

## Great Backyard Bird Count Feb 17-20, 2023



The Great Backyard Bird Count is now a global event and encompasses much more than just backyards - reporting everywhere. It was added to help scientists better understand global bird populations before their annual migrations. Launched in 1998 by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, Birds Canada joined in 2009 to provide an expanded capacity to support participation in Canada. 2013 saw it become a global project using eBird to enter data.

The results in 2022 are pretty impressive. 7,099 species in 192 countries with 359,000 checklists and 300,000 Merlin ID's. There were 142,000 new photos added to the Macaulay Library from 385,000 global participants. Canada had 34,000 checklists and 24,000 Merlin ID's. Third highest behind the U.S. and India. Ontario reported 15,177 checklists and 154 species.

Elgin had 63 species with 21 participants and Trish Snider posted 23 photos in those 4 days in February. Unique Elgin birds were Diane Dobson's 5 Purple Finch at Aylmer WMA, a Savannah and 5 Field Sparrows seen by Ron Allensen at Monarch's Landing. Northern Shrike, Merlin and Swamp Sparrow also reported.

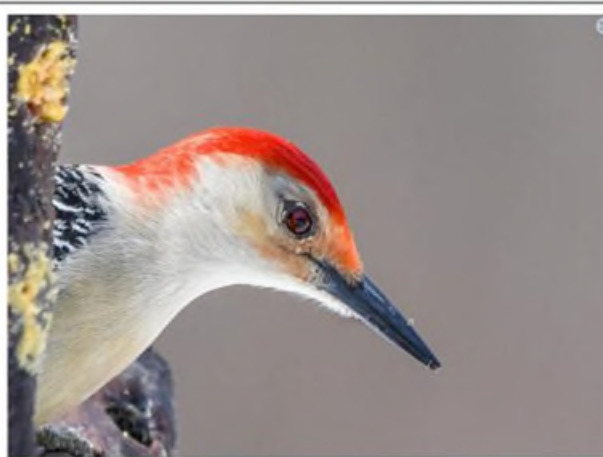
Northern Cardinal by  
Trish Snider



Purple Finch by  
Michele Carnerie



Eastern Meadowlark by  
Michele Carnerie



Red-bellied Woodpecker by  
Trish Snider

I have set up a Trip Report (105237) in eBird for this year's count. We will be counting the birds on Ron's walk on that Sunday (19th) at Fingal WMA and I am hoping to organize a walk around Yarmouth Natural Heritage Area on the Saturday (18th) at 10 a.m. All members and the general public are invited to attend.

People who want to participate in their backyard but not set up an eBird account, please email me at [asharpe@outlook.com](mailto:asharpe@outlook.com) with a list of your birds, location, start and end time (min 15 minutes) for your count and the total number of each species of birds observed/counted.

Hope to see you out on the Saturday or Sunday.  
Al Sharpe