

FORT COLLINS CBC 12/16/06 GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS & INFORMATION

Thank you for participating in the Fort Collins Christmas Bird Count. This packet contains General Instructions & Information, Data Form, Rare Bird Form, and guidelines on Cackling and Canada Goose identification.

Compilers – Please direct questions on any aspect of the CBC to our compilers: Nick Komar and Sue Riffe (Nick, quetzal65@comcast.net; 970-416-7527-h, 970-221-6496-w, 970-567-4970-cell; Sue, sheflew2@comcast.net; 970-232-4539).

Compilation Dinner – The CBC final tally and dinner will be held from 6-9 pm (We'll try to finish by 8:30 pm) at the conference room of the National Seed Storage Lab, 1111 S. Mason St., on the CSU campus. The tally for each species will be projected on a screen, and compared with recent years' results. FCAS will supply dinner (thanks, FCAS!). **In order to supply enough food, we will need a head count by Dec. 15.** Please let Sue know how many from your team will attend. Guests are welcome as long as they also give advance warning. Directions to the Seed Lab are posted at <http://www.fortnet.org/Audubon/images/MapSeedStorage.jpg>.

Record on your final data sheet –

1. Start and end times
2. Totals of all species, and subspecies of juncos if identified
3. For birds that you feel may be double-counted by adjacent sectors, take note of the time of day and plumage or flock details, and consult with other team leaders prior to reporting.
4. Number miles walked, miles in car, hours walking, hours birding from car. Record miles to nearest ¼ mile; hours to nearest ¼ hour. If your team splits up far enough to be counting separate birds, then sum each party's mileage and hours. Exclude time taken for breaks. Stop recording car mileage when you stop counting.

*******Each team's data must be submitted at the compilation dinner Saturday evening.*******

No Fees – FCAS will pay all participant fees this year as part of their sponsorship of this event! Participants will receive a copy of the national CBC report from National Audubon Society unless they opt out. We need new participants' contact information (including address, phone, and email). Please enter these addresses directly on our computer at the compilation dinner.

Owling - Contact the compilers to coordinate owling territories or to join an owling team.

Waterfowl – Waterfowl (in particular, geese) move around least during the middle of the day. Please make an effort to **count waterfowl during the period from 11:00am to 2:00pm**. Otherwise, use your best judgment for including waterfowl observed in your counts.

Rare Birds – Rare birds must be described on the form included and submitted to the compilers. Photographs of rarities are especially helpful for documentation. Consult compilers if you have questions, even on count day.

Natural Areas Permit – You will need a permit on your person if you go off trail at all in a designated Fort Collins Natural Area. Going off trail is **STRONGLY DISCOURAGED** and should be done **ONLY** when you've detected birds you cannot properly identify or count. We will attempt to obtain a permit this week.

Feeder Watch – Collect data (including number of hours counting feeder birds) from feeder watchers in your section separately.