

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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McGarvey 202/343-5634

## WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The eighth annual White House Christmas bird count will be conducted at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, December 18th.

Dr. Fred Evenden of the Wildlife Society will conduct the count on the 14-acre grounds. Members of the press interested in the event should contact the White House press office.

This annual count is a part of the nationwide bird count conducted at Christmas time each year since 1900 by the Audubon Society. Results of the counts play an important part in scientific research on bird populations.

On the White House grounds can be found from 10 to 14 different kinds of birds which normally number about 150 individuals. Sparrows and starlings make up the bulk but rock doves, downy woodpeckers, blue jays, mockingbirds, cardinals, white-throated sparrows, and grackles also are commonly found there.

In the 8 years the survey has been conducted some unusual sightings of towhees, fish crows, sparrow hawks, and red-billed woodpeckers have been made.

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