



## Christmas Bird Count Scheduled for Indianapolis

Whether you are a first time birdwatcher or an experienced pro, your help is needed during the 113<sup>th</sup> annual National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count (CBC) scheduled for Saturday, December 15, 2012.

Nationwide, over 2,000 Christmas Bird Counts are conducted during the holiday season and they have provided an enormous contribution to conservation for over 100 years. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations - and to help guide conservation action.

The Indianapolis count takes place within a 15-mile diameter circle covering the northeast side of Indianapolis with the center being in Fort Harrison State Park.

If you are a beginning birder, you will be able to join a group that includes at least one experienced birdwatcher. In addition, if your home is within the boundaries of the Count Circle, then you can stay home and report the birds that visit your feeder once you have arranged to do so with the Count Compiler.

**The most exciting news for this year is that CBC is now a free program!** Audubon will no longer charge the traditional \$5.00 fee of field participants.

**To participate in the Christmas Bird Count, registrations should be made prior to December 12** so that birding teams can be formed and count plans made in advance of the count. Reserve your spot by calling John Schaust at 317-208-4021 or emailing: [schaust@gmail.com](mailto:schaust@gmail.com)

Amos W. Butler Audubon has again joined with the Crossroads Council of the Boy Scouts of America to host this year's CBC at the Golden-Burke Scout Center on the northeast corner of Fall Creek Road and North Shadeland Avenue. A **Bird Study Merit Badge** class will also be held there on the morning of the Christmas Bird Count. Scouts can learn more or reserve their spot by contacting Amanda Gower at [volunteer@crossroadsbsa.org](mailto:volunteer@crossroadsbsa.org) or 317-813-7116.

A **pitch-in lunch** for all of the participants will also be held at the Scout Center at noon to go over list of birds seen and to reorganize groups to head back outside in the afternoon to cover additional areas if needed.

General information about the National Audubon Society and the Annual Christmas Bird Count can be found at [www.audubon.org/bird/cbc](http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc).