RESIDENT BIRD COUNTS 1993

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A total of 193 studies and censuses are included in this supplement. This is an increase of 23 over last year's total and continues the steady increase in participation since publishing resumed five years ago. This year's counts come from 32 states, two Canadian provinces, and the District of Columbia. California has the most counts with 28; followed by Pennsylvania with 20 and New York with 18.

There are no changes in the way the data are reported this year. For the Winter Bird Population Study (WBPS), the first value following each species is the average number of individuals encountered per visit (rounded to the nearest tenth), and the value in parentheses is the number of visits during which the species was encountered (frequency). For the Breeding Bird Census (BBC), the first value following each species is the number of territories (rounded to nearest half territory), and the value in parentheses is the number of territories per 40 ha (density). Densities are only calculated for species with three or more territories. A "+" after a species indicates that less than one-quarter of the species' territory occurred on the plot. The number of nests and fledglings observed is indicated by an N and FL, respectively, in parentheses after the species name.

The data reported for mean start temperature summarize the temperatures at the start of visits only. Participants are encouraged to supplement these data with summaries of the weather for the entire study period. Especially useful are deviations in temperature and precipitation from long-term averages for each month. This information is usually available from National Weather Service stations, airports, or regional data sources such as Cornell's Northeast Regional Climate Center (phone: 607-255-1751).

Participants are required to use standardized reporting forms and to adhere to a set of minimum requirements outlined in the BBC and WBPS instructions and in primary references (Kendeigh 1944, James & Shugart 1970, James 1978, Marshall 1991; Robbins 1970, 1981, Williams 1936). Study plots whould be at least 10 ha in size in forested habitats and larger in open areas. A minimum of eight visits is usually required for both the WBPS and BBC. Those wishing to establish new plots should send a description of the proposed study site to the Bird Count Editor well in advance of field work. Descriptions should include: location, habitat type, plot size, shape, and an outline of the plot on a topographic map. Final decisions on the suitability of count data for publication rest with the editor.

To facilitate collection of habitat data, a standardized habitat classification system was introduced in 1991. This system combines elements of those developed by the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The habitat classification system incorporates a hierarchical approach to classifying habitats, as well as categorical variables for describing plot topography, hydrology, and fragmentation.

Data forms and instructions for the BBC, WBPS, and habitat classification system may be obtained from the editor at the above address.

For the past nine years the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology has coordinated the Resident Bird Counts program, and for the last five they have supplied the editor of *Resident Bird Counts*. Due to the efforts of many Lab of Ornithology staff, both past and present, the program thrives today. This issue of the supplement is the first without the Lab of Ornithology acting in those roles. Now the Association of Field Ornithologists is responsible for coordinating the program and supplying the editor of the supplement.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maintains computerized data for both the WBPS and BBC and also provides significant funding for the publication of the supplement. Researchers

who want computerized data should contact Brett Hoover at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD, 20708 (phone: 301-497-5819).

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the help and support of my wife Carol and sons Brian and Kevin. Without their understanding and encouragement, my efforts to produce this supplement would not have been possible.

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