



United States Department of the Interior

KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Soldotna, Alaska

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Soldotna Christmas Bird Count

DATE: Saturday December 29, 2007

TIME: Meet between 8:30am – 9:00am to obtain data forms, assemble in birding groups

LOCATION: Kaladi Bro's Coffee in Soldotna

HOURS: 9:00am – 4:00pm

COST: \$5.00 per participant (free for anyone under 18 years of age) is requested to offset cost of publication of the 108th Christmas Bird Count issue of American Birds.

Local birders from the Kenai/Soldotna area are invited to participate in the 108th Annual Christmas Bird Count to be held Saturday, December 29th, 2007.

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is an early-winter nationwide bird census, where volunteers follow specified routes through a designated 15-mile (24-km) diameter circle, counting every bird they see or hear all day. The Soldotna Christmas Bird Count originated in 1983 with the center of the 15-mile diameter circle being the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center and covering most of the Soldotna area, including a good stretch of the lower and middle Kenai River.

Participants do not have to be experts, but only have a desire to get outside and look for birds. The birding effort normally concludes at dusk (about 4 p.m.) or when weather precludes any measurable returns. Inexperienced birders will be grouped with more seasoned CBC veterans to help familiarize them with where to go and what to look for.

Each participant should dress warmly, and try to bring a good set of binoculars and a bird identification book for species most often found in Alaska. You may also want to bring a camera to document any rare or unusual sightings. Come and be part of Audubon history in the 108th CBC!

After a great day of birding, all participants are invited to submit their tally sheets and birding photos during a potluck social at 6:00pm at the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge's Environmental Education log cabin located next door to the Kenai NWR headquarters/parking lot on Ski Hill Road.

For more information, contact Liz Jozwiak at the Kenai NWR 260-2818 or Jack Sinclair at 262-7817.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 548 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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