



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Old-Growth Bottomland Forest
Research and Education Center

100 National Park Road
Hopkins, SC, 29061

Congaree National Park

(803) 776-4396 park office
(803) 783-4241 fax

Congaree News Release

Release Date: February 7, 2008
Contact(s): David C. Shelley, Education Coordinator
Phone Number: 803.776.4396 x 15

Great Backyard Bird Count 2008!

Come be a citizen scientist volunteer to help learn about birds at Congaree National Park as well as your own backyard! The 11th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>), which is sponsored by the Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, is an international effort to identify and count birds across the continent on February 15-18. Count results are used to generate a "snapshot" of bird populations all across North America and give indications about a number of environmental trends. Last year citizen scientists from Alaska to Florida to Quebec to California sent in 81,203 checklists tallying 11,082,387 birds of 613 species!

The Old-Growth Bottomland Forest Research and Education Center at Congaree National Park has partnered with the Columbia Audubon Society (<http://www.midnet.sc.edu/audubon/>) to host a birding program as part of the 2008 Great Backyard Bird Count. Congaree National Park is recognized as a Globally Important Bird Area, and is a perfect place to view more than 170 species of birds known to inhabit the park. All ages are invited to learn about birds and bird watching before volunteering to help identify and count birds in the park. No prior experience is needed.

Date: **Saturday, February 16th, 2008**

Schedule:

8:00 – 8:30 am – An introduction to birds and birding at Congaree

8:30 – 10:30 – One or more birding expeditions to be lead by experts from the Columbia Audubon Society. These will involve light hiking up to 2 miles along the boardwalk and other park trails.

Volunteers should wear comfortable, closed-toed shoes and weather-appropriate clothing. Volunteers are invited to bring binoculars, although the park has a limited number of them available for use; park binoculars may be reserved ahead of time, or will be distributed first come first serve on the morning of the program. A water bottle and snack are also recommended. Volunteers are asked register in advance by calling the Harry Hampton Visitor Center at 803.776.4396. For maps and more information about Congaree National Park you can also visit our website at www.nps.gov/cong.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.