

Backyard Winter Bird Survey



2025 Report

by Dr. Pamela Hunt, Senior Biologist

Who still remembers February 2025?

The Backyard Winter Bird Survey (BWBS) took place at the start of an unusually cold stretch that lasted into March. In Concord, the average temperature in early February was five degrees below the long-term average, making the winter overall two degrees colder than normal—a sharp contrast to the recent trend of warmer winters. Many participants reported temperatures around ten degrees on Saturday morning of the survey, with Sunday feeling almost balmy as the thermometer climbed toward freezing. The season was also drier than usual, which may surprise some given the wet spring that followed. Lower snowfall was a big factor, although there was a significant storm across much of the state the very night of the survey.

Record Number of Observers!

While it's always hard to know how much weather affects bird numbers, one factor stood out clearly in 2025: the record number of participants. A total of 1,953 people took part—nearly 300 more than the previous high of 1,678 set in 2021.

With more eyes on the birds, it's no surprise that many feeder favorites also reached record totals, including Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, House Sparrow, House Finch, and Northern Cardinal. This year's report will focus more on “adjusted” counts (birds per observer) to account for the increase in participants. A full table of totals is included at the end of the report.

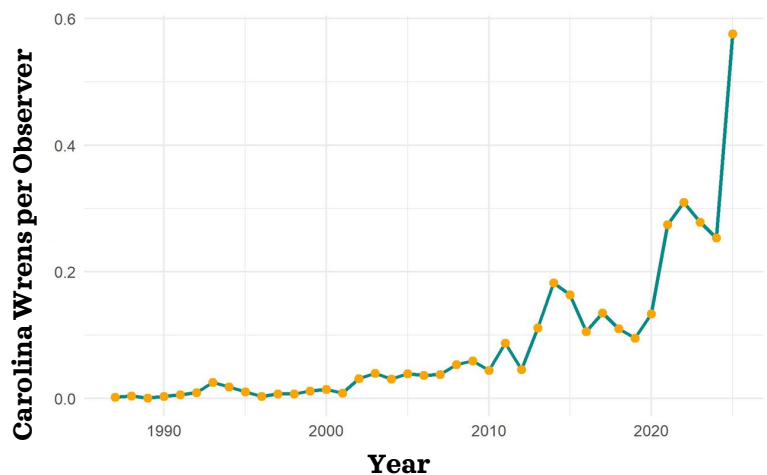
Three Standouts: Carolina Wrens, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, & Eastern Bluebirds

Three of these record-breaking species also set new highs in adjusted counts, showing that their increases weren't just a result of more observers. The standout here is Carolina Wren, which surged above 1,000 for the first time. Some of this increase

might be due to better documentation of this species from areas where it's less likely, but as I've been saying for years these feisty wrens are only going to get more common. Red-bellied Woodpeckers are another species that has expanded its range into New Hampshire and are increasing. It should come as no surprise that they also hit a record high of 1,389. The final standout here is another perennial favorite: the Eastern Bluebird, which is closing in on 5,000 individuals counted (2.5 per observer).

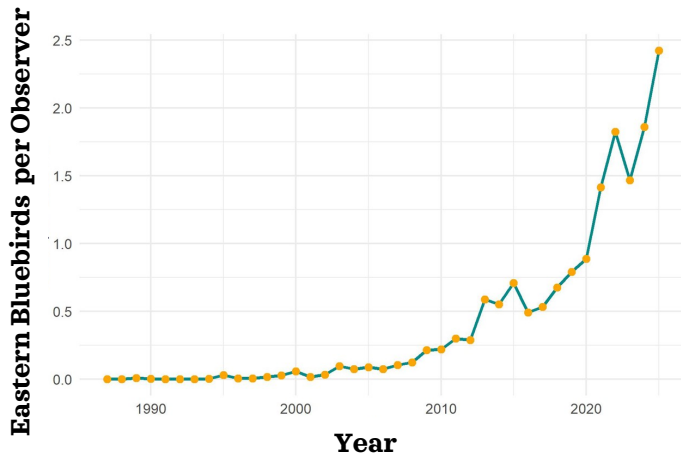


A more common sight in winter! A record number of Carolina Wrens were recorded during the 2025 Backyard Winter Bird Survey (BWBS). Note the white eyebrow and long decurved bill. Photo by Caitlin McMonagle on her 2025 BWBS.



Average number of Carolina Wrens counted per observer (1987-2025) on the Backyard Winter Bird Survey.

