

Tally Sheet

Count Dates

The two consecutive dates of this count are

_____ and

_____.

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—*do not add counts from different times together.*

Disease

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

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")

Species Name

Highest Number Seen at One Time

Example: House Finch 3 5 (12)

12 (enter this number online)

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

Sick and Dead Birds: Note sick or dead birds, including symptoms, and if deceased, potential cause of death. Pay close attention to finches, checking for eye disease.

Behavioral 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 species you see in your count site that are attracted to resources that you provide, even if they don't visit feeders. Don't count 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 individual more than once. For example, if you see two different chickadees at the same time in the morning of your first count day, you would record two chickadees on your tally. If you see four chickadees at the same time in the afternoon, then you would amend your tally to be four (not six). If on day two of your count, you only see three chickadees at one time, 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:
In addition to your bird counts, you can report observations of mammals, sick or dead birds, and behavioral interactions related to displacement or predation attempts. Find instructions for 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 My Counts section of our website at feederwatch.org. This tally sheet is for your own record-keeping only. Only counts submitted through our website or mobile app can be included in the FeederWatch database.
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.

