



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of Information

Press Service



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BIRD-CENSUS TAKERS WANTED

Bird students are invited this year, as in the past, to assist the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture in taking censuses of breeding birds on tracts convenient to their homes. Such a census of birds means an exact and complete enumeration, by species, of the birds that actually nest within the boundaries of a selected area. It does not include birds that merely visit the tract, birds that nest near but outside the boundaries, and migrants. It will be seen that a thorough familiarity with the birds of the region is needed to take a successful census. Bird censuses become particularly valuable when the volunteer enumerator counts the birds making their homes in the area for five or more years in succession. In the latitude of Washington, D. C., and St. Louis, Mo., the count should be made about June 1, and correspondingly earlier or later south or north of this line.

A suggestion as to the most effective way to take the census is that a count be made of the singing birds very early in the morning, with a recount on one or more mornings in the course of the next few days. Bird-census reports are desired on many types of land, such as farmlands, woodlands and forests, near irrigation projects, in marshlands, and on the shores of rivers, lakes, and the sea, and in special areas such as city parks, cemeteries, bird sanctuaries, and other spots having a dense population of birds.

Anyone interested in the taking of a bird census may write to the Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for directions, census blanks, and a return envelope that requires no postage for mailing the reports.

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