

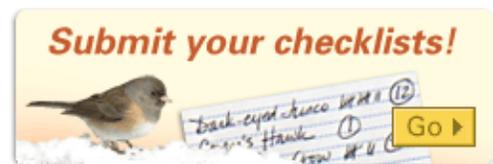


2013 Instructions for National Wildlife Refuges & Urban Bird Treaty City Partners

HOW TO COUNT THE BIRDS: Easy as 1-2-3!

1. **Count birds anywhere** you like - such as at a National Wildlife Refuge or in a location in an Urban Bird Treaty City - for at LEAST 15 minutes (longer if you wish). Count birds in as many places and on as many days during the four-day GBBC period as you like, and keep track of the kinds of birds you see and how long you watched.
2. **Make your best estimate** of how many total birds you saw of each species during the count period. For example, 5 Northern Cardinals, 3 American Crows. Huge flocks may be a challenge, but your best guess is still valuable.
3. **Enter your list(s) online** at www.BirdCount.org. Submit a separate checklist for each new day. You can also submit more than one checklist per day for each new location or even from the same location. *Be sure to include the name of the National Wildlife Refuge in your information when you enter your list.*

Note: Look for the "Submit your checklists" button on the Great Backyard Bird Count website. You will be able to start entering bird lists at 7:00 AM Eastern time (U.S.) on the first day of the count, Friday, February 15, 2013.



Easy!

If you want to get more details about how you set up a free GBBC account and enter your lists, you can read further. The process is very easy and you will be guided each step of the way, so don't worry! You will be able to create your GBBC account starting in January 2013.

If you already have an account for the eBird, Project FeederWatch, NestWatch, or YardMap projects, you can simply use that login information.

CREATING A GBBC ACCOUNT/ENTERING BIRD LISTS

Where You Counted

Create your new account at www.BirdCount.org (if you have an existing eBird account, you can use that account). Choose your country and state/province (if applicable), and county or city (optional) so you can quickly zoom to that location on the Google map. When the map zooms to your location, left-click with your mouse to place a “pin” at the location where you went birding. Give that location a name (i.e., home, Fairmount Park, Savannah National Wildlife Refuge, Feeders at Wheeler NWR, Willow Lake at Santa Ana NWR, etc.) in the box in the right-hand column of the web page so you can use it again anytime. And if your location is at a National Wildlife Refuge, please remember to include the refuge name on your count list. The red pins on the map are “hotspots” marked by others as being good places to find birds.

TIP: You can zoom in further on the map in a number of ways: by double-clicking with your mouse; by using the tools on the left side of the map; by using the magnifying glass icon; or by using shift + click to draw a box at the desired location.

Date & Effort

Fill in the date for the checklist you are submitting and indicate the type of count you did:

- **Traveling:** You traveled some distance—walking a trail, driving a refuge loop, field birding
- **Stationary:** You stayed in one place, perhaps watching your feeders from a window
- **Incidental:** You saw a bird while you were doing something else—birding was not your main activity

Enter your start time, how much total time you spent counting birds, and how many people contributed to this checklist.

Enter Your Birds

You will get a list of birds you might see in your area during February. In the boxes, enter your estimate for the number of individuals of each species you saw while you were counting. Use an “x” if you can’t estimate the number.

Other Tools to Try

These tools are in the column on the right side of the page.

- Put the species list in alphabetical order
- Show or hide rare species for your area and show or hide subspecies. (**If you are a beginning birder, we recommend leaving these boxes unchecked.**)
Sort by frequency: this places the birds in three groups—the ones seen frequently in your area, those seen rarely, and those that have not ever been reported yet.

Are You Reporting Everything?

It's important to let us know if you are reporting all the species you were able to identify. You should always choose "Yes" in the right-hand column, unless you are leaving out some species on purpose.

Rare Birds

If you have a bird on your list that you don't find on the main checklist, click "show rare species" in the right column. If the species is not there either, go to "Add a Species" to type the species' name and add it to the list.

Flagged Reports

If you enter a type of bird or a number of birds that is unusual you will get a message asking you to confirm your report. If you're certain about what you saw, click the "complete" button. Your report will go to a person who reviews reports from your area. This is a normal part of the process. You may even be contacted by the reviewer to get more details about your report.

Giving More Details

If you do see something unusual, please tell us more about how you identified the bird. Look for the little "add details" button next to the bird name. It's VERY helpful if you have a digital photo. You can even embed that image with your checklist. (Instructions on how to do that are online.)

Send In Your List

Hit "Submit" on the lower-right when you're done. You'll see a confirmation page that shows the list you submitted. Click "Email Yourself" at the top-right if you want a copy. If you were birding with a friend and want them to be able to add the list to their GBBC account (or eBird account) click "Share w/ Others in Your Party." **DO NOT use this to send them a list to look at if they were not there.** Just forward them the list you get for yourself by email.

Submit Another List

If you have another list, select links on the right that allow you to submit from the same location and date, submit from the same area etc.

***Thank you for taking part in
the Great Backyard Bird Count!***