

Help Count Birds for Science during Audubon's 119th Annual Christmas Bird Count
Join thousands of participants will be part of the world's longest-running wildlife census, which contributes invaluable data to bird population research.

Nunn, Colorado (11/6/2018) –The Friends of the Pawnee National Grassland and National Audubon Society invites birdwatchers to participate in the longest-running community science survey, the annual [Audubon Christmas Bird Count](#) (CBC). On December 22, 2018 (Saturday), birders and nature enthusiasts in Nunn, Colorado will take part in this tradition, many rising before dawn to participate.

Gary Lefko said “The Friends of the Pawnee National Grassland is the new compiler for our 52nd year of the Nunn Christmas Bird Count. It’s an exciting time for us and a chance for us to contribute to science.” Throughout the years close to 70 bird species have been counted—one year over 8,000 individual birds were counted! You’ll definitely get to see the nomads of the prairie-Horned Lark and may get to see (or hear) our winter visitors from the north-the Lapland Longspur. Birds of prey are a favorite on this count! It’s a fantastic time to take a break from the frenzy of the Christmas holiday and enjoy the peace and solitude of the Pawnee National Grassland by counting birds while supporting science of the National Audubon Society.

This year, the Audubon Christmas Bird Count will mobilize over 72,000 volunteer bird counters in more than 2,500 locations across the Western Hemisphere. The Audubon Christmas Bird Count utilizes the power of volunteers to track the health of bird populations at a scale that scientists could never accomplish alone. Data compiled in Nunn, Colorado will record every individual bird and bird species seen in a specified area, contributing to a vast community science network that continues a tradition stretching back more than 100 years.

“The Christmas Bird Count is a tradition that everyone can participate in,” said Geoff LeBaron, Audubon’s Christmas Bird Count Director. “Adding observations to more than a century of data helps scientists and conservationists discover trends that make our work more impactful. Participating in the Christmas Bird Count is a fun tradition for anyone and everyone.”

To date over 300 peer-reviewed articles have resulted from analysis done with Christmas Bird Count data. Bird-related community science efforts are also critical to understanding how birds are responding to a changing climate. This documentation is what enabled Audubon scientists to discover that 314 species of North American birds are threatened by global warming as reported in Audubon’s groundbreaking [Birds and Climate Change Study](#). The tradition of counting birds combined with modern technology and mapping is enabling researchers to make discoveries that were not possible in earlier decades.

Birders of all ages are welcome to contribute to this fun, nationwide community science project, which provides ornithologists with a crucial snapshot of our native bird populations during the winter months. Each individual count is performed in a count circle with a diameter of 15 miles. At least ten volunteers, including a compiler to coordinate the process, count in each circle. The volunteers break up into small parties and follow assigned routes, which change little from year to year, counting every bird they see. In most count circles, some people also watch feeders instead of following routes.

To sign up for the Nunn Christmas Bird Count, please visit/contact Friends of the Pawnee National Grassland, Gary Lefko aka the “Nunn Guy”, at coloradobirder@yahoo.com and be sure to visit <http://www.friendsofthepawneegrassland.org/> for more details.

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count began in 1900 when Dr. Frank Chapman, founder of *Bird-Lore* – which evolved into *Audubon* magazine – suggested an alternative to the holiday “side hunt,” in which teams competed to see who could shoot the most birds. 118 years of counting birds is a long time, but the program somehow brings out the best in people, and they stay involved for the long run. And so the tradition continues.

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count is a community science project organized by the National Audubon Society. There is no fee to participate and the quarterly report, [American Birds](#), is available online. Counts are open to birders of all skill levels and [Audubon’s free Bird Guide app](#) makes it even easier to learn more. For more information and to find a count near you visit www.christmasbirdcount.org.

About Friends of Pawnee National Grassland

We are dedicated to partnering, educating, inspiring, and engaging all people of Colorado in our shared commitment of preserving, protecting, and enriching the natural grandeur and absolute uniqueness of the Pawnee National Grassland ensuring sustainable ecoservices while providing exceptional recreational and wellbeing opportunities for the enjoyment of all generations. Learn more at www.friendsofthepawneegrassland.org

About Audubon

The National Audubon Society protects birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow, throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education and on-the-ground conservation. Audubon’s state programs, nature centers, chapters and partners have an unparalleled wingspan that reaches millions of people each year to inform, inspire and unite diverse communities in conservation action. Since 1905, Audubon’s vision has been a world in which people and wildlife thrive. Audubon is a nonprofit conservation organization. Learn more at www.audubon.org and @audubonsociety.

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