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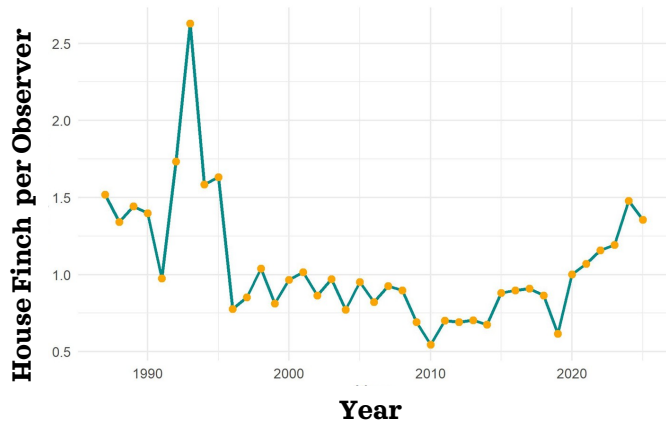


Average number of Eastern Bluebirds counted per observer (1987-2025) on the Backyard Winter Bird Survey.

House Finch History

House Finches tell a longer story. As I've reported here in the past, this non-native species was first introduced in New York City in 1939. It spread quickly in all directions, reaching New Hampshire in 1967. Numbers continued to increase into the early 1990s, but in 1994 a conjunctivitis outbreak started killing finches around Washington DC. The disease spread rapidly, reaching New Hampshire by 1996.

Within three years it had reduced House Finch populations in the eastern US by more than half. Numbers remained low for over twenty years but have started trending upward again since 2019. This recovery may represent the eastern population gaining a greater level of immunity to the bacterium that causes conjunctivitis.



Average number of House Finch counted per observer (1987-2025) on the Backyard Winter Bird Survey.

Half-hardies Continue to Rise

Just as Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Carolina Wrens have become a perennial topic in this summary, discussion of “half-hardies” is only going to become more frequent. For the uninitiated, these are species that typically spend the winter south of New England but linger in the north when weather and/or food supplies permit it. In other words, they are more likely to survive a New Hampshire winter than long-distance migrants like most flycatchers, swallows, and warblers, but less adapted than more typical year-round residents like woodpeckers and chickadees. Hence the term “half-hardy.”



A Northern Flicker by Gen Stys on the 2025 Backyard Winter Bird Survey. Northern Flicker's are another half-hardy species we are seeing more of.

Lots of half-hardies will frequent feeders when they find themselves out of their element and thus get found by participants on the Backyard Winter Bird Survey. In 2024's summary, I reported on new high counts for this group overall, and individual highs for several species (e.g., Pine Warbler and Eastern Towhee).



In 2025, we had one more Pine Warbler, than last year, 13 individuals. Thank you to everyone who sent in photos to confirm this unusual species in winter. Photo by Jill Arabas.

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A half-hardy species, a record number of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were recorded during the 2025 Backyard Winter Bird Survey (BWBS). Photo by Fran Keenan on her 2025 BWBS.

Despite the colder-than-average winter of 2024-25 half-hardies again set records, with woodpeckers leading the charge. Our total of 42 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers more than quintupled the previous record, a pattern that was seen in other data sets last winter. For example, I knew of at least five sapsuckers in Concord alone, whereas the Merrimack County Backyard Winter Bird Survey total for 2025 was “only” 11 (itself higher than the previous statewide high!). Hermit Thrushes also put in an exceptional showing, including many photographed by survey participants.

The stars of 2024, Eastern Towhee and Pine Warbler, tied their previous record or beat it by one, respectively. It seems likely that that this group of birds, like Carolina Wrens before them, is gradually becoming an expected component of our winter avifauna.

Backyard Raptors

With the exception of Cooper’s Hawks, birds of prey don’t get a lot of attention in the Backyard Winter Bird Survey summary, but 2025 saw the continuation of some increasing trends. Leading the way was Red-shouldered Hawk, which set a new record with seven. Looking at the data overall, the number of records of this species (it could be considered another half-hardy) has skyrocketed with warmer winters, as shown in the table below. The same

pattern is seen in one of our smallest raptors, the Eastern Screech-Owl. Does this mean the owl is stealthily increasing in New Hampshire, are more observers listening at night, or both?

Table 1. Numbers of Red-shouldered Hawks (RSHA) and Eastern Screech-Owls (EASO) by decade on the Backyard Winter Bird Survey.

