

20th annual census finds 8,074 birds, 51 species

Richmond Hill Naturalists Club
263 Ruggles Avenue
—884-1208

The 20th annual Christmas Bird Census for the Richmond Hill region was taken by local naturalists December 14.

Fifty observers took part in the count. They were divided into nine parties and no fewer than 8,074 birds of 51 species was the result.

Last year's total was 56 species and 7,503 individuals. According to census co-ordinators, the undertaking was considered quite a success with the results well above the averages of the past 19 censuses. (The average number of species seen on 19 previous censuses is 39 and the average number of individuals is 3,337.)

This yearly inventory of the local wintering bird population is one of the field projects of the Richmond Hill Naturalists' Club. As in previous years, the 1974 count was restricted to a circle 15 miles in diameter, centred on the junction of Yonge Street and Gormley Sideroad.

A summary of earlier Christmas bird counts

Victoria Square

Correspondent:
Mrs. W. Sandie
RR 2, Gormley
887-5421

Congregational meeting Jan. 22

There were 14 tables of euchre players at the community hall Friday evening of last week.

Prize winners were: Mrs. E. Woodcock, Edith Laferty, Mrs. Anne Fraser, Roy Coffey, Henry Allen and Ernie Kelman.

Lucky draw was won by Mrs. Kay Power.

Another euchre party will be held January 24 at 8 pm. Everyone welcome!

Church news
The annual congregational meeting will be held in the Sunday school room January 22 at 8 pm. Those who have reports should give them to Mrs. John McCague as soon as possible.

Neighborhood notes
Sympathy is extended to former residents of our community Rev. and Mrs. James Bewell now of Cardiff, in the passing of Mrs. Bewell's father, Alfred Pickles at Barrie.

Speedy recovery is wished for Heber McCague who is in the York Central Hospital, Richmond Hill.

Birthday greetings to Mayor Anthony Roman, January 17; William Sandie, January 17; Darlene Nichols, three years, January 17; Rev. Martin Jenkinson, January 19; Miss Mabel Sanderson, Jan 22.

Nature notes

conducted by the Club since 1955, and prior to this census, shows that 92 different kinds of birds have been recorded here. Among the 51 species tallied this year, two species had not appeared on any of the previous counts. These were the Common Snipe found by Gerry Bennett's party along the stream behind the Maple-Valley Riding School on Dufferin Street and 10 Common Mergansers flying over Ridge Road and Yonge Street, spotted by Dave Fiddler. With these additions, 94 species have now been seen on the 20 censuses (1955-1974) which, we suspect, is a total far greater than most readers would imagine could be found in this region during the Christmas period.

The best count of the day was turned in by party No. 6 led by Rev. Ernie Johns and Gerry Bennett. This group observed 1,605 individual birds comprised of 33 species. In second place was party No. 5 led by Ott Devitt which recorded 30 species and 613 individuals. In third place was party No. 3 led by Hubert South which tallied 977 individuals of 29 species.

Two kinds of gulls that are rare in this region, the Iceland and Glaucous Gulls, were identified by Gerry Bennett's group at the Maple Dump.

The only Snowy Owl was found by Hubert South's party near Leslie Street, south of Highway 7, while the single Screech Owl was spotted by Ottelyn Addison behind the Maple-Valley Riding School on Dufferin Street. The five Pileated Woodpeckers seen indicated that this large, handsome woodpecker is holding its own and has been able to adapt to smaller woodlots. Declan Troy's party found the only Hermit Thrush at Bruce's Mill. Hawks were well represented with 34 Red-tails, 37 American Kestrels (Sparrow Hawk), 9 Rough-legs and one Sharp-shinned Hawk.

With the exception of 183 Evening Grosbeaks and five Purple Finches, other northern finches such as Pine Grosbeaks, Redpolls, Pine Siskins and Crossbills were conspicuous by their absence.

In order of abundance, the complete count was as follows: Starling (2,242), House Sparrow (2,013), Rock Dove (654), Black-capped Chickadee (645), Snow Bunting (488), American Goldfinch (316), Tree Sparrow (227), Blue Jay (223), Evening Grosbeak (183), Dark-eyed Junco (140), Mallard (134), Cedar Waxwing (101), Mourning Dove (99), Cardinal (87), Downy Woodpecker (78), Common Crow

(59), Black Duck (54), Herring Gull (50), American Kestrel (37), White-breasted Nuthatch (35), Red-tailed Hawk (34), Hairy Woodpecker (32), Ring-necked Pheasant (23), Red-breasted Nuthatch (18), Common Merganser (10), Song Sparrow (10), Rough-legged Hawk (9), Golden-crowned Kinglet (8), Northern Shrike (7), Great

Horned Owl (7), Pileated Woodpecker (5), Brown Creeper (5), Purple Finch (5), Ruffed Grouse (4), Belted Kingfisher (4), White-throated Sparrow (4), Glaucous Gull (3), Common Flicker (3), Common Grackle (3), Brown-headed Cowbird (3), American Robin (2). There were single individuals of the following species: Common Snipe, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Iceland Gull, Snowy Owl, Screech Owl, Winter Wren, Field Sparrow, Hermit Thrush, Chipping Sparrow and Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

New lights delayed at Crosby and Town Parks

Concern has surfaced for the effect of playing field lighting in Richmond Hill on the operation of the Dunlap Observatory.

This brought a week's delay in awarding the tender for new lights on the Town Park softball diamond and lighting the soccer field at Crosby Park at Monday night's council meeting.

The tender was called on metal-helide lights. It was understood these would be satisfactory to the observatory. However, it was learned Monday the observatory would prefer incandescent or clear mercury lamps to eliminate the ultra violet rays at the blue end of the spectrum.

