Did you get this in your mailbox?

I left it with you because I see that you feed the birds; I may have tried your door and got no answer, or I may have just been cruising by with only enough time to drop this off.

Basically, and there’s more info on the next pages, we’re doing a survey of wild birds on Sunday, Dec. 17th, 2023. If you’d like to help out by keeping track of what you see in your yard, great! You’ll be joining about 15 other homes doing the same thing.

I hope to meet you in person some time!

Randy



This is a Pine Warbler in winter plumage. It can be at your feeder, and you may never know it, as it looks a lot like a goldfinch. Note the yellow arc around its neck and the thinner bill. We often get one or two of these sneakers on the Antigonish Christmas Bird Count each year.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2023 Antigonish Christmas Bird Count

Hi! You’re getting this because I know, or think, you’re interested in birds. If you want to help out with this survey, great! We’ve been doing it for some 50 years in Antigonish, over a hundred years across North America. For more info about our count, and links to more information, see: <http://people.stfx.ca/rlauff/personel/AntigonishCBC/AntCBC.html>. There are downloadable forms which you can use, or you can just pass this paper back to me.

Listed below are the species most often found at feeders in our area at this time. You can count all the *wild* birds (no chickens please!) in and around your yard (on the **17th of December**) in the following manner: for most species, record the maximum number you see at any one time. For instance, the chickadees that visit your feeder often come in flocks. Each house usually has one resident flock which comes to feed throughout the day. If at first you see four chickadees, and later on you see five and then three, the number you would record would be five (not 12). The exception to this "maximum number" rule is if you can tell the difference between males and females (e.g. woodpeckers). If you get one male downy woodpecker, then later you get a female, you could record 2 Downy Woodpeckers.

If you saw a species on the 14th, 15th, or 16th of December 2023, but not on Count Day, (the 19th), you can mark the space next to the bird with a "**CW**" (count week); there is no need to supply numbers. Also, in the next three days (18th 🡪 21st), if you see a species that you suspect was not found on Count Day, please phone (867-2471) or email me at randy.lauff@gmail.com and I will update the list.

If you are away from your yard and wish to report birds you see, please record them below (I have to report “birds in the field” differently from “birds at the feeders”). I’ll be glad to come out and try to identify any problem birds you may have or you can send me some photos to the email address above.

 Good Birding,

 Randy

## **Birds away from your yard**

Location \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Amount of time \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Distance covered \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Birds seen (and numbers)

In the following list, I have put this icon ☹ to denote problem birds – either birds that are uncommon (at least at this time of year), or that have posed some identification challenges before. Be careful with these. And please don’t fear if I ask, “What made you think that bird was a …?”. If I don’t get details from you, the sponsoring organizations will not accept the sighting. So, humour me, tolerate me, but please don’t get suspicious, mean, or violent if I ask for a few details…thanks!

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Merlin ☹

Ruffed Grouse

Rock Pigeon (Pigeon)

Mourning Dove

Downy Woodpecker

Hairy Woodpecker

Pileated Woodpecker

Blue Jay

American Crow

Black-capped Chickadee

Boreal Chickadee

Red-breasted Nuthatch

White-breasted Nuthatch ☹ see note:

American Robin

Bohemian Waxwing

European Starling

American Tree Sparrow

Song Sparrow

White-throated Sparrow

Dark-eyed Junco

Snow Bunting

Red-winged Blackbird

Brown-headed Cowbird

Purple Finch

House Finch

Common Redpoll

Pine Siskin

American Goldfinch

Evening Grosbeak

House Sparrow

Others

**White-breasted Nuthatch**: Please note that this species is a lot larger than the Red-breasted. It does not have a stripe through the eye. Female Red-breasteds are paler than males and can be mistaken for White-breasteds.

Roughly **how much time** did you spend

watching your feeder? This does not mean how much time you spent *staring at* your feeder, rather the time span in which you, at least periodically, checked on the birds in your yard.

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Do you wish to be contacted next year about participating again?

 Yes \_\_\_\_ No thanks \_\_\_\_

Do you know of anyone else with a feeder who would like to participate? If so, please write down their name and number/email and if you wish, alert them that I will contact them.