



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Old-Growth Bottomland Forest
Research and Education Center

Congaree National Park

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Congaree News Release

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February Bird Programs at Congaree!

Would you like to learn to identify some of South Carolina's winter birds? Would you like to help collect scientific data? Then come to Congaree National Park for the **13th annual Great Backyard Bird Count** programs!

The Old-Growth Bottomland Forest Research and Education Center at Congaree National Park and the Friends of Congaree Swamp are hosting several birding programs as part of the 13th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>). This event is an international effort to identify and count birds across the continent on February 12-15, 2010. Count results present a "snapshot" of bird populations across North America and allow scientists to monitor changes through the years. Last year, citizen scientists across North America counted 11,558,638 individual birds representing 620 species!

This year's programs at Congaree National Park include:

Saturday, February 6th, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Birding Basics Workshop. Group leaders will give a presentation on common winter birds found in Congaree National Park before heading out on a "Boardwalk Birdwalk" to practice identification skills. No prior experience is necessary.

Saturday, February 13th, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Great Backyard Bird Count Program #1. Group leaders will give a presentation on the common winter birds found in Congaree National Park before heading out on the boardwalk to identify and count birds as part of the Great Backyard Bird Count. No prior experience is necessary.

Saturday, February 13th, 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. Great Backyard Bird Count Program #2. Group leaders will give a presentation on the common winter birds found in Congaree National Park before heading out on the Bluff Trail to identify and count birds as part of the Great Backyard Bird Count. No prior experience is necessary.

Continued on next page

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

No prior experience is required to participate in these free programs, which are open to all visitors ages 5 and up. Children under 12 should be accompanied by an adult. Please register in advance by calling the Harry Hampton Visitor Center at 803.776.4396, ext. 0, or just stop by the front desk. Participants should plan to meet at the Harry Hampton Visitor Center fifteen minutes prior to the start of each program. Participants should wear comfortable, closed-toed shoes and weather-appropriate clothing. A water bottle and snack are also recommended. Visitors and volunteers are encouraged to bring binoculars. The park has a limited number of binoculars available for use; these may be reserved ahead of time, or will be available on a first come first serve basis during the program. For maps and more information about Congaree National Park you can also visit our website at www.nps.gov/cong.

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