

# 116<sup>th</sup> National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count

Monroe, MI - Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**A**ttention all bird lovers! Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015** and plan to join us for another “CBC” outing. This year marks the 116<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that the NAS has conducted the largest single citizen science event in the world. Your participation will help contribute to the most comprehensive, longest-running database in ornithology, which provides valuable information regarding the



distribution and abundance of early winter bird populations all over the Western Hemisphere. Whether you're a novice or the next Roger Tory Peterson, your presence will be greatly appreciated and valued.

**What is the CBC?** – It is the largest conservation effort known to mankind! Over 50,000 bird observers across the Western Hemisphere count as many species and individual birds as they can within a 24-hour period (midnight to midnight).

**Why is it important?** – The count period of mid-December to early January marks the end of the fall migration and provides an opportunity to monitor trends in early winter bird populations.

**History** – On Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman proposed a “Christmas Bird Census” as an alternative to the annual Christmas Side Hunt, where people engaged in contests to see who could shoot the most birds and bring in the largest pile of feathers. Thanks to his efforts, the first CBC was conducted by 27 birders in 25 count circles ranging from Toronto, ON to Pacific Grove, CA. Total species for the entire count = 90.

**Today** – Over 50,000 birders participate in over 1,700 counts in North, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Pacific Islands.

**Objective** – Participants try to cover as much of the circle as possible within a 24-hour period, counting individual birds and species within their assigned section. At the end of the day results are tallied and compiled into a master list, which is then sent to the national database.

**Monroe** – The count has been conducted in Monroe County for over 35 years and ESBA has hosted the count for the last 20+ years.

**Where is the Monroe Count Circle?** – The center of our count area is the junction of M-125 and Woodchuck Creek near LaSalle. The count circle is 15 miles in diameter (~177 mi<sup>2</sup>) and is divided into 8 sections.

**How do we compare?** – *In 2006, the Monroe Count produced 82 species, the highest number in the State! Each year we rank among the top 2-3 counts in terms of numbers of species and individuals.* See <http://jerryjourdan3.blogspot.com/> for the results of the 40-year study of CBC data for Monroe County.

**Cost?** – There is no longer any fee to participate: national results are no longer printed and mailed, but will be available online.

**Where do we meet afterward?** – We'll meet up at the Michigan Bar and Grill, 1140 S. Monroe Street, Monroe, 48117 (734) 243-6690 @ 5 pm. We'll tally results and have dinner (your expense). Everyone is invited, ESBA members and guests!

**Check out the map on the back of this page and contact Jerry with the requested information.**



**CONTACT INFO:** Please mail the enclosed postcard to RSVP by December 1<sup>st</sup> to Jerry Jourdan, 26340 Higgins Way, Brownstown Twp., MI 48134 or simply call (734) 552-6914 or email [jourdaj@gmail.com](mailto:jourdaj@gmail.com)

**Please Note:** If you were an area leader last year, let Jerry know if you can repeat this year.

**Also Note:** *If you find yourself available to participate at the last minute, don't hesitate to call Jerry; he'll be happy to add you to a team!*