



Seabrook Island Birders Backyard Birding

Backyard Bird Birding

- Foods to offer
- Feeder options
- Baffling squirrels
- Some common backyard birds
- Resources



Carolina Wren and Downy Woodpecker
(Ed Konrad)

Foods to Offer

Black-oil Sunflower



Corn



Peanuts



Suet



Mixed Seed



Nyjer (thistle)



Interested in offering something new?

Fresh/dried fruit & jelly



Baltimore Oriole by Glenda Simmons

Mealworms



American Kestrel by Pam Koch

Feeder Options

Features of quality feeders:

- Do not have sharp edges/corners
- Easy to clean
- Sturdy
- Easy to fill



Red-bellied Woodpecker on a peanut feeder by Linda Williams

Hopper Feeder



Evening Grosbeaks by Diana Brandt

Tray or Platform Feeders



Gambel's Quails by David F. Smith



American Goldfinches and House Finches
by Michael Wiegand

Nectar Feeders



Baltimore Oriole by Glenda Simmons



Anna's Hummingbird by Sam Wilson

Tube Feeders



Dark-eyed Junco by James Cook



Blue Jay by Maria Corcacas

Nyjer (Thistle) Feeder

Thistle Sock



Tube Feeder



American Goldfinches by Paul Fagala

Suet

Home-made

Store-bought



Downy Woodpecker by Jennifer Taggart



Carolina Wrens by Asa Black

Squirrel “baffles”



American Goldfinches & House Finch
by Carolyn Longworth



Squirrels by Hellen Dessent

“Squirrel Proof” Feeders



White-breasted Nuthatch by Heidi Weston

Provide a water source



Water Fountain



Bird Waterer



Pedestal Birdbath



Hanging Birdbath (Bev Stribling)



Flat tray (Charlie Moore)



Common Seabrook Island Backyard Birds



Northern Cardinal

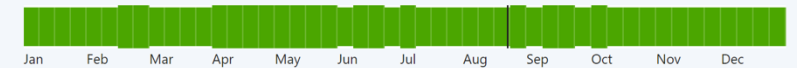


Female Northern Cardinal (Bob Hider)



Male Northern Cardinal (Ed Konrad)

Weekly Bar Chart



Distinguishing features: Males are entirely red with black around the base of the bill. Females are brown overall with red tail, red on wings, and red bill. Note distinctive crest in both sexes.

What do they eat: Forages mainly on seeds. Especially likes sunflower seeds

Where seen if not your backyard: Common in dense brush and low cover

Other interesting information: State bird for seven states

Summer Tanager



Weekly Bar Chart



Distinguishing features: Male Summer Tanagers are all red and females are greenish to orange. They have a slight crest but no bold markings - no eye rings, wing bars, patches of white, etc. Their bill is long and stout but not conical (and cardinals have a facial patch of black around the bill). The underside of their tail is greenish.

What do they eat: Forages mainly on insects

Where seen if not your backyard: They forage mainly in the tops of trees and move deliberately.



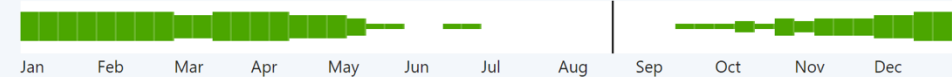


Cedar Waxwing (Ed Konrad)

Cedar Waxwing



Weekly Bar Chart



Distinguishing features: Is brown overall with a pale yellow wash on the belly. It is named for the waxy red tips on some of the wing feathers. Also look for the yellow-tipped tail, sleek crest, short bill, and black mask and throat bordered by white.

What do they eat: Diet primarily berries in the fall and winter.

Where seen if not your backyard: Often perches in tops of leafless trees.

Other interesting information: Thin, high-pitched call is distinctive.



Carolina Wren

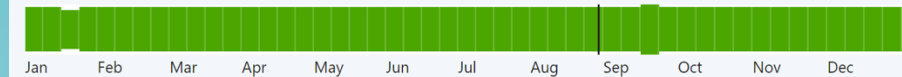


Carolina Wren (Bob Hider)



Carolina Wren (Charley Moore)

Weekly Bar Chart



Distinguishing features: Bold white eyebrow. Warm brown above, buffy-orange underparts. Slightly decurved bill. Tail is about as long as body and often cocked up.

What do they eat: They cannot crack sunflower seeds but are frequent visitors to feeders where they retrieve shards left by cardinals, chickadees, and titmice. They also visit feeders for suet.

