

ANNOUNCING THE 110th 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 December 14th 2009 to January 5th, 2010.

There will be at least 11 Christmas Bird Counts in West River SD and Black Hills of Wyoming, 8 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 CBC diameter circle. There were 2,124 official counts held during last year's Christmas Bird Count season. That includes all counts in the US, Canada, Latin America, the Caribbean, Bermuda, and Pacific Islands. Last year was also the first-ever CBC in Antarctica. This is an all-day census of early-winter bird populations. 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.

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, Gillette 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, Badlands and Wind Cave usually 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 the compilers name and contact info. Please contact him/her for more

information about the count.

ACTUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS (CBCs)

The 110th CBC field season, December 14th 2009 to January 5th 2010

SD CBC WITH DATE PENDING

BISON, SD, ??? Date not chosen

Pat will have a CBC, but has not yet picked the date, contact him for details. Pat Dinkins, - 605- 244-5632, trapperpat@sdplains.com

SD AND SOME NE WYO. CBC THAT WE DO HAVE DATES FOR:

WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK, SD - Sunday, 13th December 2009,

Meet at Park Visitor Center 8 am, and Pot Luck Supper 4:15pm, at the VIP center.

Dan Roddy - (605) 745-1157 or Barbara Muenchau (745-1150), dan_rodny@nps.gov,

Barbara.Muenchau@nps.gov, Count already occurred summary is available

SHADEHILL, SD - Wednesday 16th of December 2009

Meet at store in Shadehill at 7:30 am. Dan Svingen (701) 250-4443 ext. 107
dsvingen@fs.fed.us,

BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK, SD - Thursday, 17th December 2009

Meet at Ben Reifel Visitor Center at 8:00 am, Eddie Childers - 605-433-5263 (w) or 605-391-3680 (cell), Eddie_Childers@nps.gov,

HOT SPRINGS, SD -Saturday 19th, December 2009

Meet at the fast food restaurant (that used to be HARDEE's) "Chuckwagon" at the junction of Hwy 18 and 385 at 7:30 am. Duane Weber - (605) 673-2032,
duane_weber@nps.gov

STURGIS, SD - Saturday, 19th December 2009.

(Bad weather alternate is - Dec 29th) Meet at 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,

PIERRE, SD - Saturday, 19th December 2009

Organizational meeting is on Thurs Dec 17th, at 7:30 pm, First United Methodist Church, Doug Backlund - (605) 773-4345 (wk), doug.backlund@state.sd.us,

RAPID CITY, SD - Sunday, 20th December 2009

(Bad weather alternate is ?) Michael Melius - (605) 255-4766,

mmmelius@hotmail.com

PIEDMONT, SD - Monday, 21st December 2009

(The severe weather alternate date is Wednesday, 30th), Addison Ball - (605) 787-4311, n_a_b@ieee.org

SUNDANCE, WY - Saturday, January 2nd, 2010

Meet at the Rapid Stop Conoco station in West Sundance at 7:30 am, (Take exit 149 off I90), A potluck Lasagna dinner at Jen & Jean's house after count - 4:30. After dinner, an evening owl count may be an option. Jennifer Adams - (307) 283-2467, jgwindsong@rangeweb.net,

SPEARFISH, SD - Sunday, January 3rd, 2010.

Meet at McDonalds at 7:30 AM for area assignments. Daniel Bjerke (605) 348-6835, bjerkekad@yahoo.com

GILETTE, WY, - Sunday, January 3rd, 2010,

Meet at Perkins (Hwy 59) @ 7a.m., for area assignments., Mark Winland, mwinland@ccsd.k12.wy.us, (307) 689-8452,

EAST RIVER, SD DATES

- Christmas bird counts are also planned in East River SD. These locations will have a counts: Huron (Dec. 15th), Waubay N.W.R. (Dec. 16th), and Madison (Dec 17th). Brookings (Dec 19th.), Sioux Falls (Dec 19th), Yankton (Dec 20th) Lake Andes (Jan 4th,) Sand Lake N.W.R. (?) and Aberdeen, (?) may have counts, but we don't know dates. Visit web sites below for more details

OTHER NORTH EAST WYOMING DATES

Christmas bird counts are also planned NE Wyoming. These locations will have counts: Casper (12/19), Sheridan 12/19, Buffalo 12/20, Story/Bighorn 12/27, Guernsey/Ft. Laramie, 1/2, Visit Wyoming Audubon's web site for more details on these and other Wyoming CBCs.

For more information on all CBCs nationwide

<http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc>

<http://app.audubon.org/cbcapp/findCircles.jsp>

<http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/getinvolved.html>

http://www.audubon.org/news/pressroom/cbc/CBC_PressRelease2009-2010.html

For more info on CBCs in SD visit SD Ornithologist Union's web page;

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

For more info on CBCs in Wyoming visit Audubon Wyoming:

http://www.audubonwyoming.org/BirdSci_CBC.html

For info on some SD & NE Wyoming counts:

<http://www.phas-wsd.org>