



Christmas Bird Count: Guide for Feeder Counting

Thank you for your interest in participating as a **Feeder Watcher** for the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The data you collect will help to broaden our understanding of winter bird habits. The goal of the CBC is to census every bird within a pre-defined, 15-mile diameter circle over a 24-hour period. The Feeder Watch portion of the CBC aims to determine the highest number of individuals of each species seen on the bird feeders in your yard.

To be a Feeder Watcher, you must meet the following criteria

1. Your bird feeder/yard **must** be located within a designated CBC circle. [Review this map](#) to confirm that your planned Feeder Watch location is within a count circle. Unfortunately, we cannot use data from feeders located outside the count circle, but observations would still be valuable to [eBird](#).
2. You may only count birds at your feeder on the day of the bird count in your circle.

Tips for Identifying Birds

Cornell Lab of Ornithology has several ID resources available through [its Project FeederWatch program](#). The Audubon also offers a [free mobile app for bird ID](#). The datasheet below is narrowed down to the species most likely encountered during a Feeder Watch session in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Tips for Counting Birds

When counting at a bird feeder, record only the highest number of birds per species seen at any given time.

Here is an example of how to eliminate the possibility of counting the same individual bird repeatedly:

If there are two Blue Jays at your feeder, note those two Jays for your count. The birds will fly away, and a single Blue Jay may land later. Do not add this 'new' Jay to your count because it may be one of the same Jays from earlier. The only way that the number of Jays counted could increase would be if more than two Blue Jays (3+) landed at the same time at your feeder. Please follow this rule for each species that you see at your feeders.

Submitting Count Numbers Using eBird

Feeder Watch observations may be recorded using [eBird](#) if you are already familiar with the service. You must create a new list each time you start observing your feeder and stop the list each time you finish observing. All lists created must then be shared with the group set up by your Count Circle Leader, following [the instructions on the eBird website](#).

Submitting Count Numbers Using the Datasheet

The datasheet on the second page can be used instead of eBird by filling out the following information:

1. **Observers:** The name of all people that took part in your Feeder Watch count.
2. **Feeder Location:** The physical address of the feeder(s) being observed.
3. **Time:** The total number of hours (to the nearest quarter) spent observing your feeders.
4. **Species:** Select the correct species from the list of most common backyard birds.
5. **Number:** Record the maximum number of each species at one time.



Species	Number
Canada Goose	
Wild Turkey	
Rock Pigeon	
Mourning Dove	
Turkey Vulture	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	
Cooper's Hawk	
Bald Eagle	
Red-shouldered Hawk	
Red-tailed Hawk	
Eastern Screech Owl	
Great Horned Owl	
Barred Owl	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	
Downy Woodpecker	
Hairy Woodpecker	
Pileated Woodpecker	
Northern Flicker	
Blue Jay	

Species	Number
American Crow	
Black-capped Chickadee	
Carolina Chickadee	
Black-capped/Carolina Chickadee	
Tufted Titmouse	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	
White-breasted Nuthatch	
Brown Creeper	
Carolina Wren	
European Starling	
Northern Mockingbird	
Eastern Bluebird	
American Robin	
Cedar Waxwing	
House Sparrow	
House Finch	
Purple Finch	
American Goldfinch	
Dark-eyed Junco	

Observers:

Other birds:

Feeder Location:

Total Time Spent Observing:

_____ (nearest quarter hour)

Please submit your completed checklist to your Count Circle Leader.

Questions?

Call 412-963-6100 or visit aswp.org