Years	RSHA	EASO
1987-1995	1	1
1996-2005	1	2
2006-2015	4	3
2016-2025	21	10

Not Everyone Had a Banner Year

Not every species had a banner year. The big “losers” in 2025 were the winter finches, with very few of these northern wanderers moving south into the Granite State. Evening Grosbeaks, were more common than in 2024 but certainly not widespread. Pine Grosbeaks, crossbills, and Redpolls were rare or absent. Of the other irruptive species, Bohemian Waxwings failed to appear entirely while Cedars were very hard to find anywhere. One of my other predictions was that Red-breasted Nuthatch would appear in numbers, and while there were more than in 2024, most were in the northern part of the state and their movement was underwhelming in the south.

Mourning Doves continue a slow decline based on adjusted data. The same is true for Black-capped Chickadees, which despite a slight uptick from 2024 are still half as common as they were 40 years ago (per observer).

Backyard Winter Bird Survey Rarities

Of course, there were also rarities. One new species was added to the Backyard Winter Bird Survey rolls in 2025: a Double-crested Cormorant in Portsmouth Harbor. With winters warming, this is another species becoming more common in winter along the coast. Gone are the days when one could assume any cormorant seen in New Hampshire from December to February was a Great Cormorant.

Backyard Winter Bird Survey



Another survey first was an “Audubon’s” Warbler in Hanover. This is the western subspecies of our familiar Yellow-rumped Warbler. It is most easily identified by its plainer face and yellow throat. Also visiting from the west was another unusual subspecies, an “Oregon” Junco in Hollis. Both these birds were present for most of the winter, no doubt providing a bit of extra excitement on cold dreary days.



A rare “Oregon” Dark-eyed Junco (top) photographed by Jill Arabas, and the more common subspecies, Slate-colored (bottom), photographed by Kathy Day.

Wrapping up the rarity list are orioles, which seem to be increasing in frequency like screech-owls. Of the eight Baltimore Orioles ever reported on the Backyard Winter Bird Survey, all but one have been in the last 20 years. This year’s bird was a female in Exeter. Also exciting was the survey’s second-ever record of the western Bullock’s Oriole. This bird was first detected in November at a feeder in Hooksett, where numerous birders made the pilgrimage to see it. It disappeared around Christmas and was long assumed to have departed for Mexico where it was supposed to be, only to resurface just over the county line in Manchester on the Backyard Winter Bird Survey.

A New Backyard Winter Bird Survey Website!

by Grace McCulloch, Survey Coordinator

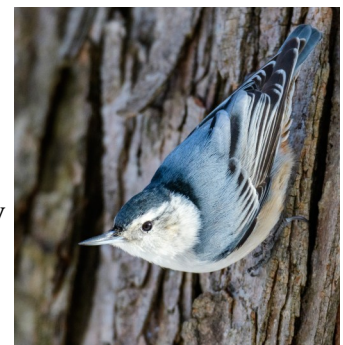
We are excited to share our brand-new Backyard Winter Bird Survey webpage!

If you enjoyed the graphs in this year’s summary, you’ll love what’s now available online. The new website lets you explore all 35+ years of Survey data—see how participation has changed over time, take a closer look at species trends, and browse a photo gallery from last year’s participants. You can also easily access our archive of past reports in one place.

This is also where you can submit your data online. Last year, nearly 1,000 people did just that, a record number that helped us process results more quickly and efficiently. We’re deeply grateful to every participant for making this possible and for the valuable contributions you bring to the Survey.

Prefer paper? You can still print a Backyard Winter Bird Survey form from the site. We’ve also added resources to support your birding, including guides to commonly confused species and quick ID tips for those just starting out.

We’re delighted to open this new chapter and hope you enjoy exploring the data that you helped collect. This project simply wouldn’t be possible without you and your bird counts. Thank you for being part of the Survey community. Please reach out to let us know what you think of the new site!



White-breasted Nuthatch by Jayne Buckley Sykes on the 2025 Backyard Winter Bird Survey.

Scan here or go to
backyardwinterbirds.nh Audubon.org



Backyard Winter Bird Survey



Dr. Hunt's Predictions for 2026

It's unusual for me to predict an irruption two winters in a row, but I'm doing just that for the Red-breasted Nuthatch. While cone survey results and reports from Canada aren't available at the time of writing these predictions, local signs suggest there are already more of these lively little climbers around in August 2025 and this is before their peak movement period in September and October.

