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48th Christmas Bird Count – Evergreen Audubon

2-3 minutes

On Sunday, Dec. 18, Evergreen Audubon will conduct the 48th Christmas Bird Count for the Evergreen/Idaho Springs area.

On that day we will head out in small groups to find as many species and individual birds as we can in a 15 mile diameter circle that extends from Robinson Hill Road (north of I-70) to just south of the Brook Forest Inn; and from near Echo Lake on the west to the bottom of Kerr Gulch on the eastern side. Folks of all abilities and ages are encouraged to participate by joining one of our fifteen groups for all, or part, of the day.

If getting outside seems a bit daunting in mid-December, we also need people to stay at home and count the birds that come to their feeders. Barbara Jean Gard is coordinating the feeder counters again this year, and feeder count forms are available when you sign up to help.

Each year we seem to have several interesting stories that emerge from our day in the field. In 2014 it snowed all day and drove large numbers of Pine Grosbeaks and Cassin's Finches down from the higher elevations. In 2015 we had gloriously mild

weather allowing us to record almost 2000 more individual birds than the prior year, and to set a new record of 57 species.

As usual, this year we will continue to pay special attention to the Mountain Chickadees and Pygmy Nuthatches in the hope that we can retain our global dominance with high counts for those two species.

After a full day of counting birds, participants are invited to one of Evergreen Audubon's premier events of the year – **The Tally Rally**. This is a traditional pot-luck supper, where we share our findings and adventures of the day. This year's hosts are again David and Lisa Wald, who have made their home available for the occasion.

Please attend Evergreen Audubon's Dec. 1 meeting where you can learn more about the Christmas Bird Count, practice identifying some birds, and also sign up to bring a dish to the potluck.

Sign up to participate through our Sign-Up Genius page at:
www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F084EABAA22A2FE3-christmas