
FRANKFORT CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT – the 117th!
It's FREE and you can count from home!
Saturday, December 17, 2015

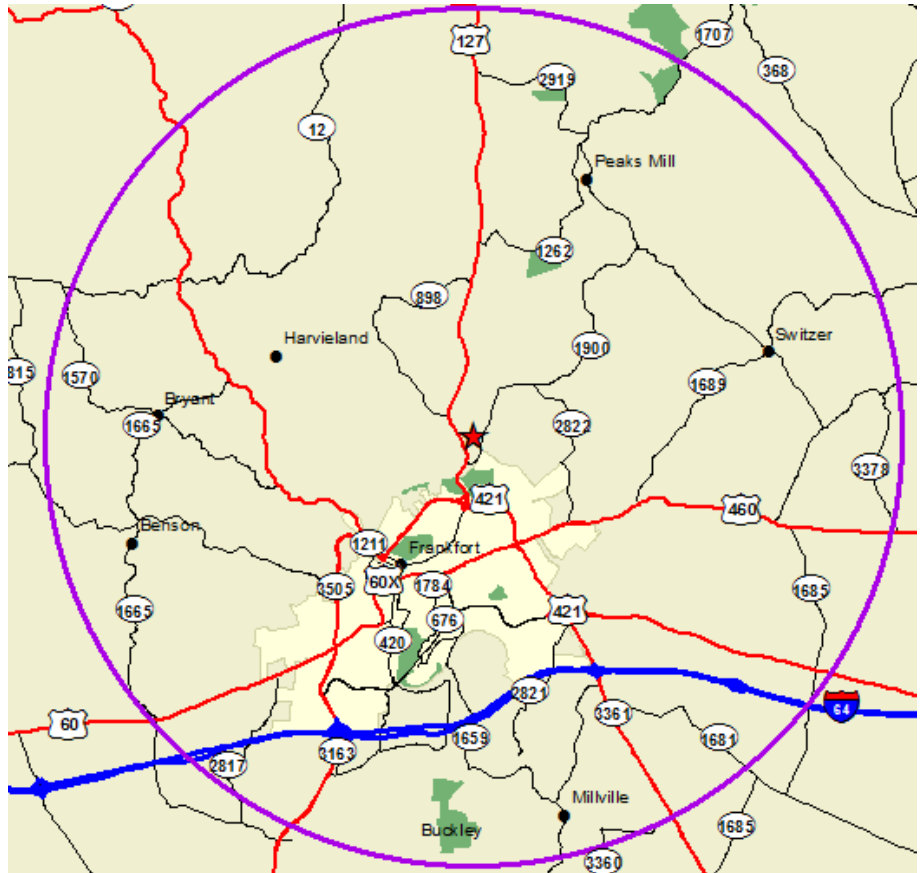
The Frankfort CBC will be conducted on Saturday Dec. 17, 2016. Last year was one of our best participant turnouts - **let's try and set a new record this year!** Feeder watchers are also encouraged to participate if they are in the count circle. The circle is a 7.5 mile radius circle around Frankfort (see to the right) or click on <http://goo.gl/sMPC01> to see a Google Map interactive version.

➔ If you are interested in participating, please contact Peggy Gould 502-320-9176 or peggyg827@aol.com. For your totals to count, you **MUST** count in our defined circle and contact Peggy ahead of time so we don't have duplicate areas counted. If you are in doubt, please ask!

➔ If you'd like to participate in a group at Buckley Wildlife Sanctuary, gather at the Nature Center at 8 AM. Please RSVP Barb@LifeAdventureCenter.org

➔ If there's bad weather, the date may be rescheduled. The Christmas Bird Count is free for all, and results are published online and summarized in the next newsletter.

If you are a beginning birder, you will be able to join a group that includes at least one experienced birdwatcher. You may see more info about this national program at <http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>.



The Kleber WMA Christmas CBC is Saturday December 31, 2016, with the Sunday, January 1, 2017 as an alternative. Contact Jeff Jones redbelly13@msn.com if you'd like to participate.

You can see a complete list of Christmas Bird Counts in Kentucky at <http://www.birdky.org/christmas-bird-counts.html>

ON THE HORIZON...

Birdsong and Coffee: A Wake Up Call. What is the connection between coffee farmers, coffee drinkers, and birds? In January we will be showing a film exploring this connection. The next newsletter will have details.

Great Backyard Bird Count February 17-20, 2016 – The GBBC is now integrated with eBird so it's easy to enter your observations. We will have some outings if you want to participate in a group. The next newsletter will have more details.

Eagle Watch Weekends available at Kentucky State Parks in January and February 2017.

Bald eagles gather around the major lakes of western Kentucky looking for food. The parks offering tours are:

- Kenlake State Resort Park (800-325-0143): Feb. 4-5 Yacht tours. Feb. 5 & 11, brunch cruises.
- Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park (800-325-0146): Jan. 21-22. Yacht tours and van tours to the Ballard Wildlife Management Area
- Lake Barkley State Resort Park (800-325-1708): Jan. 28-29. Yacht tours and van tours to the Land Between The Lakes.

Ticket prices for the weekend tours range from \$25 to \$65 a person. Call the parks for registration, details and fee information or visit www.parks.ky.gov.

Bird News: Winter Finch Forecast. Winter is coming—and with the help of Ontario ornithologist Ron Pittaway we can predict when and where the northern finches plan on showing up (see goo.gl/ZGucYf for Audubon's summary or <http://www.jeaniron.ca/2016/finchforecast16.htm>). Sadly, 2016 is looking like a slow one for the more exciting finches, such as crossbills and redpolls. It is still worth watching for red-breasted nuthatches, purple finches and pine siskins.



Looking for some gift ideas for the bird lover on your list? Well here's a few to help you out. A



few inexpensive choices under \$10 are a suet feeder with some suet cakes or a thistle feeder sack filled with thistle seed. Suet is a high calorie treat that birds need to survive the cold and is used by many species, especially woodpeckers. Goldfinches love the sacks and you may see several hanging on at one time. Wild Birds Unlimited has a variety of cute bird themed ornaments. How about a peanut feeder, many birds adore peanuts, both shelled and unshelled. They can be found for \$10 or \$15 at many places, but you may pay more at a specialty store. For about \$20 or \$25, how about a bird house or a roosting pocket? Birds survive better if they can find shelter from wind and rain in the winter. When choosing a bird house, be sure it can be opened for cleaning. There is a wide

variety of feeders with the best ones running between \$20-\$50. Bird bath heaters make great gifts and will draw in birds that may not be attracted by a feeder. However, they can be a bit pricey. They range from \$50 to over \$100. There are many businesses here in Frankfort that carry these items. Wild Birds Unlimited has the best selection and quality, but you can also find many of these items at other places such as Feeders Supply, Tractor Supply, Southern States, and Lowes. Hope you find something here to make the bird lovers on your list happy!

By Hannah Helm.

YOUR FRANKFORT AUDUBON CHAPTER 2016 TEAM LEADERS -

Robin Antenucci, President; Don Stosberg, Treasurer; Peggy Gould, CBC Coordinator; Gary Sprandel, Newsletter;

Additional Board Members –Rob Chadwick, Scott Hankla, Hannah Helm, Jessi Miller, Shawchyi Vorisek

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