Other interesting information: South Carolina state bird; A male may have 27-41 different song types, repeating one for a long session of activity - they may be matched in song type by a neighboring male. Male and female wrens also engage in duets.

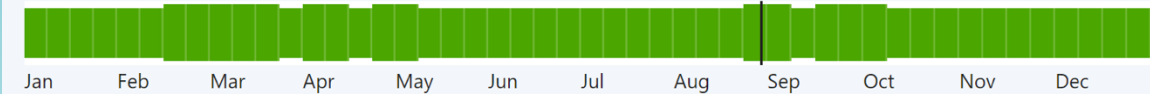


Tufted Titmouse



Tufted Titmouse (Dean Morr)

Weekly Bar Chart



Distinguishing features: Gray on the back and have a gray crest which they frequently erect. The face, throat and belly are white and there is an orange wash on the flanks. The forehead and bill are black and contrast with the white lores and face.

What do they eat: They come to feeders for suet or seeds. They hold seeds with their feet and open them by pounding them with their bill (and react if they miss). They may cache food items and retrieve them later.

Where seen if not your backyard: Titmice are among the commonest and most obvious birds on Seabrook.

Other interesting information: Listen for clear, whistled "peter-peter-peter."



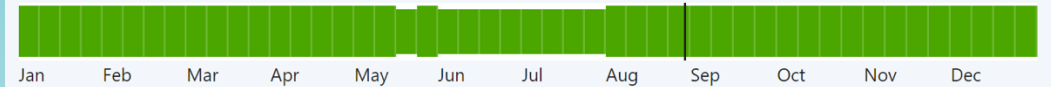
Carolina Chickadee



Carolina Chickadee (Bob Hider)



Weekly Bar Chart



Distinguishing features: body is gray (lighter on the belly) and the head has a black bib on the throat and a black cap - the two structures frame a characteristic white nape and cheek.

What do they eat: They are happy campers at feeders that contain suet, sunflower seeds or peanut hearts. They sometimes hold the larger sunflower seed with their feet as they pound with their bill to open it.

Where seen if not your backyard: Common year-round

Other interesting information: Often nest in Eastern Bluebird boxes



Eastern Bluebird

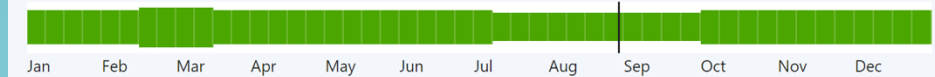
Male Eastern Bluebird
(Bob Hider)



Female Eastern Bluebird
(Bob Hider)



Weekly Bar Chart



Distinguishing features: Adult males are striking royal blue above with bright orange throat and breast and bright white belly. Females are paler overall; grayish with orange on breast and sides of neck, and white belly.

What do they eat: Will eat at seed feeders but prefer mealworms

Where seen if not your backyard: Seen in open spaces. Often perched on fence posts or wires





Blue Jay



Blue Jay (Charley Moore)



Weekly Bar Chart



Distinguishing features: Blue above, light gray below. Black and white markings on wings and tail. Larger than a robin, smaller than a crow. Crest and long tail.

What do they eat: They are omnivorous - they feed on insects, invertebrates, small vertebrates, carrion, bird eggs and nestlings, but mostly acorns, fruit, nuts and seeds in winter. They may cache food.

Where seen if not your backyard: Common throughout Seabrook, especially in edges of open spaces

Other interesting information: Blue Jay perfectly mimics the call of a Red Shouldered Hawk. The pigment in Blue Jay feathers is melanin, which is brown. The blue color is caused by scattering light through modified cells on the surface of the feather barbs.



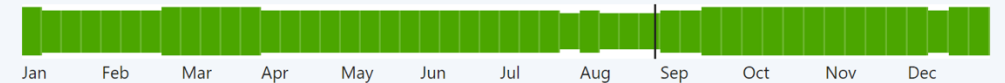
Northern Mockingbird



Northern Mockingbird
(Charley Moore)



Weekly Bar Chart



Distinguishing features: Gray with whitish underparts and long tail. In flight, it becomes much flashier with large white patches on the black wings and tail. Pale eye.

What do they eat: Insects, crustaceans and a variety of arthropods, especially beetles, ants, bees, wasps and grasshoppers. They also eat fruits and earthworms.

Where seen if not your backyard: Often seen perched at top of trees near Island House

Other interesting information: Mimics birds, car alarms, slamming doors, and other noises in its song, repeating a phrase 5-7 times before switching to next set of notes.



American Robin



American Robin (Charley Moore)

Weekly Bar Chart



Distinguishing features: Gray above with warm orange underparts and blackish head.

