

BIRD CENSUSES.

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The notes here recorded refer to the census taken on December 25th each year and another taken the last of May in accordance with the plans of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Biological Survey.

The writer got his suggestion for a Christmas Census from a copy of Bird-Lore which came into his hand in the year of 1907; since that time a census has been taken nearly every year. Results of five of these censuses are recorded in the table. Observations at Christmas time are very much affected by weather conditions; a bright sunshiny morning brings out practically all the bird life remaining in a vicinity, and they are easily discovered, but a cold, raw, cloudy day keeps many species under cover and they are not easily found. At this time of the year, one will find the birds congregating along streams and sheltered hillsides clothed with timber. An east and south exposure are favorite places for birds. One will find very few species in open country this time of year. The observations recorded in table were taken in the vicinity of LaFayette on what is known as the north river road leading to the State Soldiers' Home and on the south river road. Both areas are sheltered and have the exposure as indicated above.

In this table it will be observed that the following species were observed on but one day in the five observations recorded: Hawk, Hairy Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Bronzed Grackle, Chewink, Winter Wren, Brown Creeper, Chickadee, Golden Crowned Kinglet, Robin, Bluebird. The Bluebird, Robin, Chewink and Grackle are probably infrequent winter residents, but it is believed that the others are usually in residence, but were not observed.

It will be noticed that certain species have been seen practically every year. The following have been recorded at least four times out of the five. Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Crow, Junco, Song Sparrow, Cardinal and Tufted Titmouse.

The bird census taken the last part of May in co-operation with the Bureau of Biological Survey was taken this year (1916) for the first time. The area selected lies about three-fourths of a mile west of Purdue University campus, consisting of about forty acres. In this forty acres there are about six acres of timber land, fifteen acres of alfalfa, about eight acres of corn, and about eleven acres of oats. The alfalfa had not been cut when these observations were taken. One must be on the ground at about 3:00 o'clock if he is to make accurate observations and he has to depend almost entirely upon his ear for identifications. Just before the birds begin to fly away some can be recognized by the eye. The method of taking the census is that of moving

about over the area and making note of the different birds (males) heard singing. For each bird singing a pair is recorded. This year's observations were taken on May 29 and 31, both mornings were rainy and it had rained throughout the night. Twenty different species and forty-two pairs were counted on the area as indicated. On this area the Meadow Lark was found to be nesting in larger numbers than any other species, six pairs being recorded. The Dickcissel followed closely with five pairs, while the Red-headed Woodpecker had four pairs to its credit. It is expected to continue these observations over the same area from year to year.

Another census, which is better called a survey, has been of considerable interest to the writer for several years. This is a 4th of July census. However, in this census no attempt has been made to count the number of individuals, there simply having been made a record of the species. This census has been taken over an area extending from West LaFayette to the State Soldiers' Home a distance of about four miles. A tabular arrangement of the species observed has not been prepared to accompany this paper, but the following data may be given as showing the number of species observed each 4th of July.

1912, 32 species; 1913, 41 species; 1914, 36 species; 1915, 41 species; 1916, 23 species.

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS.

Table Showing the Species and Number of Each Observed on December 25. Arranged According to A. O. U. Check List.

	Dec. 25 1907	Dec. 25 1908	Dec. 25 1911	Dec. 25 1914	Dec. 25 1915
Hawk, Red-tailed or red-shouldered					2
Sparrowhawk	2		1	1	
Hairy Woodpecker				4	
Downy Woodpecker	2		6	5	3
Red-headed Woodpecker					1
Flicker	2		1	2	
Blue Jay	8	1	4	10	9
Crow	10	20	4	10	50
Bronzed Grackle					1
English Sparrow	Always	Numerous.			
Goldfinch				2	4
Tree Sparrow	25				
Junco	2		35	6	75
Song Sparrow	2	1	4	3	5
Chewink					1
Cardinal	2	4	8	5	5
Winter Wren			1		
Brown Creeper			3		
Wh. Br. Nuthatch			2	6	3
Tufted Titmouse	2		15	15	12
Chickadee			1		
Gold-Cr. Kinglet				4	
Robin			1		
Blubird			3		
	10:00-12:00 cloudy, wind west snow on ground, thawing.	10:30-11:30 cloudy, raw west wind temp. 32° Ground thaw.	10:30-12:00 cloudy, west wind temp. 32- 33° snow on ground along river.		10:00-12:30 cloudy, wind, N. W 12 in. snow temp. 32°.

Summary:

- 1907: 10 species, 57 individuals.
- 1908: 4 species, 26 individuals.
- 1911: 15 species, 89 individuals.
- 1914: 13 species, 73 individuals.
- 1915: 13 species, 171 individuals.