

# Sick or Unusual Bird Form

## Instructions

You may witness a diseased bird or a bird with some unusual features in your Count Site. FeederWatch scientists are interested in learning more about **avian diseases, plumage variations, and genetic abnormalities**. Document any sightings on this form. Whenever possible, sketch the bird on the back of this form and/or take photos. Tuck this completed form and any photos in your Data Booklet, and return them to FeederWatch at the end of the season.

Please do not use this form to report injured birds with missing legs or wings or those that die from window strikes. Instead, use an online or paper Comment Form.

Please submit one form per species.

## How do I report House Finch eye disease?

If you see signs of House Finch eye disease (mycoplasmal conjunctivitis) in House Finches, American Goldfinches or other species, **please join the House Finch Disease Survey instead of using this form**. The survey is easy to do, it's free for all FeederWatchers, and scientists need your daily observations throughout the year for their studies. For more information or to order House Finch Disease Survey forms, visit the web site at [www.birds.cornell.edu/hofi](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/hofi), call (800) 843-2473, or write House Finch Disease Survey Cornell Lab of Ornithology 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd. Ithaca, NY 14850

FeederWatch season \_\_\_\_\_ Your FeederWatch ID \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State/Prov., Zip/P.C. \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Bird species \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates observed \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of healthy birds \_\_\_\_\_ Number of sick birds \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of sick birds by sex \_\_\_\_ male \_\_\_\_ female \_\_\_\_ unknown

### Sick Birds

#### Signs of disease

- Eyes swollen
- Eyes crusty/crusted over
- Eyes discharging/weepy
- Eyes closed
- White opacity in eye(s)
- Appears blind
- Wartlike growths near eyes, beak, legs, feet
- Vomiting
- Increased thirst
- Feathers missing
- Tumor in crop region
- Tongue swollen
- Apparent weight loss
- Other (indicate below)

#### Behaviors

- Normal
- Has trouble flying
- Has trouble feeding
- Has trouble breathing
- Has trouble walking
- Lethargic
- Feathers puffed up
- Tilts head
- Rubs eyes or head
- Holds head under wing
- Aggressive toward others
- Tame/easily approached
- Stays behind after flock left
- Falls over and dies
- Other (indicate below)

#### Fate of bird

- Death
- Recovered
- Unknown
- Still sick as of this report

What disease do you think the bird(s) might have?

\_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Descriptions

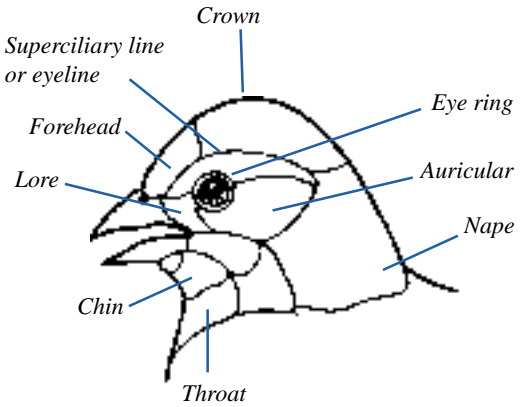
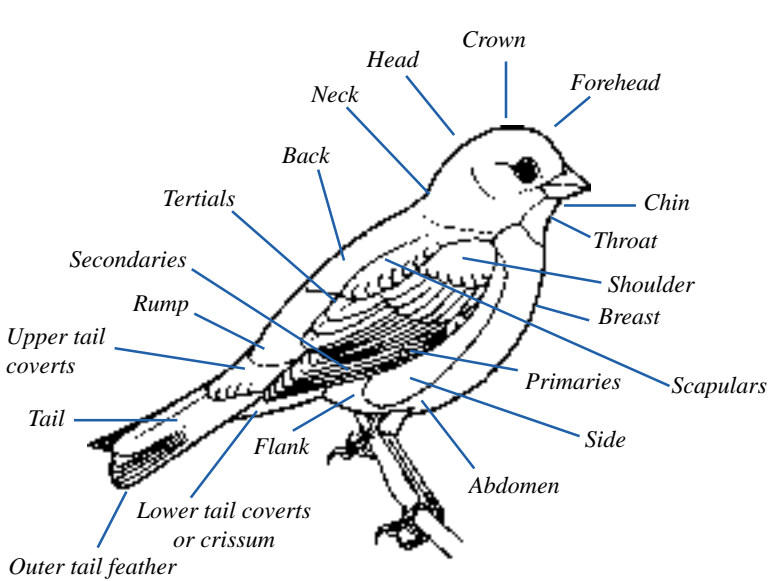
### Unusual Birds

- Albinism
- Complete (**white all over**) or
- Partial (**some white areas**). White feathers occurred on  
 head  tail  wings  belly  sides  back.  
The placement of white feathers was  
 symmetrical (occurred in same areas on both sides of the body) or  
 asymmetrical (occurred randomly)
- Melanism (parts of the bird were **darker** than normal)
- Xanthochromism (parts of the bird were **yellowish or orange** instead of red)
- Erythrism (parts of the bird appeared **redder** than normal)
- Bird had a **bald head**
- Bird had a **deformed beak** (please describe or draw its shape)
- Other

Comments/Descriptions

Are photographs or other documentation enclosed?  Yes  No

*Please sketch your observations*



*Use this diagram to help you describe your bird.*