

Help Sought for Audubon Christmas Bird Counts

Redwood Region Audubon Society (RRAS) is sponsoring 5 local Christmas Bird Counts between December 17 and January 4. The counts are part of the 112th count that involves over 50,000 observers—most of them amateurs—throughout the U.S. and the world.

Visit www.rras.org/cbc/cbc_full_extent.htm to view maps of the local count circles imposed over major streets and roads. Such boundary delineations will let you know whether your property lies within a count area.

Ways you can participate

1. Give counters access to your property.
2. Keep a list of birds that you see in your yard on that day (be a “feederwatcher”).
3. Join a team to cover a territory near your home. (New birders are paired with veterans, so you don’t have to be an expert.)

All are welcome. Call the contacts listed below to participate at any level.

Arcata: Saturday, Dec. 17, Daryl Coldren (916-384-8089;

QuiAvisPetit@aol.com). The count circle is centered on Arcata, stretching north to McKinleyville south of Murray Road, west to Samoa and Manila, east to Bayside up to the Baywood Golf Course, and south including Freshwater and to Eureka along the waterfront to Bayshore Mall. Compilation at Rita's Mexican Restaurant (banquet room), 1134 5th Street, Eureka, beginning at 6 p.m.

Del Norte: Sunday, Dec. 18, Alan Barron (707-465-8904;

flockfinder@yahoo.com) or Gary Lester (707-839-3373; garys.lester@gmail.com). The count circle includes Crescent City, Smith River, Fort Dick, Lake Earl, Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park/Redwood National Park, and the western portion of the Smith River National Recreation Area. Compilation at Pizza King in Crescent City beginning at 4:30-5 p.m.; morning start at Denny’s in Crescent City at 7 a.m.

Willow Creek: Friday, Dec. 23, contact Gary Lester (see Del Norte).

The count circle, centered on Willow Creek, includes Horse Mountain, portions of the South Fork & Main Stem of the Trinity River, the small community of Salyer, and the southern Hoopa Valley.

Centerville: Sunday, Jan. 1, Gary Lester (see Del Norte CBC).

The count circle is centered on Loleta, divided into geographic sectors of (1) Fields Landing, King Salmon, College of the Redwoods; (2) Table Bluff; (3) Loleta; (4) Fortuna; (5) Ferndale; (6) Centerville Road; (7) Port Kenyon Road; (8) Grizzly Bluff Road; (9) South Spit; (10) Centerville Beach; (11) Elk River Valley; (12) Humboldt Hill; and (13) Salt River.

Tall Trees: Wednesday, Jan. 4, Ken Burton (707-499-1146;

shrikethree@gmail.com). A new count circle between Big Lagoon and Orick, inland to Lyon’s Ranch in Redwood National Park.

To help counters prepare for identifying the birds they see, RRAS is sponsoring a brush-up session on Friday, Dec. 9. Biologist Ken Burton will review expected birds. The evening begins with a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m., followed by the lecture at 7:30 p.m. Bring a dish to share (and a mug and place setting, if possible); drinks provided. Location is the Humboldt County Office of Education at Myrtle and West Avenues in Eureka.