

2022–23 Project FeederWatch

End-of-Season News Note

Thank you for being part of the 36th FeederWatch season! *See inside this letter to read the latest FeederWatch news and more.* As we begin to analyze the data from this past season, you can see initial results in the Explore section of our website. Look for more details in *Winter Bird Highlights*, which will be emailed to all participants in the fall.

Time to Renew

Please take a moment to renew your participation for next season. With each additional year in the project, your counts become more valuable to researchers studying the distribution and abundance of feeder birds. Thank you for your continued support. *Please renew your FeederWatch membership today by following the instructions on the back page of this letter.*

Why Renew So Early?

Renewing now will allow us to save resources on future reminders and will help us better plan for the upcoming season. FeederWatch is supported almost entirely by you, the participants, and renewing early helps us keep our expenses low and make the most of your financial support.

Renew Online or by Mail

- ◆ To renew online and automatically attach your registration to your data entry account, visit our online store at join.feederwatch.org.

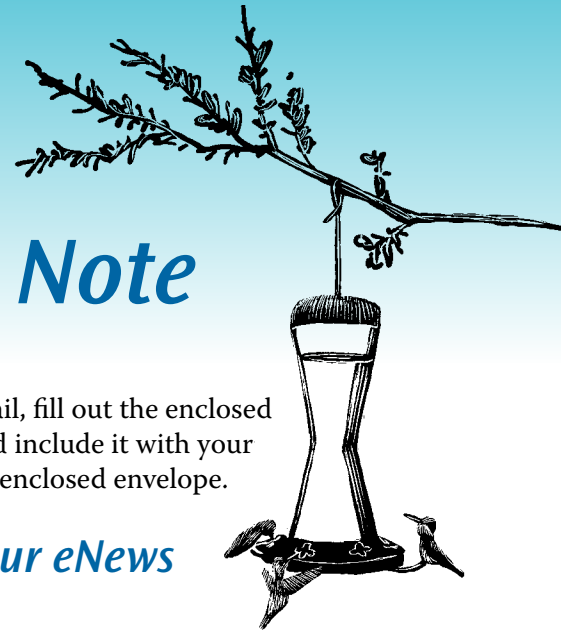
- ◆ To renew by mail, fill out the enclosed renewal slip and include it with your payment in the enclosed envelope.

Maintain Your eNews Subscription

Please maintain your electronic newsletter subscription to get the latest updates and reminders. **If you opt out of print materials, the eNews might be the only communication you receive from Project FeederWatch.** If you think the newsletter may not be reaching you, subscribe by entering your email address in the “Sign up for our newsletter” form near the bottom of our home page or on the right side of any of our other web pages (there’s no risk of double subscribing). Learn more about the newsletter on our website: feederwatch.org/about/e-news-archive. Note that spam blockers may prevent you from receiving this newsletter. Set your spam filter to allow email from feederwatch@cornell.edu.

Submit Your Counts

If you have already submitted your counts, thank you! If you still have counts to submit, please enter your data today. Counts submitted by the end of May will be included in this fall’s *Winter Bird Highlights*.



New Online Store

Last fall FeederWatch launched a new online store that is linked to the FeederWatch database, allowing renewing participants to attach their registration to their data by signing into their data entry account while they are in the store. The new store also automatically fills in the contact information that is in your data entry account when you sign in. And perhaps the best feature of the new system is that **you can now see your registration status on the Your Data home page of our website** as soon as you renew through our online store. In addition, we launched a new FeederWatch Gift Certificate with a clickable code that a gift giver can purchase and give to their recipient, allowing the participant to sign up for free.

Additional Online Store Benefits

Optional Poster

Participants who renew through the online store have the option to receive a poster as well as a calendar if they wish, an option we aren't able to make available through mail renewal at this time.

