

PALOUSE AUDUBON SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT INSTRUCTIONS

**DATA TO BE COLLECTED AND REPORTED BY EACH COUNT PARTY IS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Record each **SPECIES** identified and the **NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS** of each species. Make a reasonable effort not to count the same bird twice. 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* 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. **HOURS** your party spends **DRIVING** \_\_\_\_\_ **WALKING** \_\_\_\_\_. Keep track of **OWLING** times separately. Also report the time you started and stopped counting. (Such as Owling 1:30AM to 4AM & Count from 7AM to 5PM.)
3. **MILES** your party **DRIVES** \_\_\_\_\_ **WALKS** \_\_\_\_\_. Same for **OWLING**.
4. Stop all data collection upon leaving the count area. Stay in your assigned area and it is recommended that you cover your area once as thoroughly as possible. This will minimize double counting of birds. Do not count dead, caged or domesticated birds.
5. **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.
6. In order to compile the count data and get it reported to *National Audubon Society* as quickly as possible, I need to receive your information as soon as possible. If possible, meet at the post count meeting place for this purpose. 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.
7. National Audubon Society charges \$5 per participant to offset their cost of compiling the results of all counts.
8. Every effort is being made to make CBC results available via the internet as quickly as possible. The website is [www.birdsource.com](http://www.birdsource.com). Select the Christmas Bird Count icon, and then select the CBC Database. Our count ID is IDMP. If you choose to see the results of the last 5 years, enter 96 as the "Starting Count" number. Enter 97 to see this year's data when it comes available. Enjoy your day of birding and please join us again next year.

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