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Project FeederWatch



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Press release: October 2009

- ✦ Media contact in U.S.: David Bonter, (607) 254-2457, [email](#)
- ✦ Media contact in Canada: Kerrie Wilcox, (519) 586-3531, [email](#)
- ✦ Photos available below. Contact us to find local participants.

Help Project FeederWatch Track Backyard Birds

Bird watchers needed to help scientists discover changes in bird populations

- ✦ *Ithaca, NY*—What happens in the backyard should not stay in the backyard—at least when it comes to bird feeders. By sharing information about which birds visit their feeders between November and April, backyard bird watchers can help scientists track changes in bird numbers and movements from year to year, through [Project FeederWatch](#), a citizen-science program from the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) and [Bird Studies Canada](#).

- ✦ Project FeederWatch begins on November 14 and runs through early April. Taking part is easy. Anyone can count the numbers and kinds of birds at their feeders and enter their information on the FeederWatch website. Participants submitted nearly 117,000 checklists last season. Since 1987, more than 40,000 people from the United States and Canada have taken part in the project.

- ✦ “To get the most complete picture of bird movements, we always need new sets of eyes to tell us what species are showing up at backyard feeders,” says David Bonter, leader of Project FeederWatch. “Participants always tell us how much fun it is and how good it feels to contribute to our understanding of birds by submitting their sightings.”

- ✦ Project FeederWatch is for people of all ages and skill levels. To learn more and to sign up, visit www.feederwatch.org or call the Cornell Lab toll-free at (866) 982-2473. In return for the \$15 fee (\$12 for Cornell Lab members) participants receive the FeederWatcher’s Handbook, an identification poster of the most common feeder birds, a calendar, complete instructions, and Winter Bird Highlights, an annual summary of FeederWatch findings.

- ✦ Participant Nancy Corr of Harrisburg, Oregon, sums up her Project FeederWatch experience: “Thanks for the wonderful opportunity to share our love of birding and to participate in something meaningful!”

Regional highlights based on 2008-09 FeederWatch reports:

- ✧ *Photos with photographer credit available to the media to accompany this press release (click photo for higher resolution version). [Contact us](#) to find local participants for stories. Visit the “[Explore Data](#)” section of the website to find the top 25 birds reported in your region and bird summaries by state or province.*

Southwestern U.S. and California

- On most lists: House Finch
- Fewer reports: Western Scrub-Jay
- Increasing: Lesser Goldfinch and Eurasian Collared-Dove



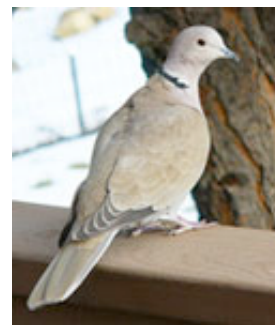
House Finch by
Jeff and Cheryl
Hurd



Western Scrub-Jay by David
Smith



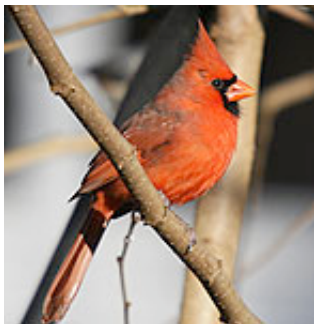
Lesser Goldfinch
by David Smith



Eurasian Collared-
Dove by Patricia
Jones-Mestas

Southeastern and south-central U.S.

- On most lists: Northern Cardinal
- Increasing: White-winged Dove and Eurasian Collared-Dove
- Rare: Yellow-headed Blackbird (Florida)



Northern Cardinal by
Errol Taskin



White-winged Dove by
Pam Koch



Eurasian Collared-
Dove by Patricia
Jones-Mestas

Pacific Northwest and northern Rocky Mountains

- On most lists: Dark-eyed Junco
- Increasing: Anna's Hummingbird and Golden-crowned Sparrow
- Rare: Yellow-throated Warbler (Alberta)



Dark-eyed Junco by David Smith



Golden-crowned Sparrow by Susan Edmiston

Northeast quarter of U.S. and southeastern Canada

- On most lists: Black-capped and Carolina Chickadees
- Fewer reports: Evening Grosbeak
- Rare bird: Green-tailed Towhee (New Jersey)



Black-capped Chickadee by Anne Middleton



Evening Grosbeak by Gord Belyea

North and mid central U.S. and central Canada

- On most lists: Downy Woodpecker
- Fewer reports: American Crows
- Increasing: American Robin and Cedar Waxwing
- Rare bird: Cape May Warbler (Saskatchewan)



Downy Woodpecker
by Maria Corcacas



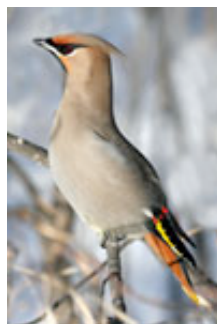
American Robin by Errol
Taskin

Alaska and northern Canada

- On most lists: Common Redpoll
- Increasing: Pine Grosbeak and Bohemian Waxwing
- Fewer reports: Steller's Jay
- Rare bird: Purple Finch (Alaska)



Pine Grosbeak by Gord
Belyea



Bohemian
Waxwing by
Nick Saunders



Steller's Jay by
Pam Koch

The [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](http://www.birds.cornell.edu) is a membership institution dedicated to interpreting and conserving the earth's biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds.

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FeederWatch is a joint research and education project of:

