



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

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December 8, 2011

NEW RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUBJECT: 2011 Soldotna Christmas Bird Count

The public is invited to participate in the 2011 Soldotna Christmas Bird Count to be held Saturday, December 17th. This year marks the 112th National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count, an annual, early-winter continental bird census where volunteers count the birds they see and hear during the course of the day within their local count circle.

Join us at the pre-count meeting at Kaladi Brothers Coffee Company (315 South Kobuk Avenue) in Soldotna at 9:00 a.m., to obtain forms, maps, and make teams. There is a \$5.00 fee per adult but participation is free for all those who are 18 years of age and under, or for those who are Audubon "feeder watchers". The fee supports compilation and publication of the data collected all across North America. The birding effort normally commences at first light and concludes at dusk. You don't need to be an expert birder, just bring a desire to get outside to find and record birds, a pair of binoculars, warm clothes, and a bird identification field guide if you have one. Birders work in teams designed to include a range of experience levels.

After the Count, bring your tally sheets and meet for a potluck social at 6:00 p.m. at the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge's Environmental Education Cabin, located next to the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters on Ski Hill Road in Soldotna.

Come be part of Soldotna's Christmas Bird Count! For more information, contact Toby Burke at the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, (907) 260-2816, Ken Tarbox of the Keen Eye Birders, (907) 262-7767, or Jack Sinclair the Soldotna Christmas Bird Count compiler, (907) 262-7817. For more information on the National Audubon Society and its programs, visit www.bird.audubon.org.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfws, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwshq, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq>.

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