



December 17, 2018

Dear Field Counter(s):

The Kenny Lake Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is coming up fast: **Saturday, December 22--unless it is extremely cold**, in which case we will postpone and hope for a better day. If we do decide to postpone, an email message will go out by 9 am on the 17th, and for those of you without email at home, there will be a message on the WISE answering machine (822-3575). ***If there is no message to the contrary, the count is on.***

SCHEDULE:

Wed, Dec. 19: Start of Count Week. Note any species you see in the Count Circle between now and December 20. If we miss a species on Count Day but see it on Count Week, that's better than nothing.

Sat., Dec. 22: Count Day. Do your best to start at first light (generally the best time for birds). Afterward, bring your count form and join your fellow birders over a hot drink at the Kenny Lake Library at dusk (3:45-ish) to tally the identified birds. If you can't be there, please mail or email your count form to WISE.

Tue., Dec. 25: End of Count Week. Please call Robin if you saw any species that we missed on Count Day.

STUFF TO REMEMBER:

- If you haven't done so already, please contact Robin at the WISE office (robin@wise-edu.org, 822-3575 and **sign up for a count area or route**.
- **Please document any rare bird** (generally, one that isn't on the tally sheet) by filling out the Rare Bird documentation form, right there and then. Photos are helpful but not required.
- **Go slow.** You'll see and hear a lot more on foot, snowshoes or skis than from a car. When you do drive, do so slowly enough that you can scan roadside fields, trees, power poles, and the sky.
- **Please spend as much time as you can.** Audubon asks us to be out from dawn to dusk, if possible.
- Record **one-way distances** but **round-trip times**.
- If you know of **feeders** without feeder counters on your route, please do include what you see there on your field count form. Try to get advance permission.
- It can help to do a quick **review** of birds you might see. In addition to field guides, there is the Audubon online guide, where you can search for a bird, see several different views of it, and listen to its songs and calls: <http://www.audubon.org/bird-guide>
- Try "**owling**" (listening for owls) before dawn and after dark.

Thank you, and have a great day afield!