What do they eat: Robins feed on invertebrates including insects and earthworms and much fruit. Rarely come to feeders

Where seen if not your backyard: Look in trees with berries or puddles in the road

Other interesting information: In fall and winter, forms large flocks and gathers in trees to roost or eat berries.

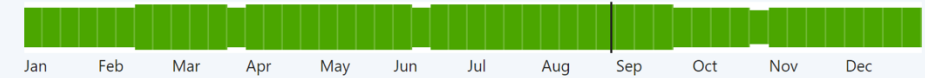


Mourning Dove



Mourning Dove (Ed Konrad)

Weekly Bar Chart



Distinguishing features: They are common ground birds on the island. They are medium-sized birds with a small head, a slender body, and relatively fleshy pinkish legs and feet. They have a pale blue eye ring and their wings are flecked with black spots. The tail is tapered with white tips and black bands on the feathers.

What do they eat: Seeds (99% of diet). Mainly eats off ground

Other interesting information: Most commonly hunted bird in America

Similar less common bird: Eurasian Collared Dove





Ruby-throated Hummingbird



Female Ruby-Throated Hummingbird (Dean Morr)



Male Ruby-throated Hummingbird (Bob Hider)

Weekly Bar Chart



Distinguishing features: Males have red-and-black throat, greenish upperparts, dingy whitish belly, and dark tail. Females are green above and whitish below, lacking buffy-orange tones underneath.

What do they eat: Sugar water feeders and flower gardens.

Where seen if not your backyard: Enjoy red flowers

Other interesting information: Their wings beat 55 times/second when hovering, 75 times/second when moving forward, and 61 times/second when flying backwards.



Painted Bunting



Female Painted Bunting
(Dean Morr)



Male Painted Bunting (Ed Konrad)



Juvenile Painted Bunting
(Charley Moore)

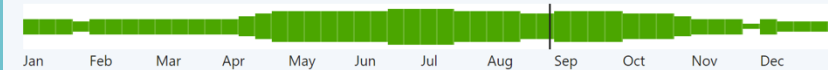


Distinguishing features: Adult males are unique with brilliant blue head, red underparts, and green back. Females and immature males are greener than other buntings and lack streaks

What do they eat: Painted Buntings eat seeds but feed their young insects. At feeders, prefer white milo seed

Where seen if not your backyard: One perches in summer at top of tree along Boardwalk 1

Weekly Bar Chart





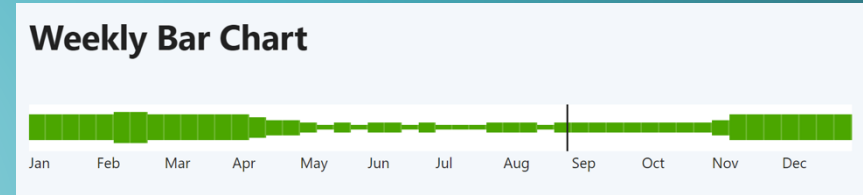
American Goldfinch



Female American Goldfinch (Ed Konrad)



Male American Goldfinch (Bob Hider)



Distinguishing features: Adult males in spring and summer are bright yellow with black forehead and wings. Females are dull yellow below and olive above with two distinct wingbars. In winter, they are drab, buffy-brown.

What do they eat: Eat all seeds but prefer Nyger. Will eat at feeders or on ground

Where seen if not your backyard: In winter, anywhere there are weed seeds

Other interesting information: They commonly forage in flocks.



American Goldfinch – Winter Plumage (Bob Hider)



House Finch



Female House Finch
(Dean Morr)



Male House Finch
(Ed Konrad)

Weekly Bar Chart



Distinguishing features: Both sexes have blurred streaks. Females are gray overall. Adult males have the brightest red on the forehead and cheeks.

What do they eat: They will come to feeders for seeds and suet.

Where seen if not your backyard: Often seen (even nesting) on front porch of Lakehouse

Other interesting information: The House Finch's red is redder (more strawberry-colored) than the raspberry colored Purple Finch.

