

as the Semipalmated Sandpiper when roosting resemble the pebbles on a beach. They erupt in spectacular flashing bands of wing bars when disturbed by avian predators. In early August, one group of shorebirds at Dorchester Cape was estimated at over 300,000 birds. (source Bruce Johnson, CWS Sackville)

The announcement by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that 2 California Condors, hatched this past spring in captivity at the San Diego Wild Animal Park and the Los Angeles Zoo, will be released in September was welcome news to birders. The capture of the last wild condors which were threatened with lead poisoning from the eating of animal carcasses containing lead shot was a controversial decision. The success of the captive breeding program this year (13 chicks hatched from 22 eggs) led to the decision. (adapted from "Birder's World", October 1991)

FEEDER WATCH NEWS

adapted from Erica H. Dunn articles

The number of active participants in Canada stayed about the same as in the previous winter (refer to map). As we consider 25 records from a province to be the bare minimum, we are considering new ways of increasing participation. Therefore, until October 1, 1991, anyone in the territories or in a province with less than 25 active participants is invited to sign up for next winter for **only \$5.00**. Here's a great Christmas idea for your bird-feeding friends and relatives.



Figure 1. Number of active FeederWatch participants in each province in the winter of 1990-91.

The following table provides the information recorded by FeederWatch participants in eastern Canada. How did your feeder compare?

NEW BRUNSWICK			NOVA SCOTIA (Includes Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland)		
Species	Percentage of feeders visited	Ave. # per feeder per week	Species	Percentage of feeders visited	Ave. # per feeder per week
American Goldfinch	96 +	15.5 ++	Black-capped Chickadee	95 -	4.0 -
Blue Jay	96 +	5.4 +	Blue Jay	93 -	4.2 -
Black-capped Chickadee	96 -	5.1 +	Evening Grosbeak	85 +	9.5 ++
Evening Grosbeak	93 +	15.0 ++	Dark-eyed Junco	80 -	3.5 -
European Starling	82 +	4.1 -	American Goldfinch	75 -	10.6 ++
Dark-eyed Junco	82 +	1.5 +	European Starling	73 -	5.3 +
Pine Siskin	78 +	2.8 ++	Pine Siskin	70 ++	5.7 ++
Downy Woodpecker	78 -	0.6 -	American Crow	68 -	1.6 -
American Tree Sparrow	74 +	3.0 -	Downy Woodpecker	55 -	0.6 -
Hairy Woodpecker	70 -	0.7 -	Song Sparrow	50 -	0.4 +
Mourning Dove	67 +	4.8 +	House Sparrow	48 -	4.6 -
Red-breasted Nuthatch	67 +	0.8 +	Purple Finch	45 ++	0.4 ++
Red-winged Blackbird	63 +	0.9 -	Common Grackle	45 -	0.4 -
Common Grackle	56 -	0.8 -	Red-winged Blackbird	40 +	0.4 -
House Sparrow	44 +	1.8 -	Hairy Woodpecker	38 -	0.4 -
Purple Finch	44 ++	0.1 ++	Red-breasted Nuthatch	38 -	0.3 -
American Crow	37 +	0.6 ++	Mourning Dove	33 -	1.6 -
Rock Dove	33 +	2.2 +	American Robin	33 -	0.1 -
Common Raven	30 +	0.2 +	Brown-headed Cowbird	30 -	0.9 -
Brown-headed Cowbird	30 -	0.2 -	American Tree Sparrow	30 -	0.4 -
Song Sparrow	30 +	0.1 +	Sharp-shinned Hawk	30 +	0.1 +
American Robin	22 +	0.1 +	Fox Sparrow	28 +	0.1 +
Sharp-shinned Hawk	22 -	0.0 -	Rock Dove	25 +	0.9 -
Pine Grosbeak	15 -	0.4 +	Common Raven	18 ++	0.1 -
Gray Jay	15 +	0.1 -	White-throated Sparrow	18 -	0.1 -
White-throated Sparrow	15 -	0.0 -	Pine Grosbeak	15 ++	0.7 ++
			White-breasted Nuthatch	15 -	0.2 -

FeederWatch News requested that participants record the number of birds killed in window collisions during the winter of 1989-90. Nine percent of all feeder watchers reported one or more window-killed birds, with an average of