

The Big Sit!® - 2024 Final Results

In 2024, the Big Sit!® had 93 circles reporting from three countries: the United States, Guatemala, and Portugal.

For 2024 the circles with the most **species** are:

- Cape Island--CMPSP--Hawkwatch Platform in New Jersey – 136 species.
- Milford Point-Outer Platform (Big Sit!) in Connecticut – 110 species and 5 other taxa.
- Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area--Force Rd. West in Ohio – 96 species and 1 other taxa.
- Finca La Gracia in Guatemala – 92 species and 1 other taxa.
- Hazel Bazemore Park Hawkwatch Platform in Texas – 89 species.

For 2024 the circles with the highest **number of participants** are:

- Richmond Audubon count at Tuckahoe Creek Park, Virginia – 40 birders.
- Lenoir Preserve count in New York – 31 birders.
- Hackmatack4Birds count in Illinois – 30 birders.
- Skipper Bay Trail count in Utah – 28 birders.
- Fredericksburg Flighty Flickers' count at Crow's Nest Research Center, Virginia – 23 birders.

Altogether, 909 species and other taxa were reported for a total of 24,911 individual birds. Circles enjoyed doing the Big Sit! for a total of 823 hours, with 736 birders participating for all or part of the time.

Highlights from all the eBird comments

- great weather
- birding with friends
- super casual just watching some from time to time
- lots of fun with raptor migration included
- first (and only) beer cracked around 2:30 PM
- taking photos of our full family gathered together for the first time in almost a decade
- 17 participants stopped by throughout the day to assist with the Big Sit
- more than 100 people visited throughout the day
- it was overall an enjoyable day, filled with cookies, cake, and caffeine
- I had not participated in a Big Sit for years, so I decided to do one by myself



- did the Big Sit from our dining room window
- squished 8 spotted lantern flies
- arrived with 4 pizzas around 2:30 pm and stayed until 6:10 pm
- With a vibrant orange twilight to the west, a Great Horned Owl finally started calling, giving us the last bird of the day. We found the silhouetted owl perched up on a dead tree as we were packing up the final items to depart. It was an exhilarating finish to what certainly will not be the last Big Sit in this wonderful place.

The Golden Bird Award was announced in December 2024 and posted to our website. For convenience, the 2024 Golden Bird Award information is also included at the end of this report.

See below for the full list of circles and related data. **Thank you for another great year.**

Date	Total Time (hours)	Number of birders	Country/ State/ Province	Team's eBird Location	Team Name	eBird Species	eBird Other Taxa
10/12/24	24.00	4	US-NJ	Cape Island--CMPSP--Hawkwatch Platform		136	0
10/13/24	14.32	9	US-CT	Milford Point-Outer Platform (Big Sit!)	B. W. Surf Scopers	110	5
10/12/24	17.83	8	US-OH	Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area--Force Rd. West	Bobolink Area Big Sit	96	1
10/12/24	12.92	9	GT-ES	Finca La Gracia	The Lost Tinamou, Saturday	92	1
10/13/24	10.00	9	US-TX	Hazel Bazemore Park Hawkwatch Platform		89	0
10/12/24	7.25	6	US-NC	Battery Buchanan		85	0
10/12/24	12.33	3	US-VA	Kiptopeke State Park	CVWO big sit	83	2
10/13/24	12.35	3	US-TX	Richland Creek WMA (N. Unit)(Navarro Co) PPW-W 019	Pie-filled Grebes	82	3
10/13/24	14.50	20	US-TX	Estero Llano Grande SP WBC (LTC 054)	Westlaco Red-crowns	81	0
10/12/24	11.67	7	US-CT	Smith Neck Road Big Sit!		80	7
10/12/24	12.67	1	US-PA	HRDABRD at Middle Creek (Big Sit)		77	1
10/12/24	13.47	17	US-TX	Lake Waxahachie western cove (Yard)	Super Silly-em!	73	1
10/13/24	13.00	8	US-MD	2024 Big Sit - PG County	Mt. Calvert - Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission	72	1
10/13/24	14.63	20	US-IN	Lake Lemon--Hengeveld's		72	0
10/12/24	11.75	2	US-CA	Jalama Beach County Park		71	4
10/12/24	9.83	14	US-SC	Big Sit 2013 - 33.5056x-79.0692 - Oct 13, 2013, 6:02 PM		70	1
10/12/24	12.58	16	US-OH	Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary (restricted access)		70	0

