



Audubon

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Dear Christmas Bird Count Participant:

Thank you for your contribution to Audubon's 111th Christmas Bird Count. The current edition of *American Birds* includes the latest CBC findings, but only hints at the true conservation value of this longest-running wildlife census. The dedicated efforts of CBC participants like you enable Audubon to compile one of the world's most extensive databases of bird population trends.

The term "crowd-sourcing" didn't exist when Frank Chapman led the first count in 1900, but Audubon had already cornered the concept: enlist a community of people with the knowledge and passion to provide what no organization alone can. The data you and your fellow CBCers, from the Arctic to the Andes, gather each year provides a foundation for development of sound conservation strategies. I like to call it "crowdscience" because so many citizen scientists have contributed for so many decades.

Your work reveals how climate disruption is affecting birds and is helping Audubon to predict and address its future impacts. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is following the trend by using CBC data as one of four major indicators of climate impacts. Together with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, our collaborative efforts ensure the latest information on bird population trends will drive important changes in national conservation policy. CBC is the backbone of scores of peer reviewed studies, state and local conservation plans, and headline-making news. When Audubon's 2009 Birds & Climate Change Report revealed that many species in North America shifted their ranges north on an average of one mile a year because of warming temperatures, Katie Couric featured it on the CBS Evening News. CBC inspired Congress to pass vital legislation such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act that benefits species across the Western hemisphere.

The CBC is a ready and waiting database that tells us what the birds are doing during the non-breeding season and that allows us to look at what birds are doing in all of the flyways/wide range of geographic areas across the continent and Western hemisphere.

In short, your dedicated winter counting is at the core of Audubon's role as America's leading advocate for birds. Discover more about what we do year round by signing up for updates from Audubon at www.audubonaction.org/wingspan.

We are gratified that you are a part of the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, and hope you will join us again this December for the 112th CBC.

Sincerely,

David Yarnold
President & CEO