

## THE 1988 COUNTS

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The 27 Winter Bird Population Studies (WBPS) conducted in 1987–88 and the 87 Breeding Bird Censuses (BBC) conducted in 1988 are a good start for the first issue of *Resident Bird Counts*. The numbers of counts is low compared to the early 1980s when the counts still appeared annually in *American Birds*, but the number should improve as more people learn that the counts will be published again.

The summary statistics for the counts raise some encouraging and some troublesome issues. For both the WBPS and the BBC, the median plot size is 14.5 ha, but many plots are still smaller than the recommended 10 ha minimum. New plots should be 10 ha or larger. The continuity for this year's counts is encouraging. Over half the counts have been done for five or more years.

Effort among counts is highly variable. In the WBPS, counts were started between early December and early February and ended from mid-January to early March. The number of days between the first and last counts for WBPSs ranged from 5 to 90 days. BBCs started between early March and late June and ended from early May to early September. For BBCs, the number of days between first and last censuses ranged from 3 to 148 days. Some variation in when counts start and end may be caused by geographical differences, but the variation among 1988 counts raises some obvious questions about comparability.

Please note that we use the metric and centigrade scales only. All feet, yards, acres, and degrees Fahrenheit should be converted. For this reason, the number of individuals per 100 acres is no longer included in the results. Instead only the number of territorial males per square kilometer is included in parentheses for species that have 3 or more territories in the Breeding Bird Census. The average number of individuals per trip per square kilometer is listed in parentheses for species having 3 or more individuals per visit in the Winter Bird Population Study. The measurements used in the quantitative vegetation sampling also have been changed to the metric scale.

The following conversions can be used:

- 1 meter (m) = 3.28 feet (ft)
- 1 square meter (m<sup>2</sup>) = 10.76 square feet (ft<sup>2</sup>)
- 1 hectare (ha) = 2.47 acres
- 1 square kilometer (km<sup>2</sup>) = 247 acres
- 1 ft<sup>2</sup>/acre = 0.230 m<sup>2</sup>/ha
- degrees centigrade (°C) = (degrees Fahrenheit - 32)/1.8