

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release December 15, 1972

Carroll 343-5634

WHITE HOUSE BIRD COUNT TO BE MADE DECEMBER 16

The Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service announced that the fourth annual White House bird count will be held December 16 as part of the Audubon Naturalists Society Christmas bird count for the Washington area.

The White House tally, to begin at 10 a.m., again will be taken by Dr. Fred G. Evenden, executive director of the Wildlife Society.

In three previous surveys, Dr. Evenden counted 206 birds representing 16 species. The high was two years ago when 148 birds of 13 species were noted on the White House grounds.

The numbers and kinds of birds seen during the surveys have been: house sparrow (187), starling (153), rock dove (20), mockingbird (17), white-throated sparrow (13), cardinal (11), blue jay (4), downy woodpecker (3), slate-colored junco (3), sparrow hawk (2), fish crow (2), common goldfinch (2), song sparrow (2), red-bellied woodpecker (1), robin (1), and rufous-sided towhee (1).

The recent White House bird counts have been the first on the grounds of the executive mansion since President Theodore Roosevelt made similar observations in the early 1900's.

Press personnel desiring to cover this event should contact the White House press office, Tel. 456-2100.

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INT: 3056-72