On my weekly walks around Concord, I recently counted more Red-breasted Nuthatches than their larger White-breasted cousins, and banding efforts on Appledore Island in the Isles of Shoals have also been seeing higher numbers. A decent white pine cone crop is developing in parts of New Hampshire, but whether the birds stay to use it won't be clear until winter, when the counting begins. Meanwhile, August also brought the first signs of a Red Crossbill movement, especially in the western part of the state, and I expect their numbers to build by February.

As for the other winter wanderers, expectations are lower. Long-term patterns suggest there could be some movement among fruit-eating species like Bohemian Waxwing and Pine Grosbeak, but both are far less common than they were 20–30 years ago and haven't reached their former abundance even in "good" years. I've stopped trying to predict Redpoll irruptions after four straight years without one. Technically, this means we're overdue, but I'm not holding my breath.

Looking ahead, if the recent increase in participation continues, I expect more record high counts to fall in 2026. The real question will be whether these represent true proportional increases or simply reflect more observers. Either way, expanding species such as Red-bellied Woodpecker and Carolina Wren, rising species like Eastern Bluebird, and a suite of half-hardy birds will likely continue their upward trends, weather permitting.



Red Squirrel by Donna Ellis.

2025 Backyard Winter Bird Survey Donors

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Survey. Contributions are the sole source of funding for this Survey and make it possible for us to collect and analyze this valuable data. The following list includes donations of \$10 and higher, but please know that we appreciate every gift.

—Grace McCulloch, Survey Coordinator

Owl (\$500 - 1,000):

Nancy Ekola Carl and Karen Nydegger Steve Wheeler

Bluebird (\$100-499):

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Anonymous (6) | Rosanne Buck | Barry Doyle | Greenwald |
| Peg Ackerson | Chris Burgess | Dorothy J. Duclos | Marilyn Griska |
| David Ackley | Don Burns | Diane Dunn | Penny Halvorsen |
| Jen and Brendan Armstrong | Joseph Carr | Linda Fenton | Ann Hamilton |
| Diane Ash | Tom Murray and Linda Cates | Sarah Flanagan | Beth Heckman |
| Jory and Brenda Augenti | Sharon Comeau | Cheryl Fonda | Jay Hendee |
| Robyn Baker | Pat Coolidge | Elizabeth and William Fraser | Thomas Hendrickx |
| Sylvia Bates | Laura Coutermarsh | Patricia Furness | Gail Henry |
| Joseph Becker | Kay Cushman | David and Nancy Gaseau | Christina Hill |
| Gil Becker | Alice Custard | Jean Govatos <i>in memory of</i> | Deborah Holbrook |
| Gary and Su Bennett | Herb D'Arcy | <i>Larry Sunderland</i> | Katharine Ingram |
| Beth Bissonnette | Reinhild Davis | Richard A. Gracie | Lawrence Jenkyn |
| Arthur C. Borrer | Elizabeth Deakin | John Brouder and Carol | Tom and Carol Kelly |

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Continued Bluebird (\$100-499):

Sara Kjendal	Grazyna Medynski	Andrea E. Robbins	Francie Von Mertens
Liz Fedorzyn and Jeff Klenotic	Karen B. Mitchell	Kathie Rudd	Marti and Tom Warren
Thomas and Bonnie Knott	David Nelson	Michele E. Sandler	Sarah S. Webb
Robert W. Kruszyna	Paul and Lois Nickerson	Sherrill Davis and Lee Sarapas	Betsy Whitmore
Randy Langer	Carla and Kent Nielsen	Bob and Susan Schultz	Marilyn Williams
Ronald Lawler	Jeff and Sylvia Nollet	Rebecca Scott	
Marcia Legru	Jason Ouellette	Mike Seckla	Matching Gifts were received
Jan and Mike Litvin	Wendy Palmquist	Ginny Shannon	from: <i>Johnson & Johnson</i>
Janet Lucas	Georgia Pane	Ralph Sidore	<i>Matching Gift Program</i>
Alice Matheny	Northam Parr	Anne O. Smith	
Greg McCormick	Cliff Peters	Rebecca Spiegel	
John McInnis	Richard Peterson	Susan Tucker	
Everett McLaughlin	Elizabeth Pollard	Bruce and Roberta Ulricson	
Grace B. McNamara	Robert and Sally Puth	Elizabeth Vershay	

