>

Wyoming

<http://murieaudubon.org>

Nebraska:

<http://www.noubirds.org/Activities/CBC.aspx>

North Dakota

<http://www.ndbirdingsociety.com/>

ACTUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS (CBCs)

112th CBC Season, December 14th 2011 - January 5th 2011

WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA AND BLACK HILLS OF WYOMING COUNTS

BISON, SD, -- Date TBA

Pat will have a CBC, but has not yet picked the date, contact him for details.

Pat Dinkins, 605- 244-5632, trapperpat@sdplains.com,

PINE RIDGE RESERVATION, SD, -- Date TBA

Doris is planning the first CBC on the Reservation, but has not yet picked the date, Help launch a new CBC in western SD; contact Doris for details. Doris Respects Nothing, 605-407-6501, dorisrespectsnothing@yahoo.com

SHADEHILL, SD - Wednesday 14th of December 2011

Meet at store in Shadehill store along SD 73 (i.e. the Summerville Store) at 7:30 am. Dan Svingen, wk: (701) 250-4443 ext. 107, cell phone 701-214-8286, dsvingen@fs.fed.us,

HOT SPRINGS, SD - Saturday, 17th, December 2011

Meet at the "Chuckwagon" fast food restaurant (that used to be HARDEE's) at the junction of Hwy 18 and 385 at 7:30 am. Count off at Hot Springs Pizza Hut 5:00 pm, Duane Weber - (605)

673-2032, duane_weber@nps.gov

PIERRE, SD - Saturday, 17th December 2011

CBC organizational meeting, Thurs. the 15th at 7:30 PM in the Science Room at First United Methodist Church. Sat eve meet at Perkins restaurant in Fort Pierre after 5:00 PM to turn in results, Doug Backlund, (605) 280-6642, dougback@wildphotosphotography.com.

STURGIS, SD - - Saturday, 17th, December 2011

(Bad weather alternate is - Dec 19th) Meet at the McDonalds in Sturgis, at 7:30 AM. A compilation potluck at the home of Vic/Donna Fondy, 12067 Crook City Rd, Whitewood, SD after count. Vic Fondy - (605) 269-2553, vicdonna@mato.com,

RAPID CITY, SD - Sunday, 18th December 2011

Count off meet is at QDoba's Mexican in Baken Park at 5 pm Michael Melius - (605) 255-4766, mmmelius@hotmail.com

SUNDANCE, WY - Sunday, 18th December 2011

Meet at the Rapid Stop Conoco Service Station, at the West end of Sundance. Will 7:30 AM and leave to do our counts at 8am, Jennifer Adams - (307) 283-2467, jgwindson@rangeweb.net,

WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK, SD - Sunday, 18th December 2011,

Meet at Park Visitor Center 8 am, ending time app. 4:15 pm for Pot Luck Supper and sharing of the day's findings. Dan Roddy - (605) 745-1157 or Barbara Muenchau (745-1150), dan_rodny@nps.gov, Barbara_Muenchau@nps.gov

PIEDMONT, SD -Thursday, 22rd December 2011

(The severe weather alternate date is Tuesday, 12/27)

BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK, SD - Wednesday, 28th December 2011

Severe weather alternate - either Jan. 3rd, or 4th, 2012, Meet at Ben Reifel Visitor Center at 8:00 am, for route assignments Jocelyn Baker osprey@midco.net, 388-0949 Nancy Drilling nancy.drilling@rmbo.org, 605-791-0459, cell: 970-222-5884, Eddie_Childers@nps.gov, office: 605.433.5263, 605.391.3680 (cell)

SPEARFISH, SD - Sunday, January 1st, 2011.

Meet at McDonalds at 7:30 AM for area assignments. Daniel Bjerke (605) 348-6835, bjerkkad1@rap.midco.net

EAST RIVER, SOUTH DAKOTA CBC DATES

Christmas bird counts are also planned in East River SD. These locations will have counts:

Huron, (Dec. 14th), Contact Brent Jamison, (605) 352-5894 Ext. 14, Brent_Jamison@fws.gov

Waubay N.W.R., (Dec. 14th) - Contact Laura Hubers (605) 947-4521 Ext. 116,

Laura_Hubers@fws.gov

Madison, (Dec 15th), Contact Jeffrey S. Palmer (605) 256-5190, jeff.palmer@dsu.edu

Brookings, (Dec. 17th), Contact Nelda Holden, (605) 692-8278, neldaholden@hotmail.com

Sioux Falls, (Dec 17th), Contact Todd Jensen, 605-431-2442, gyrfalcon@midco.net,

Yankton, (Dec. 18th), Contact Roger Dietrich, (605) 665-7240, (605) 660-6247, rogerd@iw.net

Sand Lake N.W.R., (Dec 21th), Contact Bill Schultze (605) 885-6320 Ext. 23,
William_Schultze@fws.gov

Canton, (Dec. 31st), Contact Todd Jensen, 605-431-2442, gyrfalcon@midco.net,

Lake Andes, (Jan 4th) - Contact Ed Rodriguez (605) 481 -1299 or (605) 487-7603,
Edward_Rodriguez@fws.gov

NORTH EAST WYOMING CBC DATES

Christmas bird counts are also planned NE Wyoming. These locations will have counts:

Kane, WY, (Dec. 17th), Contact Neil and Jennifer Miller at 568-9346 (njmiller@tctwest.net.)

Sheridan, WY, (Dec. 17th), Helen Moriarity, 307-750-2225, hiedi@vcn.com

Buffalo, WY, (Dec 18th), Contact Deane Bjerke at 307-684-2798, dbjerke@bresnan.net

Casper, WY, (Dec. 17th), contact Stacey Scott - hustace@gmail.com or
Chris Michelson, 307-234-8726, michelsonce@aol.com

Sundance, WY, (Dec 18th), Contact Jen or Jean at 307-283-2467, ravenssong@rangeweb.net

Guernsey/Ft. Laramie, WY, (Dec 18th) Contact Jane Dorn, 307-640-4002.
linglebird@yahoo.com

Story/Bighorn WY, (Dec 31st) Contact Jean Daly at 307-674-9728,

Gillette, WY, (Dec 28th), Contact Dustin Downey ddowney@audubon.org, 307-756-3941, cell
504-453-4124

SOME CBC DATES NEAR SD BUT IN OTHER NEARBY STATES:

Christmas bird counts that are near enough that SD folks may be interested in:

NEBRASKA

Ponca State Park, (Dec 14th), NE, Bill Huser (402) 494-1657, beehive@longlines.com

Scottsbluff, NE, (Dec. 17th), Alice Kenitz, , 308-436-2959, akenitz@prairieweb.com

Crawford, NE, (Jan. 2nd), Bruce Walgren, 307-234-7455, Piranga@bresnan.net

Harrison, NE (Jan. 3rd), Bruce Walgren, 307-234-7455, Piranga@bresnan.net

Lake McConaughy, NE , (?), Stephen J. Dinsmore, cootjr@iastate.edu

IOWA

Sioux City, IA, (Dec. 17th), Jerry Probst, (712) 258-1296, probstsuebee@aol.com

NORTH DAKOTA

Medora, ND, (Dec 18th), Call Linda Morton at 701-623-4730 ext 3418 or Valerie Naylor at 701-623-4466, Valerie_Naylor@nps.gov.

Theodore Roosevelt N.P., ND, (north unit), (Dec 19th), Valerie Naylor at 701-623-4466, Valerie_Naylor@nps.gov