Date	Total Time (hours)	Number of birders	Country/ State/ Province	Team's eBird Location	Team Name	eBird Species	eBird Other Taxa
10/13/24	12.42	16	US-ME	Wharton Point, Brunswick	Merrymeeting Audubon Field Trip/Maquoit Bay Birders	69	3
10/12/24	13.00	3	US-PA	John Heinz NWR--impoundment (Philadelphia Co.)		67	1
10/12/24	13.43	1	US-MO	Swan Lake NWR , Observation Tower		67	0
10/12/24	10.20	5	US-IL	Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve		66	0
10/13/24	14.00	8	US-OK	Eagle Cove Observation Platform, Tishomingo NWR, Tishomingo, Oklahoma, US (34.195, -96.633)	Eagle Cove Observation Platform at Tishomingo NWR	65	6
10/12/24	14.00	10	US-OH	Home		65	0
10/12/24	7.75	1	US-MI	Independence Lake County Park		65	0
10/13/24	incidenta l	40	US-VA	Tuckahoe Creek Park	Richmond Audubon	65	0
10/12/24	6.50	2	US-CT	White Memorial Foundation--Little Pond		64	0
10/13/24	8.50	18	US-NC	Cowan's Ford Wildlife Refuge	Meckbirders	61	0
10/13/24	8.00	2	US-PA	Meadow Grounds Lake		58	1
10/12/24	13.05	4	US-PA	Hillview		57	0
10/13/24	12.00	10	US-NJ	The Celery Farm		57	0
10/12/24	9.67	4	US-CT	1 Birdseye St, Stratford US-CT 41.17984, -73.12441	Birdseye Bitterns	56	2
10/13/24	10.50	3	US-TX	7 Hope Boulevard, Galveston, Texas, US (29.277, -94.855)	Moody Flews	55	1
10/12/24	11.42	23	US-VA	Crow's Nest Research Center (access by request)	Fredericksburg Flighty Flickers	55	0
10/12/24	11.75	14	US-NC	Greensboro Bog Garden	Piedmont Bird Club Pishers	55	1
10/12/24	12.20	5	US-CT	Jared Eliot Preserve	Connecticut Wobblers	55	0
10/12/24	11.27	3	US-CT	Lighthouse Point Park		55	5
10/12/24	12.58	1	US-IN	Goose Pond FWA--Main Pool East	Goose Pond MPE	54	0
10/13/24	10.65	2	US-CT	Salt Meadow NWR Big Sit!(R) circle, Menunketesuck River, Westbrook US-CT 41.28166, -72.47414		54	0
10/12/24	9.75	28	US-UT	Skipper Bay Trail		54	1
10/12/24	12.17	9	US-MD	ASCM Big Sit 2024, Audrey Carroll Sanctuary, Mt. Airy US-MD (39.4189, -77.2050)	Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary	53	0
10/13/24	4.62	10	US-SC	Spring Island--Bonny Shore (restricted access)		53	3
10/13/24	12.00	12	US-FL	Celery Fields Raymond Blvd	Celery Fields Forever	52	0
10/12/24	10.08	1	US-PA	Godshall Property		50	5

