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Take Part in a 120-year Birding Tradition on December 15

MEDIA NOTICE - EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Sharon, Conn. — November 27, 2019 — Join Audubon and fellow bird-lovers for a wonderful and impactful birding tradition! Each year for the last 120 years, small groups of birders have ventured out for the sole purpose of counting birds during the Christmas Bird Count (CBC).

Sharon Audubon Center's free CBC event, known as the Trixie Strauss Christmas Bird Count, will take place on Sunday, December 15, 2019. It is a 24-hour count period (from 12:01 a.m. to midnight) with most of the birding taking place from sunrise to sunset. The count area is a 15-mile circle (with its center at The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Connecticut), which encompasses some excellent birding areas in Sharon, Salisbury, and Falls Village, Connecticut as well as Amenia and North East, New York.

Teams and individuals from all over the state and all over the country (and even Canada) take part in the CBC, and all of the numbers are compiled and reported to help better understand what birds are doing in the winter. You don't have to be an expert birder to enjoy CBC—it's for everyone!

And, if it's cold outside, you don't even have to get out of the car or leave the house! "Feeder watchers" as well as counts taken before sunrise and after sunset (don't forget to listen for those shifty owls!) are also always appreciated, even if you can only count for one hour. Simply give your numbers to our compiler Zach Adams right after the 24-hour count period and your data will be included in the overall Christmas Bird Count report.

At approximately 5 p.m., the Trixie Strauss Christmas Bird Count teams will congregate at the Sharon Audubon Center to turn in their data, enjoy some hot food and drinks, and to determine who has the best hold on "bragging rights" for the day's finds. Even if you can't join us in the field, all are welcome to join us at the center to hear the day's results. We ask anyone who lives in the surrounding towns to fill up your bird feeders to help with our counts!

Forms for the bird feeder count may be picked up at the Sharon Audubon Center on Route 4 in Sharon, Connecticut.

For more information about the Trixie Strauss Christmas Bird Count, questions, and to find out who the "area captains" are so you can contact them to learn team meeting places and times throughout the day, email Zach Adams (our Trixie Strauss CBC compiler) at za4250@hotmail.com or call the Sharon Audubon Center at 860-364-0520.

Image Provided (for use with this announcement only): APA_2012_25444_197900_BenjaminOlson_Barred_Owl
(Required Credit: Barred Owl. Photo: Benjamin Olson / Audubon Photography Awards)

Sharon Audubon Center is an engaging nature education center with a critical Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic located in Sharon, Connecticut. We are part of the Audubon Connecticut state office of the National Audubon Society and the Atlantic Flyway, and steward a total of four Audubon nature sanctuaries that encompass 3,000 acres primarily woodland habitat in Northwestern Connecticut. Our mission is to protect birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow. Visitors are welcome to enjoy our trails, nature programs, conservation-themed events, and nature store throughout the year. Learn more at sharon.audubon.org.

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