

## COMMENTS ON PROGRAMS AND THEIR ANALYSIS

WINTER BIRD FEEDING - This may be short on science but it's very long on publicity. Thousands of people feed birds and so might fill out a questionnaire. If Gladys Black would promote it, we'd get more information than we'd know what to do with.

We could report the number of people turning in questionnaires, perhaps broken down by county or region. What foods are used by what percent of feeders. How many birds of each species are reported coming to feeders. Perhaps correlate presence of certain of certain foods to the number of certain species. For example, thistle feeders and Goldfinches or Pine Siskins. Sunflowers and Evening Grosbeaks. Starlings and bread.

Calculating the number of birds of each species/feeder would allow comparison with any future repeat of the questionnaire. Might yield data on invasion years.

BRIDGE BIRDS - Report participants (in every study!). Phoebes/bridge, or % of bridges reporting Phoebes. If we got enough data from enough different areas of the state, we could extrapolate to the total number of bridges in the state, and total Phoebe population. Look for regional variation in the number of Phoebes.

Might generate new data for the Cliff Swallow researchers.

ROADSIDE BIRDS - Though intended more for publicity than for generating data, this type of study really is one of the few ways to get a handle on the Western Kingbird and Shrike populations. Breeding Bird Surveys generate some data on these species, but you need a lot of samples to get a real grasp of the population of such uncommon birds. This data might be added to the BBS data.

Reporting it: Names of participants, miles covered in what counties, number of birds of each kind seen. Maybe summarised by region.

HABITAT SELECTION BY DICKCISSELS - the program least likely to generate enthusiasm, because the most demanding. However, it really would generate interesting information on the movements of this species. Does it stay long enough in hayfields or oat fields to raise young before mowing or harvest? Where does it prefer to breed? Where does it really stay long enough to raise most of the young? The birds move out of hayfields about June 1 when they are mowed and enter soybean and corn fields they didn't like before. They may prefer cultivated fields with interruptions to those without. Could be a great project. ↗

SMITH'S LONGSPUR SURVEY - Publish names of participants, number of fields checked, number of Smith's Longspurs seen, and location and date of any sightings.

*Smith's Longspur, 1960-1961*