

Backyard Bird Count Tally Sheet

For a two-day Project FeederWatch count (Nov 1 – Apr 30). Fill in one sheet per two-day count.

Name: _____ Count site: _____

Day 1 date: _____ Hours watched: _____ Day 2 date: _____ Hours: _____

Average snow depth over the two days (inches): _____ Notes: _____

HOW TO FILL IT IN: for each species, write the **HIGHEST** number you saw at one time. Keep one running number across both days and never add sightings together. Cross out and update it when you see more at once.

Bird or mammal	Most at once	Bird or mammal	Most at once
Mourning Dove		American Goldfinch	
Eurasian Collared-Dove		Pine Siskin	
Rock Pigeon		Dark-eyed Junco	
Downy Woodpecker		White-throated Sparrow	
Hairy Woodpecker		Song Sparrow	
Red-bellied Woodpecker		Chipping Sparrow	
Northern Flicker		Northern Cardinal	
Blue Jay		Red-winged Blackbird	
American Crow		Common Grackle	
Black-capped Chickadee		Brown-headed Cowbird	
Carolina Chickadee		Yellow-rumped Warbler	
Tufted Titmouse		Cooper's Hawk	
White-breasted Nuthatch		Sharp-shinned Hawk	
Red-breasted Nuthatch		Squirrel (type: _____)	
Carolina Wren		Cat	
American Robin			
Northern Mockingbird			
European Starling			
House Sparrow			
House Finch			
Purple Finch			

Blank rows are for other birds. Mammals count too, from mice to moose, plus pets like cats and dogs.

How to Run a FeederWatch Count

The rules in plain English, from Project FeederWatch (Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada).

1. Sign up first

FeederWatch runs from November 1 through April 30. Join at feederwatch.org. There is an annual participation fee for U.S. residents; Canadians take part by donating to Birds Canada.

2. Pick your count site

Choose a part of your yard you can watch easily, ideally from one spot. FeederWatch says most count sites are about the size of two tennis courts, but one can be as small as a single feeder. You can join even without feeders, as long as the site has something you maintain that draws birds, such as water or plantings.

3. Choose two days in a row

Count days always come in pairs: two consecutive days. FeederWatch recommends no more than one pair a week and at least five days without counting between pairs. There is no minimum number of counts. Watch as much or as little as you like during the two days.

4. Count the most at one time

For each species, record the largest number in view at the same moment over the two days. Keep one running number across both days so you never count the same bird twice. Do not add separate sightings together.

5. What not to count

Skip birds that only fly over your count site, such as Canada geese or sandhill cranes passing overhead.

6. Note your effort and snow

Write down the dates and roughly how many hours you watched each day, plus the average snow depth at your site. You do not need to record temperature, rain or wind.

7. Send in your counts

Enter your counts in the Your Data section of feederwatch.org or in the FeederWatch mobile app.

Not sure what you are looking at?

Use our free Backyard Bird ID Chart by Color (sparklark.com/backyard-bird-id-chart-by-color/). FeederWatch asks you to record the species you can identify, so when in doubt, leave a bird off.