

FORT BRAGG CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
FEEDER/YARDWATCH INSTRUCTIONS

Monday, December 26th, 2016

HOW TO COUNT YOUR BIRDS

EQUIPMENT NEEDED: Tally sheet, field guide and binoculars.

Please note how much time you actually spend counting your birds.

1--Count the individual birds of each **species** in view at one time. Tally the **highest** number of each species on the tally sheet. If during your count you note higher numbers of the same species you would adjust your tally of that species to **that** higher number. *For example:* When you start your count, you note 5 White-crowned Sparrows and 4 House Finches, record those numbers for the species. Later during your count, you note that there are 10 White-crowned Sparrows and 7 House Finches, 10 and 7 would be your tally for those species, **not** 15 and 11. Do not add the counts together. By following this method you will never report an individual bird more than once during the count.

2--Count everything that you can see without leaving your site, even birds that don't visit your feeder(s) such as birds in birdbaths and birds in your bushes and trees. **Don't** count bird just flying over, such as Canada Geese or Turkey Vultures on their way to somewhere else.

3--Organize your final count on the tally sheet provided. Don't forget to fill in the other information requested. Be sure to include the total time that you counted. Mail your tally sheet *as soon as possible* to the provided address or you can **email** the completed information to zewa@mcn.org

4--If you do happen to see a rare winter bird, (anything not on the checklist), try photographing it. Write down a detailed description, preferably while you are looking at it, including all the identifying features you can see or hear. If it is really rare, you will be asked to fill out the Rare Bird Documentation Form.

For questions and additional information call Sarah Grimes at 937-4322 or 813-7925 or email to the above email address. Please feel free to pass this information along to your neighbors and friends!

REMEMBER THE COUNT DAY IS DECEMBER 26th

The Mendocino Coast Audubon Society
THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!