



Great Backyard Bird Count

# About the Great Backyard Bird Count

*Every February, count for as little as 15 minutes in your own backyard to help expand our understanding of birds.*

Photo: Camilla Cerea/Audubon

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a free, fun, and easy event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the four-day event and report their sightings online at [birdcount.org](https://birdcount.org). Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can participate from your backyard, or anywhere in the world.

Each checklist submitted during the GBBC helps researchers at the [National Audubon Society](#), [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) and [Birds Canada](#) learn more about how birds are doing, and how to protect them and the environment we share. Recently, more than 160,000 participants submitted their bird observations online, creating the largest instantaneous snapshot of global bird populations ever recorded.

The 24th annual GBBC will be held Friday, February 12, through Monday, February 15, 2021. Please visit the official website at [birdcount.org](https://birdcount.org) for more information and be sure to check out the latest [educational and promotional resources](#).

*"This count is so fun because anyone can take part—whether you are an expert, novice, or feeder watcher. I enjoy discovering the birds that occur in my own backyard and on my block and then comparing with others. Get involved and see how your favorite spot stacks up."* -Chad Wilsey, V. P. and Chief Scientist of Audubon

Bird populations are always shifting and changing. For example, 2014 GBBC data highlighted a large irruption of Snowy Owls across the northeastern, mid-Atlantic, and Great Lakes areas of the United States. The data also showed the effects that warm weather patterns have had on bird movement around the

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country. For more on the results of the latest GBBC, take a look at the [GBBC Summaries](#).

On the [program website](#) participants can explore real-time maps and charts that show what others are reporting during and after the count. Be sure to check out the [Explore a Region](#) tool to get an idea of what you can expect to see in your area during the next GBBC.

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