Various Warblers



Palm Warbler
(Ed Konrad)

Weekly Bar Chart



- Bobs tail when perched



Yellow-throated Warbler
(Ed Konrad)

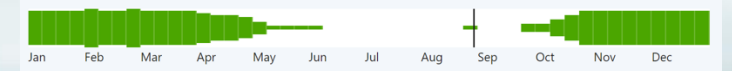
Weekly Bar Chart



Yellow-rumped Warbler (Carl Helms)



Weekly Bar Chart

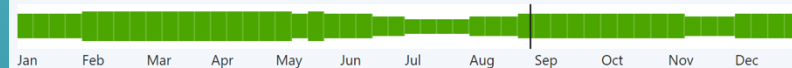


- Most common Seabrook Warbler



Pine Warbler

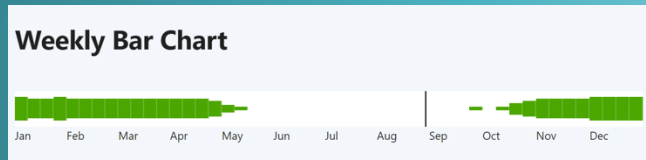
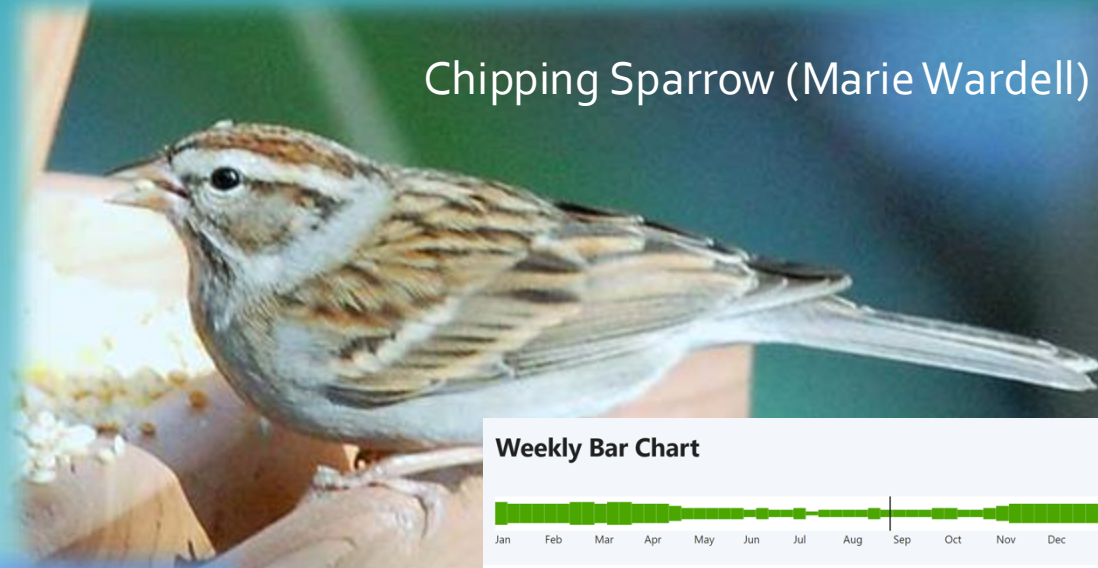
Weekly Bar Chart



Sparrows (aka Little Brown Jobs)

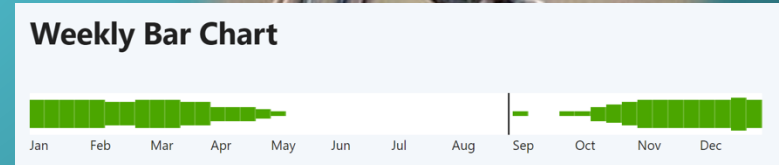


Chipping Sparrow (Marie Wardell)

