# RESIDENT BIRD COUNTS 1994

James D. Lowe

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

A total of 186 studies and censuses are included in this supplement (a slight decrease from the 193 published last year). This year's counts come from 32 states, two Canadian provinces, and the District of Columbia. Pennsylvania has the most counts with 35, followed by California with 21 and New York with 17. Included here are a total of 28 plots being published for the first time, but coincidentally, there are also 28 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.

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 acknowledge the help and support of my wife Carol and sons Brian and Kevin. Their patience and understanding (and willingness to share the computer) make my efforts possible.

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## Corrections to Vol. 65(suppl):

Page 127, BBC #140 (Conventional Dairy Farm): add Field Sparrow, 5.0 (2FL) to the census. This brings the total to 34 species; 78.5 territories.