Interest in the annual bird census (this year scheduled nationally for dates between Saturday, December 15th and Tuesday, January 1st) continues to grow each year. To many birders the Christmas Count is as traditional as the Christmas Tree or Plum Pudding.

Last year's census was no exception, and a total of 1,013 counts were published in American Birds. All but seven were from the United States and Canada, the others being from Mexico (2), Guatemala, British Honduras, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In all, over 15,000 participants recorded 71,183,807 individuals representing 911 species.

In Massachusetts there were counts in Athol, Buzzards Bay, Cape Cod, Central Berkshire, Concord, Marshfield, Martha's Vineyard, Millis, Nantucket, New Bedford, Newburyport, Northampton, Northern Berkshire, Quincy, Springfield, Taunton, Westminster and Worcester. For the second year, the new Greater Boston Count will replace the Belmont and Jamaica Plain counts of previous years.

THE 74TH CHRISTMAS COUNT

If you would like to join the Boston Count (Sunday, December 16th) or any other one, contact the undersigned at 54 Banks St., Cambridge, Mass. 02138.

Robert H. Stymeist
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