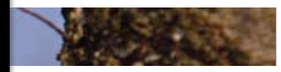
Backyard Naturalist



2008-2009 West Virginia Winter Bird Count

Time to grab a pencil and binoculars and begin the Wildlife Diversity Program's 20th annual Backyard Winter Bird Count. This count gives us information on the distribution of wintering birds in West Virginia. The count will again be 12 weeks to allow us to record some early spring arrivals.

Remember to count the highest number of each species that appears around your feeder at any one time during the entire weekend. For example, if you observe nine American gold finches at the feeder while you're having breakfast on Saturday, and seven are there during halftime of the game on Sunday, simply put down "9" for the weekend, do not add them.

If you get a very large number of birds – estimate their number. We cannot use descriptive words such as "many" or "few."

Some birds, such as crows and robins, may feed away from your feeders. You can count birds such as these as long as you're consistent. When a species doesn't appear, leave its box blank, don't enter a "0." Please do not substitute another day if you missed a designated day; if you're not home one weekend, simply draw a line through that row.

We welcome any information on bird health, unusual sightings, and other interesting happenings in your area. Thanks for the photos and notes that you've sent in the past! Please try to return your tally sheets by May 1, 2009.

If you have any questions contact Rob Tallman at (304) 637-0245 or send an email to rtallman@wvdnr.gov.

For more forms visit **www.wvdnr.gov**.

West Virginia
Division of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Section,
Wildlife Diversity Program

Note: Please record the NUMBER of birds seen in the box provided.	**Temperature** (°F) High° / Low°	**Rain** (R) or **Snow** (S) in inches *(Approximate amount)*	Rock Dove (Pigeon) 313	Mourning Dove 316	Hairy Woodpecker 393	Downy Woodpecker 394	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 402	Red-bellied Woodpecker 409	Northern Flicker 412	Pileated Woodpecker 405	Blue Jay 477	American Crow 488	European Starling 493	Brown-headed Cowbird 495	Red-winged Blackbird 498	Common Grackle 511	Evening Grosbeak 514	Purple Finch 517	House Finch 519	American Goldfinch 529	Pine Siskin 533	White-crowned Sparrow 554	White-throated Sparrow 558	American Tree Sparrow 559	Chipping Sparrow 560	Field Sparrow 563	Dark-eyed Junco 567	Song Sparrow 581	Fox Sparrow 585	Rufous-sided Towhee 589	Northern Cardinal 593	House Sparrow 688	Northern Mockingbird 703	Carolina Wren 718	White-breasted Nuthatch 727	Red-breasted Nuthatch 728	Brown Creeper 726	Tufted Titmouse 731	Black-capped Chickadee 735	Carolina Chickadee 736	American Robin 761	Eastern Bluebird 766	**Other** *(Please Specify Species)*
November 1-2																																											
November 15-16																																											
November 29-30																																											
December 13-14																																											
December 27-28																																											
January 10-11																																											
January 24-25																																											
February 7-8																																											
February 21-22																																											
March 7-8																																											
March 21-22																																											
April 4-5																																											

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ County _____ Zip Code _____

Types of food offered _____

Number of Feeders _____ Estimated Elevation _____

Check one:

I live in a (an): ☐ Urban Area ☐ Suburban Area ☐ Agricultural/Farm Area
☐ Forested Area – *choose type, if known, from the following:*
☐ *Oak/Hickory* ☐ *Mixed Moist Deciduous* ☐ *Northern Hardwood*
☐ *Oak/Pine* ☐ *Conifer* ☐ *Other*

Mail completed survey to:

Bird Count
WV Wildlife Diversity Program
P.O. Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241

Return by May 1, 2009