

2023 Mount Hamilton Christmas Bird Count

December 4, 2023

Dear Potential/Past Participant:

The 2023 December Mount Hamilton CBC is scheduled for Tuesday, January 2, 2024. We are planning to have the compilation and dinner at the home of Elinor Gates. She has generously offered her home to us again this year. If county health orders change the rules between now and then we will switch back to a virtual compilation

Your leader has directions, but briefly Elinor's house is on Hwy 130 (Mount Hamilton Road) about ¼ mile down the west side from the stop sign at the top of Mount Hamilton. Limited parking is available near Elinor's house. Elinor will provide the main dish for the compilation dinner. I ask that you bring a side dish and give a \$5 donation to defray her costs. Please bring your own utensils and BYOB, if you wish. If your name starts with: N-Z please bring a dessert, A-F please bring a salad or side dish, and if G-M please bring an appetizer. I will provide adult liquid refreshments suitable for such a salubrious event which usually finishes by 7:30 PM including clean up. Allow 40 minutes from her house back down the west side of the mountain to Alum Rock Blvd. Go slow!

Please check the weather forecast in advance and stay in touch with your party leader. If we have snow potential and you are the driver, carry chains and be advised as to the hazards of winter, mountain driving. **Please note that participating in the count constitutes a liability waiver for you as a volunteer and for SCVAS.**

Also, watch for changing weather in the late afternoon. If you are on counting birds on the east side of Mount Hamilton summit, you will need to decide whether ascending up over the top for the compilation dinner is a safe alternative. That northeast slope could get black ice by 4PM. If snowy and icy roads look likely, you may want to return via the lower elevations along Mines Road or Del Puerto Canyon Road and call in your results to Elinor. Carpool if possible.

If no one on your team can attend the dinner, someone should call in any rare or target birds in your section to Elinor's by 6:00 PM (408) 532-1252 that night. I will compile the count results and send them out to participants early in January by e-mail.

Have a great day of birding. Let's hope for good birds AND good weather.

Bob Hirt
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