

2025–26 Project FeederWatch End-of-Season News Note

Dear FeederWatchers,

Thank you for joining us for the 2025–26 season of Project FeederWatch! This year, FeederWatch engaged 31,105 people in monitoring winter birds in the United States and Canada. Together, you observed more than 468 species and submitted a whopping 247,895 checklists from 65 states and provinces to date—a truly remarkable effort. Our research team is hard at work analyzing this incredible data set to learn more about trends in winter birds and to identify the species at greatest risk of decline. Now more than ever, ornithologists rely on participatory science programs like FeederWatch to keep tabs on bird populations. **Thank you for supporting our program and sharing your counts with us.**

We are already planning for our 2026–27 season—**our 40th anniversary!** To mark the occasion, we will organize special events, embark on new research projects, and brainstorm creative ways to connect with the FeederWatch audience and build community. You won't want to miss it! Renew your registration online today at join.feederwatch.org. If you have already renewed for next season, thank you! We're excited you will be joining us for another year of FeederWatch.

As we plan our 40th anniversary, I have had the opportunity to speak with many of our long-time FeederWatchers—folks who have been participating for 20 years

or more! It has been an immense privilege to hear your stories and to celebrate our shared joy of winter birding. I look forward to speaking with more of you in the months ahead. We recently sent a film crew to interview FeederWatchers in six cities in the U.S. and Canada: Ithaca, New York; Raleigh, North Carolina; Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas; San Diego, California; Seattle, Washington; and Vancouver, British Columbia. We will use the footage to produce a short film that showcases the wide diversity of birds and places FeederWatchers monitor each year and highlights voices of our participants. We are excited to share this short film with you in the fall! Many thanks again for your participation in the 39th season of Project FeederWatch. Our research and engagement would not be possible without your support.

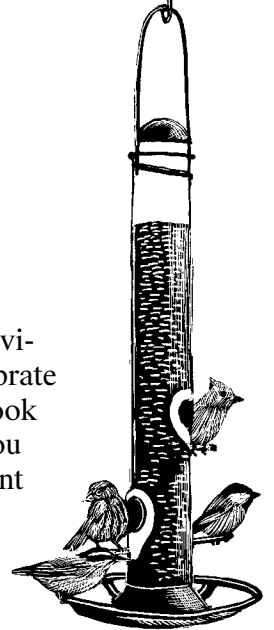
We wish you a summer season of joy, sunshine, and birding!

Sincerely,

Olivia Sanderfoot

Olivia V. Sanderfoot, Ph.D.
Research Scientist &
Project Leader, FeederWatch
Cornell Lab of Ornithology

P.S. Read on to learn more about our ongoing Bird-Glass Collision Study and tips for creating bird-friendly habitat in your count site!



Illustrations by Julie Zickefoose



Bird-Glass Collision Study Continues Through June

Our Bird-Glass Collision Study is in full-swing and providing key data to better understand what factors influence bird-glass collisions. More than 1,000 FeederWatchers from across the U.S. and Canada have joined us in monitoring their windows for bird collisions. Between January and April, study participants recorded 3,356 collisions of 80 different bird species, with the number of collisions in one month at a single site ranging from 0 to 60. At sites

with reports of collisions, study participants reported an average of 2.7 collisions per month. Across all study sites, including those where participants watched their windows but did not report collisions, 1.0 collision was reported per month on average. These are sobering numbers, as we know little about the expected variation in collisions across different months, something we hope to investigate with your help! This

study will run until the end of June to capture spring migration and the beginning of the breeding season.

We could not conduct a study at this scale without participation from folks like you! We would like to give a huge shout out to everyone who joined this additional study and look forward to communicating the results with the FeederWatch community after we analyze the data.

Ways You Can Help Limit Bird-Glass Collisions

Bird-glass collisions are unfortunately quite common both in cities and in residential areas. Luckily, there are effective ways to substantially reduce the number of window strikes. Here are a few key steps you can take to help protect birds around your home:

Mark the outside of your windows with repeating patterns, such as dots. You can use paint, tape, stickers, or strings. To be effective, they should be spaced no more than 2 inches apart. This breaks up the reflection of vegetation or sky and helps birds see the window as a barrier.

Install screens outside your windows. This also makes it easier for birds to see that the windows are not continuations of the landscape.

Dim or turn off lights at night, especially during peak migration season. Most birds migrate at night, and artificial light attracts these migrants to urban areas where they are more likely to have collisions.

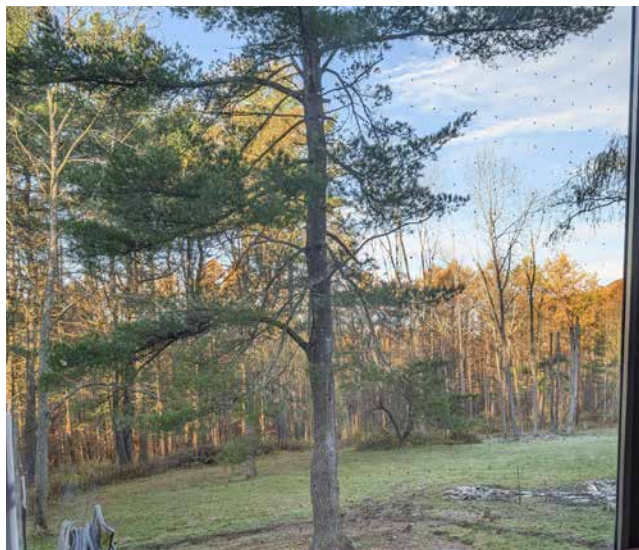
Spread the word! Encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to take action to make our buildings safer for birds.