Coupon Codes

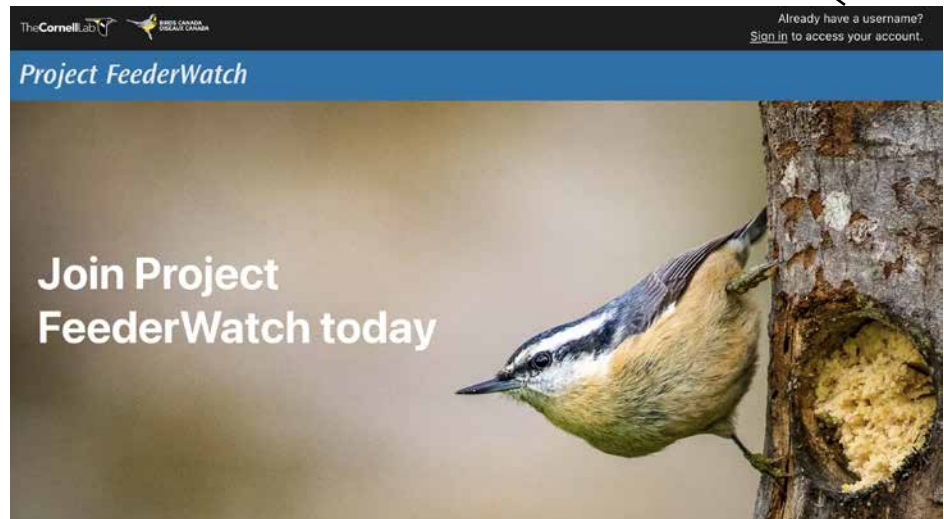
Our new store has the ability to accept coupon codes. For example, if you are a Cornell Lab member, you can sign up at the \$15 Lab member rate by using the coupon code LABMEMBER. To thank you for renewing and to celebrate our new store, we invite everyone who receives this News Note to use this code—even non-members!

Grant to Fund Study of Human-Wildlife Interactions Through Bird Feeding

We have some exciting news! A team of researchers from Project FeederWatch, Virginia Tech, University of Georgia, and The Ohio State University received a grant from the National Science Foundation in the United States to investigate human-wildlife interactions through bird feeding. This grant funds a multiple year study that will look at the impacts for birds and for the people who feed birds. The research will also explore a few habitat management techniques, such as cleaning feeders and creating brush piles. In addition, the grant

will fund initiatives to better include people who are under-represented in Project FeederWatch—such as Black, Indigenous, and people of color and disabled birdwatchers. The grant is just getting started and the research plan is still being developed, so be on the lookout for more updates and requests to contribute. We will be learning a lot in the coming years about how birds and people interact around bird feeders and we look forward to your participation!

Already have a username?
[Sign in](#) to access your account.



New store with “Sign in” link in top right corner. The link moves to the top left corner on smaller screens. Red-breasted Nuthatch by Karen Gallo.



Your Data home page with registration status provided on Welcome line.

Discount to Birds of the World

Participants who renew online can take advantage of a 35% discount on a new subscription to *Birds of the World*, the Cornell Lab's complete online guide. After you renew, follow the link on the Thank You page and in the Thank You email message, for details.

Western Tanagers in the East in Winter

As their name implies, Western Tanagers are primarily a western species. They breed throughout much of the western U.S. and Canada, with their range reaching farther north than any other tanager. Some individuals breed as far north as the Northwest Territories. Western Tanagers winter in Mexico and Central America, but sometimes individual birds show up in eastern states in winter, especially in recent years and in the states of Florida and South Carolina.

This past season, four Feeder-Watch participants living in the East



This Western Tanager was one of four reported to Project FeederWatch from eastern states this past season. She arrived at Richard Hale's feeders in Louisiana in mid-February.



hosted Western Tanagers. In South Carolina a female visited Barbara Spence's feeders from December through mid-February and a male visited Deborah Anderson's feeders from early February through mid-March. Meanwhile in Louisiana Richard Hale reported a female from mid-February through March, when we went to press. Similarly, a female started visiting Anne Casella's count site in Florida in

March and was still visiting when we went to press. Surprisingly, during the 2021–22 and 2020–21 seasons, even more participants reported Western Tanagers, with seven participants from South Carolina alone reporting Western Tanagers during the 2021–22 season! Reports from other states in the 2021–22 season included two Western Tanagers in North Carolina, three in Virginia, and three in Florida, one of which visited Anne Casella's feeders from the end of January through mid-April, the same site where an individual showed up in March this past season. Altogether, there

were 15 Western Tanagers visiting FeederWatch sites in eastern states during the 2021–22 season. Similarly, 12 sites reported these tanagers during the 2020–21 season. Several sites hosted tanagers for more than one season, and it's possible that some of these vagrant tanagers return the following year to winter at the same site.