Additional cost

The incandescent lighting, according to Parks Director David Hamilton, is the most desirable for the observatory. But it is the least desirable for the town since it would require replacement of all bulbs each year at a cost of \$500 to \$600.

He also reported a 10 percent wattage loss would be experienced. So to maintain the same foot-candlepower on the ground, an extra four fixtures would be required at each location with a net difference on the two tenders of roughly \$3,600.

The softball diamond lighting will be accomplished by using 20 and 15 foot candles and the

soccer field lighting with 20 foot candles, he said.

He stressed the fact that the problem is not in light pollution, but in the emission of ultra-violet rays into the atmosphere.

Best bids
The recommended tender for the Town Park softball diamond was \$22,407, submitted by Stacey Electric Co. Ltd.,

The recommended tender for lighting the soccer field at Crosby Park, also submitted by Stacey Electric was for \$24,295.

In this case \$8,100 extra was allowed for grading, etc. and a total of \$1,300 for legal and financial expenses, bringing the total to be debentured to \$56,000.



Gives Satisfaction Always!

ON SALE JANUARY 15th TO 25th—WHILE QUANTITIES LAST

BIG SAVINGS ON





A) DELUXE RECLINER WITH THREE WAY ACTION



B) TUB CHAIR WITH VELVET UPHOLSTERY



C) HANDSOME SWIVEL ROCKER

Your Choice

89⁹⁹

Ea.

A. As comfortable as it is good looking! Smartly styled recliner is covered in long wearing 93% Polypropylene/6 1/2% Cotton tweed fabric. Features 3-way action, hardwood frame, no-sag springs and foam padding. Brown or Beige.

B. Classically styled "Tub Chair" with strong hardwood frame and no-sag springs, is covered in a rich 53% Cotton, 47% Viscose velvet. An elegant addition to any room of your home.

Traditionally styled table lamps with cast metal antique brass finish, are available in a choice of three distinctive designs. Matching lamp tables are available in an elegant selection of three colours. Exceptional K mart value!

29⁹⁹

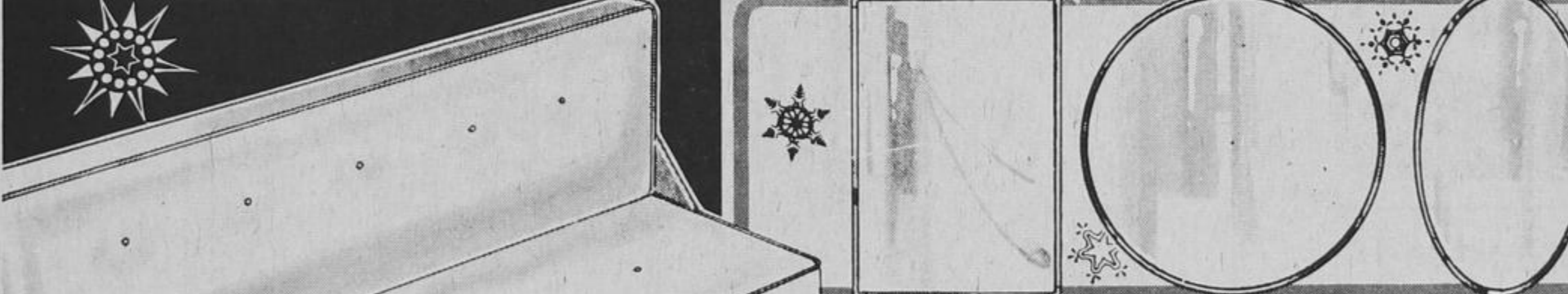
Ea.

We'll match your BABY BONUS CHEQUE!



Yes, you could be a lucky winner and have your baby bonus cheque matched dollar for dollar. All you have to do is cash it at Kresge's, Richmond Heights Centre and fill in a coupon for the Lucky Draw. (Winner must consent to have her picture taken for advertising purposes).

December's lucky winner was Mrs. S. Mason, 156 May Ave., Richmond Hill, who won \$40.



DISTINCTIVE WALL MIRRORS IN A VARIETY OF ELEGANT FRAMES.

Eye catching, brass tone framed mirrors in 3 styles. Rectangular: 16" x 24"; Round 20"; Oval: 16" x 24". Ready to hang!

Our list price 5.97 Ea.
K mart Special 4⁹⁹
Ea.



TRUCKS TO SUIT YOUR EVERY NEED!

• Panels • Pick-ups • Vans
• Stakes • Tractors

Individual and Commercial
Hourly - Daily - Weekly
- Monthly - Yearly

See the truck specialists at . . .
9700 YONGE ST. at MAY AVE. RICHMOND HILL
884-9791
WIDE SELECTION OF CARS AVAILABLE
"We invite you to compare"



SWIVEL BAR STOOL
Our list price 26.77 Ea.
K mart Special 19⁹⁹
Ea.



STEP STOOL WITH BACK
Our list price 15.99 Ea.
K mart Special 11⁹⁹
Ea.



NOW SAVE ON STARGLOW HAMPERS
Our list price 12.97 Ea.
K mart Special 10⁹⁹
Ea.



CONTINENTAL T.V. TABLE
Our list price 31.79 Ea.
K mart Special 25⁹⁹
Ea.



VINYL STORAGE CLOSETS
Our list price 27.47 Ea.
K mart Special 21⁹⁹
Ea.

9350 YONGE ST. Hillcrest Mall RICHMOND HILL

OPEN 9:30 AM-10 PM MON. through SAT.