Cardinal (\$50-99):

Anonymous (6)	James Duncan	Pat Kellogg	Bob and Susan Mooney	Mary and Garry Stewart
Heather and Thomas	Elizabeth Eaton	Kenneth Kimball	Melissa Moore <i>in honor of</i>	Harrison E. and Linda A.
Algozzine	Leonard and Cynthia Espie	Audra Klumb	<i>Rebecca Suomala's</i>	Stover
Mark and Karen	Sharon Everts	Barbara R. Klumb	<i>retirement</i>	Linda Thomas
Archambault	Michelle Fischer	Mark and Ginny Knoettner	Linda Newell	Don and Carol Tordoff
Susan Argetsinger	Sandra Fligg	Joelle A. Labrecque	Donna Newman-Russell	Lori Trussell
Gail Barr	Anne and Mitchell Freitas	Kathryn and Normand	Steven Nichols	Michael Tugel
Kevin Bennett	Kathryn and Roger Frieden	Labrecque	Faye O'Neill	Hilary Tyls
Susan Bird	Everett Gale	Jackie Lacasse	Anne Onion	John Udalo
Mary Breen	Elizabeth Gillette	Bob and Sue LaFlamme	Patricia Passannante	Denise Vaillancourt
Stacy Bull	Laura Goldner	Linda LaFlamme	Walter and Barbara	Sue and Gene Venable
Linda and William Carbone	Nick Greamo	Anne and Ray LaForce-	Perlowski	Johanna Vienneau
Carol Carpenter	Nancy Greenwood	Orzechowski	Gail Pozzuto	Laurie Wadsworth
Winslow and Susan Carr	Robin Haberbosch	Cindy Landry	Barbara D. Pringle	Sharon Walker
Susan and Dale Caswell	David Hall	Carolyn B. Lane	Richard Proulx <i>in memory</i>	Kathy Walsh
Mimi Clark	Claire L. Hamel	Diane LaRocque	<i>of my wife Sandra, who</i>	Margaret Watkins
Alan and Suzanne	Bob Hamm	Cindy Leduc	<i>loved nature</i>	Debra M. Wayne
Cleveland	Susan Hardy	Joseph and Tanna Lewis	Karen, Jeff and Joel	Nan Welch
Gail Colglazier	Penny Hardy	Tom Longan	Raymond	Gary Bogue and Patricia
Nancy Conkling	Jackie and Jeff Harrington	Donna Lyon	Tinka Reed	Wells
Kathleen Conners	Richard W. Hazzard	John MacKenzie	Teresa Reinhardt	Dorothy White
Buzz Connolly	Diane Heer	Evelyn W. MacNeil	Joe Reisert	Greg White
Nichole Cote	Kathy Heselbarth	Marilyn Mahoney	Leonard and Denise	Douglas T. Whitney
Carolyn and Jim Cullen	Mary and Bill Hildreth	Nancy Marashio	Reitsma	CherylAnne Williams
Marge Curry	Mary and Hayden	Thomas and Sharon	Nancy Rendall	Carol Main and Greg
Louise Curtin	Hillsgrove	Markey	Bruce Rich	Williams
Thomas and Jutta Curtin	Tammy Hines	Donald Marotte	Martha and John Richards	Demi Wittmann
Elaine Danisienka	Donald and Mary-Lou	Amanda Marsh	Joyce Robitaille	Denise Woodman
Helen T. Davidson	Hinman	Margaret Marshall	Nicholas P. Rowe	Sherry L. Wyskiel
William C. Davis	Laurel Horne	Richard A. Marshall	Judith Russell	Gail and Russell Yearke
Susan de Nesnera	Rick Hutchins	Carl Martland	Richard Scaramelli	
Teri De Young	Lauren Jacoby	Dian Mathews	Charlene and Art Schrom	Matching gifts were
Char Delabar	Sally Jeffrey	Connie McDade	Jim and Kathleen Sherman	received from: <i>Novartis</i>
Susan DeLuca	Wendy Johnson	Chris and Lisa McHugh	Pamela Sinotte	<i>Matching Gift Program</i>
Bob and Sandy Donnell	Cathy Johnson	Nancy McLain	Sharin Smeeth	
Paul and Deb Doscher	Alan Jutzi	William McNamara	Jeff and Joan Smith	
Monica Dove	John and Linda Karcz	Jason Meserve	Roberta Smith	
Leslie Drexelius	Frances Keenan	Dotsie Millbrandt	Lydia Stavrinis	

