



# WASHTENAW AUDUBON NEWS

ANN ARBOR CHRISTMAS COUNT - SUNDAY JANUARY 2, 1972

The Washtenaw Audubon Society will conduct the 25th Ann Arbor Christmas Count on the Sunday after Michigan wins the Rose Bowl. For those of you unfamiliar with this annual happening the idea is to count all the birds seen and heard within a 15 mile diameter circle in one day at Xmas time. The results of counts taken all over North America compiled by the National Audubon Society and published in American Birds.

Those interested in participating should select the area they would like to cover from the list on the next page. Then contact the leader of that area before the count to coordinate your efforts with theirs. Those who cannot make it out into the field that day are invited to call or send their feeder sightings to the area leader or Al Maley (662-6055). Last year four species were found only at feeders, so these sightings are important.

The participants in the count and their spouses are invited to socialize and tally the results at a potluck supper at the home of Maxine and Vaden Miles, 505 Burson Place (off Hill near Geddes). If you wish to attend the gathering call Carmen Maley (662-6055) to find out what dish to bring. There will be a fifty cent charge for meat, paper plates and other essentials. National Audubon also charges one dollar of all participants to defray the cost of printing the results.

The Christmas Count is more than anything a social event, a chance see old friends and make new ones. A chance to tell the stories that inevitably accompany the day's outing. A chance to surprize everyone with the unexpected bird you found in your area. Make plans to participate; visit your area before the count, find the feeders, check the birds and give Carmen a call. N.B. Carmen will be out of town from 12/23 to 12/29.

Among the information required by National Audubon are:

1. Number of each species. Count where possible and estimate in other cases.
2. Number of miles covered by your party on foot and by car.
3. Number of hours spent by your party on foot and by car.
4. Verification reports for unusual records.
5. Observations of species seen in the count period (Dec. 18 - Jan. 2) but not on count day.
6. Names and addresses of the people in your party.

The count circle is centered on Maple Rd. and the Huron River. Count areas and their leaders are:

1. Shelly Miller (1-878-3649)
2. Not yet designated
3. Bill Hopkins (1-229-4262) and Bill Ross (1-229-2801)
4. Bob Payne (662-3592)
5. Dick Dean (761-2768)
6. Al Maley (662-6055)
7. Not yet designated
8. Barbara Miller (971-8021)

Anyone interested in working in areas that presently lack a leader should call Al Maley.



TELESCOPES AND TRIPODS...

Several WAS members have asked me what telescope I would recommend. My answer is the Bausch and Lomb BALSCOPE Sr. with either a 20 or a 30 power eyepiece. My reasons are as follows:

1. This model is rugged and optically superior
2. It is relatively cheap. Mail order firms are offering it in the Audubon Magazine for about \$80.
3. Zoom scopes are rarely needed and have color aberration problems. More than thirty power is useless with typical light and "heat wave" conditions encountered in the field.

A telescope is most useful for resting waterfowl and shorebirds, but one can learn with practice to follow moving birds such as hawks and flying ducks. A telescope allows you to observe the birds without frightening them, which is difficult with wary species and only binoculars. If you have no trouble following birds with binoculars choose a 30 power eyepiece. If you are less confident choose a 20 power eyepiece.

As for tripods, buy the kind with "flip-lock" legs. Those with knurled knobs that hand tighten are impractical in the field. The flip-lock models require only a flick of the finger to lower and tighten each leg. There are two models: a light weight model that is easy to carry but requires the raising of a center post and a sturdier model that is suitable for a taller person but less pleasant to carry on long hikes. Prices are about \$27 and \$37 respectively at the Hobby Lobby in Detroit.

AJM

RECENT BIRD SIGHTINGS...

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Gyr Falcon	1	Ippeewash	11/27	Al Ryfe
Snowy Owl	many	Pelee, Rondeau, Harsen's Island, Belle Isle, et al.	Nov. - Dec.	Several
Bohemian Waxwing	1	UM Museum area	11/27	Faust et al.

Several species of winter finches have been reported including Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, Redpolls and White-winged Crossbills. Some of the species may get more common as the winter progresses.

PLACES TO GO...

Belle Isle and Grosse Ile in the Detroit River are good places to go now for waterfowl and possibly Snowy Owls. There's a Carolina Wren at Saginaw Forest where the main road in reaches the lake. Rough-legged Hawks have been seen around Ann Arbor in areas with fallow fields.

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