

RESIDENT BIRD COUNTS 1995

James D. Lowe

*Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology
159 Sapsucker Woods Road
Ithaca, New York 14850*

A total of 145 studies and censuses are included in this supplement (a decrease from the 186 published last year). This year's counts come from 32 states, one Canadian province, and the District of Columbia. California has the most counts with 18, followed by New York with 15, Pennsylvania with 12, and Ontario with 10. Included here are a total of 31 plots being published for the first time, and 22 plots that have been studied for 20 years or longer.

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 or fledglings observed is indicated by an N or FL, respectively, in parentheses after the species name. Under coverage, the maximum number of observers per visit is only listed if it is greater than two.

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 urged 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 (Williams 1936, Kendeigh 1944, James & Shugart 1970, James 1978, Robbins 1970, 1981, Marshall 1991). Study plots should 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. Ideally, plots should be of a uniform habitat type. 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.

The National Biological Service maintains computerized data for both the WBPS and BBC. Researchers who want access to the computerized data should contact Brett Hoover at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD, 20708 (phone: 301-497-5819).

Finally, I would like to add some personal messages. First, I want to note the passing of Thomas A. Imhof in July 1995. Tom had been conducting BBCs and WBPSs since 1978, and his final WBPS is published in this supplement (see Jackson 1996). Next, I want to announce that this is my next-to-last Resident Bird Counts supplement. I will be stepping down after the 1997 issue. That will be my fifth issue of the supplement, and it will be time for me to make a change. Last, and most important, I would like to acknowledge the help and support

of my wife Carol and sons Brian and Kevin. Their continued patience and understanding make it possible for me to produce this supplement.

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Corrections to Vol. 63(suppl):

Page 22, WBPS #29 (Coastal Freshwater Marsh): change Golden-crowned Sparrow from 9.4 (6) to 9.8 (7), and delete Golden-crowned Warbler. This changes the total to 56 species.