Submit Your Counts

If you have already submitted your counts from last season, thank you! If you still have counts to submit, please enter your data as soon as possible. Note that you need to be registered for this past season or next season in order to access data entry.

Stay tuned for *Winter Bird Highlights*, our annual report, out this fall!



Mhairi McFarlane, Habitat Stewardship Manager at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, prevented glass collisions at her home using templates she made from old signs (shown above) and window markers. The dots she added to her windows are barely visible from the inside (left). Read her story on our blog at feederwatch.org/blog/preventing-bird-glass-collisions-a-creative-approach/.

Gardening For Birds

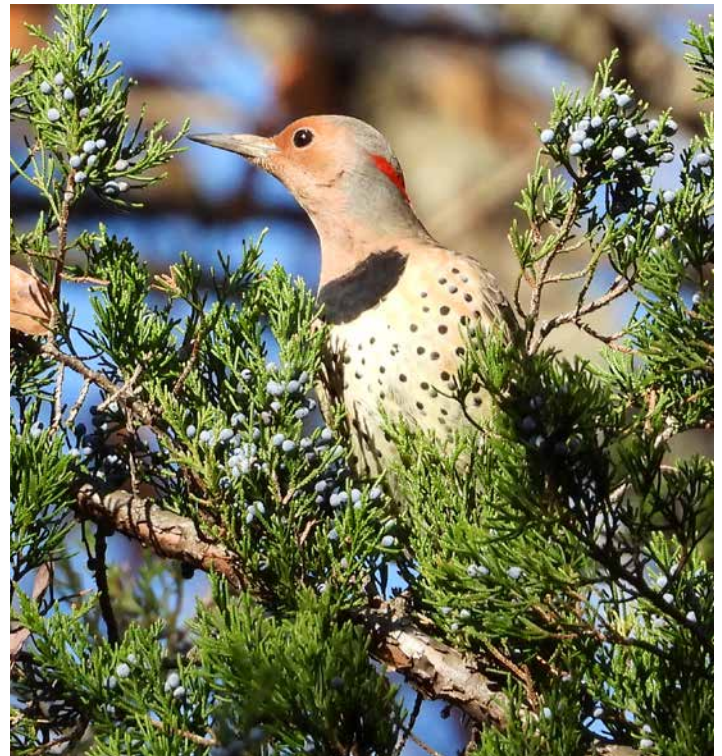
Planting native plants is a great way to support your local birds! In addition to providing a direct resource for birds, native plants also attract insects that birds rely on, particularly during the breeding season.

Here's what FeederWatcher Ryan Buxman had to say about transforming his count site with plants:

Observing and counting bird species has been the most enjoyable practice I've added to my life as I've aged into my late forties. This is only my sixth year putting out feeders and encouraging birds to visit and live around my yard. In hopes of improving habitat for our avian friends, I have a few brush and fallen stick piles to



American Robin on winterberry in Vermont, by Kyle Tansley / Macaulay Library.



Northern Flicker in a juniper plant in Weddington, North Carolina, by FeederWatcher Laura Marzola.

offer protection that we leave instead of chipping them up or burning them. I continue to plant new varieties of bushes and trees and replace non-native with native varieties when feasible. Also, we hope that continuing to add new species of flowering and garden plants each year is benefiting them somehow. The longer I feed birds and the more thought I put into it, the more I learn about new ways to improve the life of our local birds and the more enjoyment I receive from doing it!

Garden for Birds is a new project at the Lab focused on supporting people in creating native plant gardens and spaces to better support birds. Visit the Garden for Birds website at gardenforbirds.org to join and learn new ideas for how to make your home and green areas inviting and nourishing to birds!

Maintain Your eNews Subscription

Please maintain your FeederWatch electronic newsletter subscription to get the latest updates and reminders. The eNews is our primary means of communication with FeederWatchers. If you think the newsletter may not be reaching you, subscribe by entering your email address in the orange form near the bottom of our home page (there's no risk of double subscribing). Learn more about the newsletter on our website: feederwatch.org/about/eneews-archive. Note that spam blockers may prevent you from receiving this newsletter. Set your spam filter to allow email from feederwatch@birds.cornell.edu.

Always Looking for Photos

We enjoy seeing photos of your count sites and the wildlife that visits them. Photos submitted to our Participants Photo Gallery are used in our webpages, calendar, and other print or online content. Please share your photos with FeederWatchers by clicking the Share Your Photos link on the bottom of the My Counts page on our website at feederwatch.org/pfw/data.

Join Us for Our 40th Anniversary Season!

It is time to renew your participation in Project FeederWatch. **If you have already renewed your participation for the upcoming 40th season, thank you!** If not, renew online today! Please note that we no longer accept renewals by mail. With the vast majority of participants now signing up for FeederWatch online, maintaining an option to receive payments by mail is no longer cost effective for us. We recognize this may be an inconvenience for some of you, but we hope you will give our secure online store a try. If you are unable to use the store, please contact us to learn more about alternative options at feederwatch@cornell.edu.

To celebrate our 40th anniversary, we will organize special events, embark on new research projects, and brainstorm creative ways to connect with the FeederWatch audience and build community. You won't want to miss it!

Sign Up at FeederWatch.org/Join-or-Renew



Thank you for supporting Project FeederWatch!

Our research would not be possible without contributions from birders like you.



Yellow-rumped Warbler in Germantown, Tennessee, by FeederWatcher Bryan Barger.



Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay in Alpine, Texas, by FeederWatcher Maggi Gunnels.



Downy Woodpecker in Sequim, Washington, by FeederWatcher David A. Cody.



Project FeederWatch

159 Sapsucker Woods Rd, Ithaca NY 14850