

# FORT BRAGG CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FEEDER/YARDWATCH INSTRUCTIONS

**Count Day is Saturday, December 30, 2017**

## 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 on their way to somewhere else.

3-- Organize your final count on the tally sheet provided. You can complete the tally sheet by hand and return it by mail or if you have an electronic file you can enter your information on the tally sheet with Acrobat. Either way, please don't forget to fill in the other information requested on page 2. Be sure to include the total time that you counted. All of this information is vital to the count.

4-- If you do happen to see a rare winter bird, (e.g. Nashville Warbler), try photographing it. You will need to write down a detailed description and fill out the Rare Bird Documentation Form.

5-- Mail or e-mail the completed tally sheet to: Johanna Jensen, 661 North Harold Street, Fort Bragg, CA 95437. [johanna@mcn.org](mailto:johanna@mcn.org)

For questions and additional information call 964-8163 or e-mail [johanna@mcn.org](mailto:johanna@mcn.org). Please feel free to pass this information along to your neighbors and friends!

*MENDOCINO COAST AUDUBON SOCIETY*  
THANKS YOU FOR YOUR HELP!