

## PALOUSE AUDUBON SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT INSTRUCTIONS

### DATA TO BE COLLECTED AND REPORTED BY FEEDER WATCHERS IS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Record each **SPECIES** identified and the **HIGHEST NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS** of each species seen in the vicinity of your feeder at any one time. This is done so as to not to count the same bird twice. (These are the same rules used by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology with their Feederwatch Program.) If you don't specifically identify a bird by species, but are sure of the form, you can count such a bird. (NOTE the shaded lines on your tally sheet.) If you do not see a Junco as either an Oregon or Slate Colored Junco, it should be recorded as a Dark-eyed Junco.

**UNUSUAL SPECIES** require special additional documentation. This would apply to all species on the tally sheet marked with an asterisk and probably any species not on the tally sheet. **PHOTOGRAPH IF POSSIBLE.** The observer(s) should immediately record via notes and sketches all details they noted including the conditions of the observation without reference to a guide book. Prepare a "Supporting Details" form at your earliest opportunity. In the absence of this information, the *National Audubon Society Field Notes* editors will probably disallow your unusual sighting. You will need to provide convincing evidence that you observed things which will confirm your sighting by differentiating it from other possible species. Don't let these requirements prevent you from listing your unusual sighting. We will assist you with completing your sighting data.

2. Keep track of the **HOURS** you spend watching your feeder and report the total along with your count results. You do not have to watch your feeder constantly for the time to be continuous. Occasional checking is okay.
3. In order to compile the count data and get it reported to National Audubon Society on time, I need to receive your information as soon as possible. If possible, call me Sunday afternoon or evening after the count and read me your results over the phone. If that is not possible please deliver your results to my office at 316 S. Jefferson St. in Moscow or mail it to my home address below on Monday.
4. **COUNT WEEK** is the period 3 days before Count Day and 3 days afterward. We can include any species seen in the count area during Count Week that were not observed on Count Day. If you observe an unusual species, or if you want to know about common species which just were not found on Count Day, please call me.

Enjoy your day of birding and please join us again next year.

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