

Note: This announcement about this year's Project FeederWatch count was received from Bird Studies Canada; therefore, for further information/questions please contact Kerrie Wilcox, Canadian Coordinator, Project FeederWatch at: pfw@bsc-eoc.org

25 Years of Bird Observations Reveal Changes

Project FeederWatch – Everyday Canadians Contributing to our Understanding of Birds

7 September, 2011 Port Rowan, Ontario – Backyard birdwatchers across Canada are invited to take part in the 25th season of Project FeederWatch, from Saturday, November 12 through Friday, April 6. With each season, FeederWatch increases in importance as a unique and indispensable monitoring tool for more than 100 bird species that winter in North America. Last year, over 2,500 Canadians and 11,000 Americans counted backyard birds; their observations help scientists better understand the health and behavior of birds – an important indicator species for the well being of our planet.



Common Redpoll (front) and Hoary Redpoll by Helena Garcia, QC

Each checklist submitted by 'FeederWatchers' helps scientists at Bird Studies Canada (www.birdscanada.org) and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (www.birds.cornell.edu) learn more about where birds are, how they are doing, and how to protect them. Participating in Project FeederWatch is a great way for families and friends to connect with nature, have fun, and help birds. You do not have to be an expert to participate – we'll send you a poster of common birds, and help is just a phone call or email away.

Participants choose how much time they want to dedicate to the project. They are asked to select their own 2-day count period once every 2 weeks, and then count for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they like) on one or both of those days. Sightings are entered online at www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/pfw or reported on paper data forms and mailed in at the end of the season.

Participating in Project FeederWatch is fun! One participant said, "*I have been doing FeederWatch since 1975 and have enjoyed every year. My whole family is now hooked on identifying birds and counting them. Thanks for the fun!*"

Data from FeederWatchers have helped scientists learn about changes in the distribution and abundance of feeder birds over time, expansions and contractions in their winter ranges, the spread of disease in bird populations, and the kinds of habitats and foods that attract birds.

For more information about Project FeederWatch, please visit our website at www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/pfw, or contact the coordinator at 1-888-448-2473 or pfw@birdscanada.org. In the United States, please call 1-800-843-2473.

Bird Studies Canada is a national non-profit organization dedicated to bird research and conservation.

For further information contact:

Kerrie Wilcox, Canadian Coordinator
Project FeederWatch
Bird Studies Canada

Tel. 519-586-3531 ext. 134 or 1-888-448-2473

kwilcox@birdscanada.org

In the U.S., contact David Bonter, 607-254-2457, dnb23@cornell.edu

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Notes to Editor:

If running a story on Project FeederWatch, please mention that a \$35 fee applies.

Contact the Project FeederWatch Coordinator to set up an interview with a *local participant*.

Photos are available upon request.

Project FeederWatch is a joint project of Bird Studies Canada and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

There are four ways to register for Project FeederWatch in Canada:

- Fill out the online form at www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/pfw
 - Email pfw@birdscanada.org
 - Write to: P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario N0E 1M0 (enclose a \$35 cheque payable to Bird Studies Canada)
- Call Bird Studies Canada toll-free at 1-888-448-2473.