

Bird Feeding Tips

Don't let your birdseed get wet—a challenge in our climate! It's better to put out smaller amounts more frequently than to have a lot of food rot. (If the birds have stopped coming to your feeder, there's a good chance that the food has gone bad.

Disinfect and clean your feeders regularly (at least every few weeks in damp weather). Use a weak bleach solution (1/4 cup to 2 gallons of hot water), rinse and allow to dry thoroughly before refilling.

Wash your hands after filling or cleaning your feeders.

Rake away the old seed and husks that gather below your feeders.

Be aware of the health of your birds. Some species are susceptible to illnesses that are easily spread at feeders. If you are finding sick or dead birds at your feeders, stop feeding for a while (3-4 weeks), and clean your feeders thoroughly.

Place feeders very near (within three feet) to windows, or well away (more than 15 feet) to reduce accidental impact. These happen most often when the birds are fleeing a predator.

Black oil sunflower seeds are the favourite of many birds, so is a logical choice. Know your birds so that you can learn about their preferred foods.

Anna's Hummingbirds winter in Victoria, and will come to feeders. 1/4 cup to 1/3 cup of sugar mixed with 1 cup of water is the appropriate ratio, even in winter. Make sure that the food isn't frozen on our colder days. Replace frozen feeders with thawed ones.

Keep your cats indoors. If that doesn't work for you, keep them indoors for the first few hours after sunrise and before sunset, as this is when the birds are hungry and most active.

IMPORTANT: For each species, record the maximum number of birds seen at one time and at the end of the day choose the largest number to record as your count for the day. Do not add separate observations together. Pictures of these birds (and more) are available on the online feeder-watch form.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch | <input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Sparrow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Robin | <input type="checkbox"/> House Finch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anna's Hummingbird | <input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barred Owl | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bewick's Wren | <input type="checkbox"/> Northwestern Crow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brewer's Blackbird | <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Wren |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bushtit | <input type="checkbox"/> Pileated Woodpecker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Quail | <input type="checkbox"/> Pine Siskin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Nuthatch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-backed Chickadee | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk | <input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco | <input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Downy Woodpecker | <input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Towhee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> European Starling | <input type="checkbox"/> Steller's Jay |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow | <input type="checkbox"/> Varied Thrush |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glaucous-winged Gull | <input type="checkbox"/> White-crowned Sparrow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow |

Others:

Results Submission Options:

Submit your results online at christmasbirdcount.ca/bcvi

OR email your results and photos to
feederwatch@naturevictoria.ca

OR mail to VNHS, P.O. Box 5220, Station B, Victoria, BC, V8R 6N4. Results must be received within one week to guarantee inclusion in this year's totals.

Your name:

Address of the feeder:

Count area (if known)

Phone:

Email:

I counted in the: Morning Afternoon
for a total of _____ minutes.

Is your feeder visible from the street? _____

Victoria Natural History Society Christmas Bird Count Feederwatch



Please help us get a better idea of the birds in your area during the Christmas Bird Count.

Just report the birds you can identify--it is okay if you don't know them all! Photos of the most commonly found yard birds are inside.

2017/18 Count Dates

**Victoria: Dec. 16 /2017 Sidney: Dec. 17/2017
Sooke: Dec. 28/2017 Duncan: Jan. 1/2018**

Others posted at christmasbirdcount.ca/bcvi

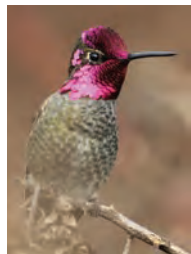
Want to join a count team or learn more about nature on southern Vancouver Island? Check out the Victoria Natural History Society!



naturevictoria.ca



American Goldfinch



Anna's Hummingbird



Barred Owl



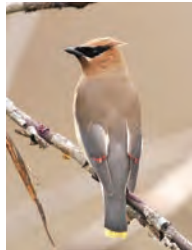
Bewick's Wren



Brewer's Blackbird



Bushtit



Cedar Waxwing



Chestnut-backed Chickadee



Cooper's Hawk



Dark-eyed Junco



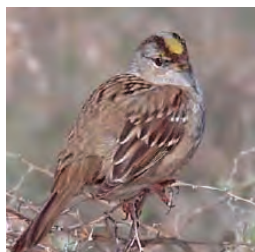
Downy Woodpecker



European Starling



Fox Sparrow



Golden-crowned Sparrow



House Finch



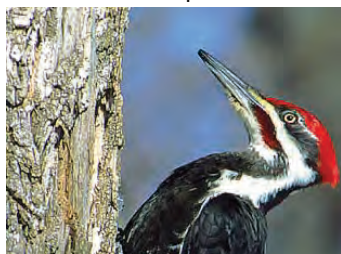
House Sparrow



Northern Flicker



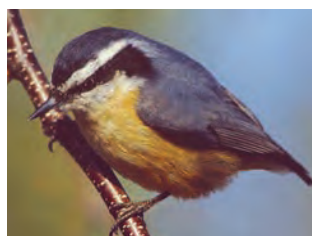
Pacific Wren



Pileated Woodpecker



Pine Siskin



Red-breasted Nuthatch



Red-winged Blackbird



Song Sparrow



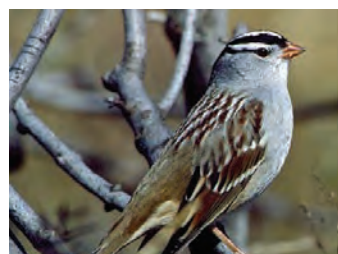
Spotted Towhee



Steller's Jay



Varied Thrush



White-crowned Sparrow



White-throated Sparrow

Photographs used with permission from Michael Yip (www.vancouverislandbirds.com)

Ed Pellizzon
Chris Saunders
Marie O'Shaughnessy
Ann Nightingale
Bruce Whittington