

# NEWS RELEASE

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PLATTE RIVER  
POWER AUTHORITY

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## **PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR 101st ANNUAL NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

FORT COLLINS, Colo.—Platte River Power Authority's Rawhide Energy Station Christmas Bird Count will be held on Sunday, Dec. 17. The Rawhide Energy Station Christmas Bird Counters are among the more than 50,000 volunteers participating in the National Audubon Society 101st Christmas Bird Count.

Volunteers from all 50 states, every Canadian province, part of Central and South American, Bermuda, the West Indies and Pacific Islands will count and record every individual bird and bird species encountered during one calendar day. About 1,800 individual Christmas Bird Counts will be held during a two-and-a-half week period.

Each count group has a designated circle 15 miles in diameter—about 177 square miles—where they try to cover as much of the circle as possible within a 24-hour calendar day, counting each individual bird and species they see. The data collected by each count group are then sent into National Audubon Society headquarters in New York. Count data are published annually by the National Audubon Society.

Christmas Bird Count serves as an up-to-the-minute bird census. Growing in popularity since its inception, the count serves an important scientific function as well. Birds are one of the first groups of animals to be affected by environmental threats like pollution and habitat destruction, and CBC data provide indispensable information, not only on long-term health of bird populations, but also the over-all health of the environment.

Platte River has participated in the CBC since 1986 as part of its mission to provide reliable, low-cost and environmentally responsible electricity to its owner communities of Estes Park, Fort Collins, Longmont and Loveland. Complete CBC information from Rawhide can be found at Platte River's web site, [www.prpa.org/energysources/birds.htm](http://www.prpa.org/energysources/birds.htm).

Birders of all skill levels are welcome. For more information about Platte River's Rawhide Christmas Bird Count, contact Ron Ryder at 970-482-8089.