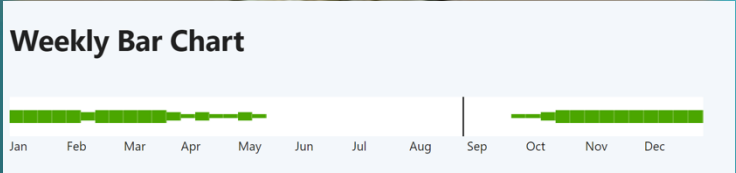
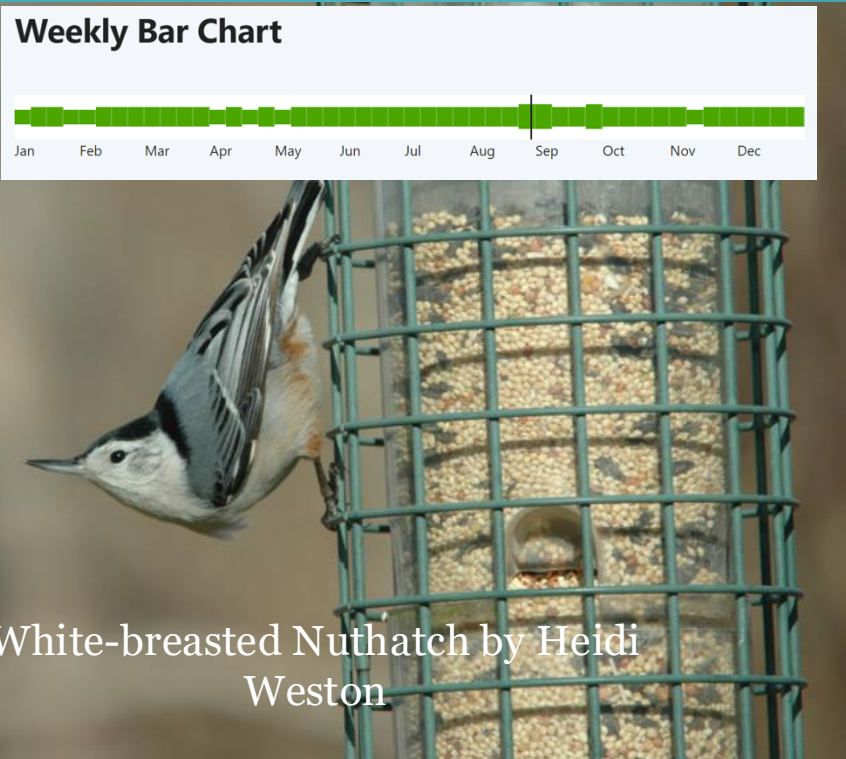


White-throated Sparrow
(Kiawah Banding Station)

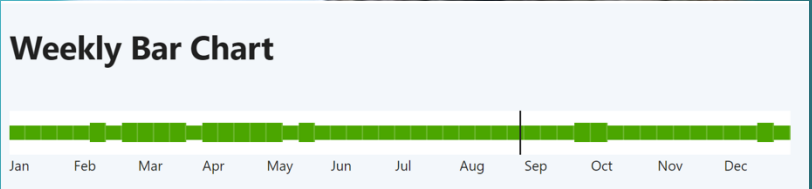
Song Sparrow
(Ed Konrad)



Nuthatches



Famous for perching upside-down on tree trunk



Woodpeckers



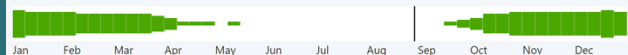
Red-bellied
Woodpecker
(Dean Morr)

Weekly Bar Chart



Yellow-bellied
Sapsucker

Weekly Bar Chart



Pileated Woodpecker
(Charley Moore)

Weekly Bar Chart



Weekly Bar Chart



Northern Flicker
(Bill Bunn)



Downy Woodpecker
(Dean Morr)



Weekly Bar Chart



Red-headed Woodpecker
(Ed Konrad)



Weekly Bar Chart



Bully Birds



Brown-headed Cowbird
(Bob Hider)



American Crow
(Bob Hider)



European Starling
(Ed Konrad)



Female Red-winged Blackbird



Male Red-winged Blackbird (Charley Moore)



Common Grackle





Project FeederWatch

Sign up for eNews

Donate

HOME ABOUT LEARN COMMUNITY EXPLORE YOUR DATA



Embrace the

WINTER.

Count Feeder Birds for

SCIENCE!

Join, Renew or Donate



PUT UP A FEEDER

COUNT BIRDS

ENTER YOUR DATA

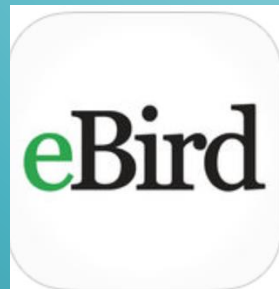
Resources

- Sample feeders with feeds at back of room
- This presentation to be added to SeabrookIslandBirders.org
- Project FeederWatch training material
(<https://feederwatch.org/community/help-spread-the-word/>)
- SIB Ambassador Program
- Apps for your phone



Merlin Bird ID (free)

eBird
(free)



Audubon
Bird Guide
(free)



- Sibley's Birds – 2nd Edition (\$19.99)

Scheduled activities

Birding

9/28, 10/6, 10/19, 10/26



10/21, 11/25, 12/16

Movies

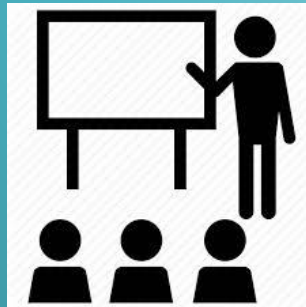
Golf Course

10/14, 11/04, 12/2



Seminar

10/5, 10/15



Game Night

11/28





Questions?