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Chickadee (\$10-49):

Anonymous (22)	Eileen Conforti	Edie Harris	Stan McCumber	Jeanne M. Pratt	Shirley Sweeney
Lee and Elaine Alexander	Lenny and Pam Cornwell	Sylvia Hartmann	Marianne McDaniel	Greg Prazar	Audrey Sylvester
Suzanne Allison	Sylvia D. Cote	Meredith Hatch	Steve McGettigan	Alice Proctor	David and Susan Taylor
H. Cook Anderson	Leiann Cotton	Suzanne Hazen	Doug McLfroy	Jacqueline Provost-Corliss	Charlie Tentas
Eric and Cherilyn Anderson	Harriet Cox	Elena M. Heiden	Dee McKown	Joyce Puleo	Jodi Thiele
Nikki A. Andrews	Bradford Crosby	Richard Hersey	Cynthia McLeod	John Queenan	Betsy Thomas
Donna Anthony	Dawn Culbertson	Sandra Heuston	Sandra McNeff	James Ramanek	Peter Thompson
Phyllis Appller	Hildy and Ray Danforth	Anne E. Hewitt	Sue Martin and Pete McVay	Lisa and Elvin Ramey	Thad Thorne
Susan L. Arnold	Sharon Day	Janice Hewitt	Joanne Meachen	Norene Rash	Stephanie Thornton
Denise M. Arsenault	Susan DeAppolonio	Nancy Heywood	Alice Meattay	Leone Rasmussen	Eileen Thrower
Joyce Auger	Jane Denison	Judy and Mark Hohenadel	Carol Meise	Linda Rauter	Pat Thurber
Wendy Avery	Carolyn DeSchuytner	Diane Holmes	Joyce Meisel	Ann B. Rettew	Martha Thyng
Andrea and Rick Avery	Susan Deyermenjian	Craig Holmes	Mark Miller	Ruth Rhoades	Joyce Tompkins
Deborah Ayers	Mary DiBello	Joan C. Hopf	Thomas K. Milligan	Jane W. Robie	Katie Towler
Ernest L. Bainton	Katie Doherty	Kathy Houghton	Nanci and Charlie Mitchell	Marcy Robinson	Anne Marie Van Coesant
Robert Bartlett	Tammy Dorris	Dave Howe	Kathi Mitchell	Jacquelyn Rollins	Deborah Volkmann
Gail and Francis Bartlett	Valerie Dotson	Craig A. Hoyt	Carol Montgomery	Judy Romano	Arthur Walker
Holly Bauer	Lorraine Drake	Norma Hubbard	Denise Montminy	Linda Romero	Joan M. Walker
Deborah Benedetti	Sandy Dufour	Dan Hubbard	Nancy J. Moody	Karen Romlein	Roy Walker
Sharona Ben-Sorek	Thomas Durant	Whit and Sandy Inzer	Linda Moore	Janine Rousseau-Evans	Carol Walsh
Muriel G. Bergeron	Glenn Eaton	Richard and Patricia Janelle	Gwen Morgan	Genevieve Rowell	Wendy P. Ward
Michele Bernier	Peter Eckberg	Denise Jeffery	Mary Moritz	Roberta Rowntree	Joseph Warner
Sally Bertrand	Ray and Rae Egan	Deborah Jensen	Alice Morris	Karen Roy	Barbara Wauchope
Joyce Bewersdorf	Donna Ellis	Lynn Jessee	Ed and Marilyn Moses	Joyce Russell	Lee Weatherby
Reinie and Hubert Bittner	Brenda Ellis	Mary T. Johnson	Denise L. Naiva	Michael D. Ryan	Shipp Webb
Pamelyn Blair	Francis Emory	Paul J. Fenton, Jr.	Dominic Nesbnaek	Susan Rydberg	Dave Webber
Robert Blake	Rob Emory	Peter Keefe, Jr.	Michael Nelson	Kenneth and Paula Rys	Gloria and Jack West
Don Bourgault	Sandra Estabrook	Scott Judd	Joyce and Joel Nelson	Deborah Samodai	Sharon White
Robert and Marianne Boyd	Michael H. Everngam	Ann Junkin	Peter Newbern	Linda Samson	Mike White
Judy Boyer	Bruce Fairbank	Jim Kegley	Marion Joette Noble	Larry and Judy Sawyer	Shawne K. Wickham
Robin Boynton	Charles Faria	Candy Mayville and Sally Kelly	Nancy Noga	Brant and Louise Sayre	Mimi Wiggin
Karl Braconier	Beverly Faro	Judy Kenison	Joel C. Olbricht	Sandra Scagliotti	Bruce Wilburn
Tina Bradley	Roderick Ferland	Maureen Kennedy	Daniel O'Neill	Margaret C. Schoene	Laura Wile
