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**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:

* Your bird feeder/yard **must** be located within the a designated CBC circle. Review [this map](https://www.audubon.org/conservation/join-christmas-bird-count) to confirm that your planned Feeder Watch location is within a count circle.
  + We unfortunately cannot use data from feeders located outside the count circle, but observations would still be valuable to [eBird](https://ebird.org/home).
* You may only count birds at your feeder on the day of the bird count in your circle. Dates for 2023:

Buffalo Creek Valley (includes Todd Nature Reserve and Buffalo Creek Nature Park) - Dec 16, 2023. Count leader: George Reese (g.reese@gaiconsultants)

Mon Valley – Dec 17, 2023. Count leader: Ben Kehoe (bkehoe@aswp.org)

Pittsburgh (includes Beechwood) – Dec 30, 2023. Count leader: Brian Shema (bshema@aswp.org)

South Butler (includes Succop Nature Park) – Dec 31, 2023. Count leader: Chris Kubiak (ckubiak@aswp.org)

Additional information about the CBC is available at Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania’s website, aswp.org

**Tips for Identifying Birds:**

Cornell Lab of Ornithology has several ID resources available through [its Project FeederWatch program](https://feederwatch.org/about/detailed-instructions/#identify-your-birds). Audubon also offers a free mobile app for bird ID [available here](https://www.audubon.org/app). 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](https://ebird.org/home) 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 at [this link](https://support.ebird.org/en/support/solutions/articles/48000625567-editing-and-sharing-checklists#:~:text=process%20here.-,Sharing%20Checklists%C2%A0,-When%20you%20go).

**Submitting Count Numbers Using the Datasheet:**

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

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

*This information is courtesy of Birds Connect Seattle/Seattle Audubon; updated to reflect the birds of Western Pennsylvania. Visit birdsconnectsea.com for the original sheet.*

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Observers: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Feeder Location: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Total Time Spent Observing:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (nearest quarter hour)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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 |  |
| 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 |  |
| White-throated Sparrow |  |
| Song Sparrow |  |
| Eastern Towhee |  |
| Eastern Meadowlark |  |
| Northern Cardinal |  |

Other birds: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please submit your completed checklist to your Count Circle Leader.**

**Questions? Call (412) 963-6100 or visit aswp.org**