Prior to the 2020–21 season, Western Tanager reports in eastern states were far more rare, with no reports most seasons, especially prior to 2010. Are more of these tanagers heading east, or are we just getting better at noticing and identifying them? As participant numbers grow, it makes sense that more reports would come in, but the increase in reports seemed to grow at a faster pace than our participant numbers.

These spectacular birds are a reminder that you never know what treats nature has to offer. Thank you for watching and sharing your observations!



Deb Winter in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, enjoyed visits from this beautiful male Western Tanager from mid-January through early March 2022. She reported a male Western Tanager during her FeederWatch counts throughout the previous FeederWatch season as well.

Male Western Tanager that showed up at Patty McQuillan's jelly feeder in Raleigh, North Carolina, in late March 2022. She also reported a male in her FeederWatch count site in late March the year before.

Renew Today

Note: A tax-deductible contribution to FeederWatch beyond your \$18 renewal fee will help fund bird research and education programs. Thank you for your support!

Renew Online

Sign up at join.feederwatch.org.

- ◆ Click the “Sign in” link in the top right corner to log into your data entry account and automatically apply your payment to your account.
- ◆ Fill in any missing contact information and select a print material option below the address fields. **Those who sign up online have the option of receiving a poster and/or calendar.**
- ◆ Enter a payment method and click the red button to sign up. Then on the Thank You page, follow the Complete Setup link to see your renewed status on the Your Data home page.
- ◆ Follow the link in the Thank You email you receive to learn about any additional benefits, like a **discount to *Birds of the World*, only available to those who sign up online.**

Renew by Mail

Fill Out the Enclosed Renewal Slip

Select a Print Material Option

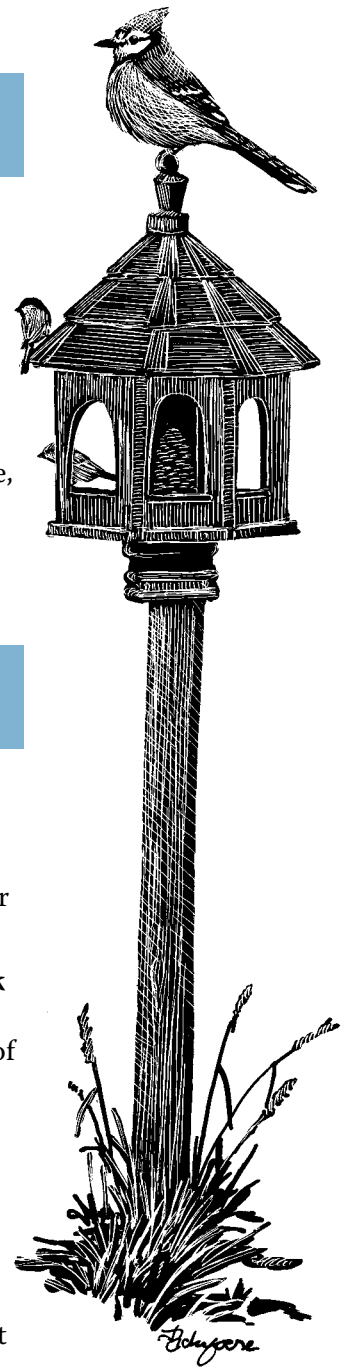
- ◆ **Please send a calendar.** With this option we will send you a Bird-Watching Days calendar in the fall and a letter with a summary of our counting instructions.
- ◆ **Save paper—please don’t send any print materials.** We recommend that you **keep track of your ID number** (printed near your address on the enclosed renewal slip) and **maintain your eNews subscription** (see electronic newsletter information on the front page of this letter).

Select a Payment Method

Indicate how you would like to pay the \$18 annual renewal fee (\$15 for Lab members).

Return the renewal slip with your check or credit card information in the enclosed envelope.

Send the renewal slip, along with your check made out to Project FeederWatch or your credit card information, to us in the enclosed envelope, or mail them to Project FeederWatch, PO Box 37329, Boone IA 50037-0329.



Thank you for supporting Project FeederWatch!

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