Kathi Bradt	Linda Fife	Rose M. Knight	Edith M. Ouellette	Kristin Schuller	Silas Wilkins
Jean Bragg	Glenda Fischer	Glenn Knoblock	Don Paige	Thomas and Barbara Schulte	Ron Williams <i>in memory of</i>
Stan Brallier	Jill E. Fleming	Paul M. Kotila	Joanne Pallas	Sarah T. Schwaegler	<i>grandson Michael - "Fly Free Michael"</i>
Jane S. Brandt	Liz and Garth Fletcher	Diane Krein	John Paquette	June Scott	Caroline R. Wilson
Helen Brock	Carol N. Flitton	Mary Kruitwagen	Stephanie and William Parkinson	Leslie Searles	George Wilson
Nancy Brown <i>in memory of</i>	Betsy Forsham	Al and Mary Krygeris	Priscilla Parmenter	Edie Shipley	Robert Wisniewski
<i>Dave Brown</i>	Lucille Fortin	Monique Labbe	Bob and Pam Patenaude	Jackie Silvia	Susan Wolfe
Jim and Brenda Brown	Gary Fournier	Ann LaCroix	Suzanne Pegg	Sherry Sims	Doug Wood
Barbara Bryce	Mary G. Fowler	Steven Laing	Joyce W. Perry	Barbara Skuly	Susan and Peter Wisley
Marjory Bryce	Beth Fox	Marion Lake	Anna Petricone	Christine Slater	Gloria Yennaco
Jayne Buckley-Sykes	Ann Fredette	Gale Lalmond	James Pickford	Cheryl Smith <i>in memory of</i>	Evangeline Yiannacopoulos
Dennis Byron	Patricia Frisella	Jim and Jean Lambert	Robert E. and Carol Pike	<i>Gwendolyn Anderson</i>	Stephanie Yost
Katie Callahan	David Fritz	Megan Larsen	Richard Pillion	Ellen Snyder	Tom Young
Laurel Cameron	Kenneth G. Fure	Richard Lavoie	Linda Plante	Tom Sokoloski	Bud Young
Judy Campbell	Carol Gage	Linda Lawler	Gayle A. Plouffe	Connie Solon	Craig and Kathy Zamoida
William Campbell	Kathryn Galgano	J. Marlene Le Francois	Andrea Plummer	Andrea Stanislaw	George E. Zedalis
Nancy and Henry Campbell	Lois A. Gallup	Dennis LeBlanc	Lawrence Potter	Dennis C. Stone	
Alana Carbone	Susan and Andy Galt	James and Barbara Lehnert	Marcia Poulin	Patricia A. Stoodley	
Laren Carkin	Val Gannett	Amanda Leis	John Pratt	Shelley M. Sullivan	
Deborah Carlsen	Margaret G. Garneau	Alfred Lessard	Elaine Pratt	David Sutherland	
Carol Carlson	Joseph A. Giaquinta	Rebecca C. Lessard		Jean E. Sweeney	
Lynn Carmichael	Stacey Gifford	Barbara Lezon			
Armand and Natalie Caron	Darius Ginwala	Nancy Lloyd			
Kevin E. Carter	Margaret Gioia	Richard Lombard			
Lawrence E. Cate	Andrea Giroux	Ann Ludders			
Madeline Cattabriga	Christine Godfrey	Neil Lynch			
Edward Caylor	Nancy and Michael Godin	Carl Mabbs-Zeno			
Kathleen Cerutti	Zelda Gonyer	James MacCartney			
Elizabeth Chadwick	Phil Goodacre	Rick and Doreen MacDonald			
Linda M. Charron	Elaine Goodwin	Gail MacGuire			
Tom Chase	John Graham	Duncan and Sandra MacIntyre			
Lynn R. Chong	Tracy Grasso	Barbara Maki			
Gale R. Christensen	Andrew Greco	Robert Mann			
Linda Christie	Inga Green	Janis and Paul Marshall			
Denise Cingolani	Mary Grenier	Menta M. Martel			
Lenore and Steve Clark	Sheila Guinther	Lorraine Martin			
Brenda Clark	Jean Hagan	Kathy A. Martin			
Kathleen Clark	Nancy C. Haigh	Lorraine Mathiesen			
Laura Clauss	Emnice Halbedel	Kathleen Matthews			
Alice Coda	Alix Handelsman	Margaret McCormack			
Michael A. Coltin	Singhatara Hannagan				
Cindy and Ron Comeau	Cynthia Harrington				



Eastern Bluebird by Caitlin McMonagle on her 2025 Backyard Winter Bird Survey.

