

## **2024 Audubon Christmas Bird Count, All Volunteers Welcome, Please Sign Up**

Save **Saturday, December 14, 2024** on your calendar for the Billings 2024 Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The CBC is long term citizen science started in 1900 by National Audubon, and conducted in Billings for the first time about 1940. Every count area is a circle of 7.5 mile radius. Ours is centered on the Billings Par Pacific Refinery, formerly Exxon. The extent of the circle area reaches the Huntley bridge across the Yellowstone River on HWY 312, to six miles north of HWY 312 on HWY 87 N, the east edge of Zimmerman Park, Rehberg and Grand, King Ave West and South 24th St West, ¼ mile West of Norm Schoenthal's Island, Blue Creek Road at Briarwood Golf Club, HWY 87 S at Pryor Road, I-90 at Pryor Creek Road, and back to Huntley, including Lockwood, Billings Heights, and the close in part of west Billings.

This year we will plan (optional) to meet for breakfast from 7:00 – 8:00am at Perkins, 825 N 27th St, and meet about 5:00 pm at the Montana Audubon Center, 7026 S Billings Blvd, for free food provided by Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society (YVAS), to compile the species observed.

Each person will be assigned to an area with specific boundaries and a leader by the count organizer/compiler. Maps and recording sheets will be distributed at breakfast or in advance to group leader. Birders will walk and/or drive to count the number of birds of each species observed. Please return results of the count to the Montana Audubon Center around 5:00pm on count day or to the compiler as soon as possible afterward.

**Feeder watchers** are also needed on count day, December 14. Birders living in the count circle can tally and report the species and numbers of birds they see at their feeders and/or from their home. You may be the lucky one to add a species to the count total. More feeder watchers would be welcome.

Please contact one of the count organizers well before December 14. Let them know you want to help.

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