

Project FeederWatch

Tally Sheet

Counts

Use the space to the right to tally the number of individuals of each species that you see simultaneously. Report only the highest number seen at the same time.

Disease

Watch for signs of disease. Pay close attention to finches, checking them for eye disease.

Note Feelings

When you submit your counts, you will have the option to report how you felt during the count. If you wish to help with this aspect of the research, keep notes about how you feel during your count.

Effort

When did you watch your FeederWatch count site?

- Day 1, morning
- Day 1, afternoon
- Day 2, morning
- Day 2, afternoon

Estimate the cumulative time you watched your count site.

- Less than 1 hour
- 1 to 4 hours
- 4+ to 8 hours
- More than 8 hours

Snow Depth

Mark the average conditions during the two-day count.

- None
- Under 5 cm (under 2")
- 5 cm to 15 cm (2" to 6")
- Over 15 cm (over 6")

Site Changes

Mark if you made any of these changes since your last count.

- Provided more food than last count
- Provided less food than last count
- Added feeder(s)
- Removed feeder(s)
- Cleaned feeder(s)
- Added mammal deterrent(s)

The two consecutive dates of this count are _____ and _____

Species Name

Highest Number Seen at One Time

Example: House Finch *3 3 (12)*

12 (enter this number online)

Mammals: Record type and number of mammals seen, including cats and dogs.

Sick and Dead Birds: in addition to species and number, note symptoms, and if deceased, include potential cause of death.

Behavior Interactions: record species (bird or mammal), attempted behavior (displacement or predation), and whether or not the attempt was successful.

Source species	Behavior	Target species	Successful?
Example: Blue Jay	displaced	American Goldfinch	No

Helpful Hints

- List the species you see most often. Then make copies of your tally sheet.
- Print tally sheets from our website at: feederwatch.org/about/detailed-instructions/#prepare-a-tally-sheet.
- Report your counts to FeederWatch at feederwatch.org (do not send in this tally sheet).

Quick Instructions

- 1. Choose your count site** Choose a portion of your yard that is easy to monitor, preferably an area that is visible from one vantage point.
- 2. Choose your count days** Select two consecutive count days as often as once a week. We recommend that you leave at least five days when you do not count between each of your two-day counts.
- 3. How long to count** Watch your count site as much or as little as you want during each two-day count. Keep track of how much time you spend observing and if you are watching in the morning and/or afternoon on one or both days.
- 4. What to count** Count all birds you see in your count site during the day that are attracted to resources that you provide, even if they don't visit feeders, but ignore birds that simply fly over your count site.
- 5. How to count** For each species, keep track of the maximum number of individuals visible simultaneously during your count. *Do not add counts from different times together.* The goal is to never count the same bird more than once. For example, if you see two chickadees at the same time in the morning of your first count day, you would record two chickadees on your tally. If in the afternoon you see four chickadees at the same time, then you would amend your tally to be four (not six). On day two of your count, if you only see three chickadees at once, you wouldn't record that because you already have a higher number recorded. Your final tally for this two-day count would be four chickadees because that is the most you ever saw at once.
- 6. Optional additional data:** There are several types of additional information you can record and submit with your bird counts: 1) mammals that you see in your count site, 2) sick birds and bird mortality, 3) behavioral interactions and predation events, 4) management activities that you do at your site, and 5) feelings about things you see during your counts. Find instructions for all of these additional types of data on the Detailed Instructions page of the About section of our website.
- 5. Report your counts** Submit your counts to Project FeederWatch through the Your Data portion of our website at feederwatch.org. This tally sheet is for your own record-keeping only.
- 6. Describe your site** Please describe your count site by following the "describe your site" link or clicking on the Your Count Site button on the Your Data home page.

Find complete instructions on our website at feederwatch.org/about/detailed-instructions.

For assistance, please contact the Project FeederWatch office in your country.

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Project FeederWatch is a research and education project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada.