Backyard Winter Bird Survey



2025 Species Totals

Species at participants' backyards on February 8 & 9, 2025

Species with record high totals (or ties) are in **bold**.
New species for the Survey are denoted by an *

Canada Goose	463	Carolina Wren	1,124
Mallard	561	European Starling	3,287
American Black Duck	7	Gray Catbird	1
Bufflehead	10	Northern Mockingbird	114
Common Goldeneye	21	Eastern Bluebird	4,731
Goldeneye sp.	4	Hermit Thrush	10
Hooded Merganser	13	American Robin	2,588
Common Merganser	33	Cedar Waxwing	139
Red-breasted Merganser	2	House Sparrow	3,283
Duck sp.	119	Evening Grosbeak	730
Ruffed Grouse	4	House Finch	2,647
Wild Turkey	2,814	Purple Finch	220
Rock Pigeon	462	Redpoll	33
Mourning Dove	7,633	Pine Siskin	455
Ring-billed Gull	4	American Goldfinch	9,160
Herring Gull	18	Snow Bunting	17
Gull sp.	20	Chipping Sparrow	3
Common Loon	1	American Tree Sparrow	594
Double-crested Cormorant 1*		Fox Sparrow	6
Turkey Vulture	20	Dark-eyed Junco	10,490
Vulture sp.	2	“Oregon” Junco	1
Northern Harrier	1	White-throated Sparrow	568
Sharp-shinned Hawk	32	Song Sparrow	98
Cooper's Hawk	50	Sparrow sp.	84
Cooper's/Sharp-shinned	6	Eastern Towhee	5
Bald Eagle	42	Baltimore Oriole	1
Eagle sp.	5	Red-winged Blackbird	48
Red-shouldered Hawk	7	Brown-headed Cowbird	6
Red-tailed Hawk	84	Common Grackle	93
Hawk sp.	32	Pine Warbler	13
Eastern Screech-Owl	2	Yellow-rumped (Audubon's)	
Great Horned Owl	6	Warbler	1*
Barred Owl	39	Northern Cardinal	3,710
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1		
Owl sp.	1		
Belted Kingfisher	1		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	42		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1,389		
Downy Woodpecker	2,893		
Hairy Woodpecker	1,638		
Pileated Woodpecker	206		
Northern Flicker	78		
Woodpecker sp.	4		
Merlin	2		
Peregrine Falcon	1		
Canada Jay	5		
Blue Jay	7,138		
American Crow	2,445		
Fish Crow	1		
Common Raven	205		
Black-capped Chickadee	8,490		
Tufted Titmouse	5,211		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	7		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	734		
White-breasted Nuthatch	2,712		
Brown Creeper	144		
Winter Wren	1		

Please include details or photographs of unusual birds.

As always, there were a few reports of unexpected species submitted without additional descriptive information. It can be difficult for our biologists to confirm these sightings without documentation. These include rare species like Chipping Sparrow, Winter Wren, and Red-headed Woodpecker. To maintain data accuracy we require documentation, whether detailed notes on key field markings or photos.

Need help identifying a bird?



backyardwinterbirds.nh Audubon.org

Share your photos. Visit our website for the link to upload them.

We love receiving your submissions and are excited to feature them in our summaries or announcements.

Not sure about a bird?

Snap a photo! We're happy to help you with identification.



Barred Owl by Marti Warren, 2025 Backyard Winter Bird Survey.

Total Confirmed Bird Species 78

Eastern Chipmunk	104
Red Squirrel	657
Gray Squirrel	4,285

Observers (by county):

Belknap	91
Carroll	90
Cheshire	117
Coos	47
Grafton	158
Hillsborough	460
Merrimack	379
Rockingham	415
Strafford	129
Sullivan	67

Total Observers: 1,953

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Participate online: backyardwinterbirds.nh Audubon.org