

The Christmas Bird Count

The Project:

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count is an early winter snapshot of bird populations. It is the nation's longest-running citizen science survey, providing critical data on bird population trends. The count started in 1900 and has grown to include many locations in the Western Hemisphere. Each count is done in a 15-mile diameter circle. There are now over 2,600 count circles! Counts must be scheduled on one day between December 14 and January 5.

We identify and count all birds seen or heard. Our Hilton Head count circle includes all of Hilton Head, Pinckney and Daufuskie Islands, our waterways and parts of Bluffton out to Palmetto Bluff and Colleton River Club. We have 21 Area Captains who lead the teams. We usually have more than 300 participants, among the highest numbers of all of the counts. We average counting 135 species and about 27,000 birds!

How to Participate:

The next Hilton Head count is **Friday, December 15, 2023.**

Field teams may include two to four birders of various levels of experience, a photographer and a record keeper. The teams count in the same areas each year. Feeder watchers count from their homes. In half-hour increments, they note all of the birds seen or heard at feeders. As birds come and go, counters record the highest number of each species seen at one time to avoid over-counting.

Pre-count Meeting:

Our annual pre-count meeting is usually the week before count day at First Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall, 540 William Hilton Parkway.

The meeting starts with a social at 7:00 pm and a presentation is at 7:30 pm. We will review many of the birds we are likely to see on count day.

Check the event calendar for the date.

Contact:

If you are interested in being a part of this international effort, please e-mail Susan Murphy at HHICBC@gmail.com