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10/13/24	8.00	30	US-IL	The Big Sit Hackmatack4Birds	Hackmatack4Birds	50	0
10/12/24	11.85	5	US-CT	Thompson Preserve (Big Sit! NHBC), Litchfield, Connecticut, US (41.744, -73.214)	Litchfield Larks	50	1
10/13/24	12.00	11	US-MI	Big Sit 48045, Harrison Township US-MI 42.57192, -82.80660	Metro Munchers	49	0
10/13/24	3.28	19	US-DE	The Point Parking lot	Sussex Bird Club	49	2
10/12/24	12.12	11	US-ME	Big Sit	Riverside Nature Group (RING)	48	2
10/13/24	11.00	10	US-ID	Blacks Creek Bird Reserve		48	2
10/12/24	7.50	3	US-NH	Copps Pond Wildlife Management Area, Tuftonboro		48	0
10/13/24	6.50	4	US-CT	Durham Meadows--Frederick White Farm	Birding for Pleasure	48	0
10/12/24	18.00	10	US-PA	Shaver's Creek Env. Center--Boardwalk	Shaver's Creek Environmental Center	47	0
10/13/24	5.00	5	US-CT	Station 43		47	0
10/13/24	7.50	10	US-MD	Adkins Arboretum		46	1
10/13/24	3.77	11	US-FL	A. D. Barnes Park	Phoebes	45	0
10/12/24	11.25	13	US-MD	Baltimore Big Sit - North Point SP	Baltimore Bird Club	44	1
10/13/24	2.00	2	US-PA	Rose Tree Park	Birding Club of Delaware County	44	0
10/12/24	6.00	1	US-FL	Split Rock Park		44	0
10/12/24	12.00	2	US-ND	Fargo--Heritage Hills		43	0
10/13/24	9.50	2	US-MN	Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve		42	2
10/12/24	7.42	31	US-NY	Lenoir Preserve		42	0
10/12/24	4.20	3	US-CT	Dossin Park Beach, Meriden US-CT 41.52378, -72.83509		41	0
10/12/24	8.00	14	US-WI	Retzer Nature Center	Benjamin F. Goss Bird Club	41	0
10/13/24	5.50	6	US-MS	Riverview Cemetery		40	0
10/12/24	3.33	3	US-CT	Big Sit 2024: The Gray Jays of Woodbridge!	The Gray Jays of Woodbridge!	38	0
10/13/24	4.00	2	US-NH	Eaton, pond and marsh on Brownfield Rd	Eaton and Birdin	38	1
10/12/24	12.00	5	US-PA	Trexler Nature Preserve, Big Sit point		38	0
10/12/24	3.50	6	US-FL	Peaceful Waters Preserve, Wellington US-FL 26.63236, -80.23385		37	0
10/13/24	3.85	11	US-NM	Gila River Preserve—Iron Bridge Conservation Area	SWNM Bird Alliance Big Sit Iron Bridge	36	2
10/13/24	6.50	5	US-MO	Loess Bluffs NWR—Eagle Pool	Midland Empire Audubon Society	35	1
10/12/24	7.20	8	US-MD	Morgan Run Natural Environmental Area	Carroll County Bird Club - diurnal	35	0

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10/12/24	5.00	3	US-WV	Mountain Valley Lake		35	0
10/12/24	9.08	7	US-PA	Locust Lake SP		33	1
10/13/24	6.42	5	US-PA	Sweet Arrow Lake		33	1
10/12/24	6.00	2	US-NH	Heald Tract--King Brook Reservoir Area, Wilton		31	4
10/12/24	4.00	10	US-WI	Wehr Nature Center		31	2
10/13/24	10.00	1	US-NV	1340 Muir Drive		29	0
10/12/24	12.00	14	US-VT	Missisquoi NWR--Stephen Young Marsh	Friends of Missisquoi	29	0
10/12/24	11.00	10	US-NH	Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge--Cherry Pond, Jefferson		28	0
10/12/24	1.53	2	US-CT	The Big Sit on the Big Chair! (at the JCC), Woodbridge US-CT 41.35143, -72.99254	Big Sit on the Big Chair!	27	0
10/12/24	2.50	2	US-VA	Home		26	0
10/12/24	12.00	11	US-NH	Miller SP--Pack Monadnock		26	3
10/13/24	1.00	7	US-VT	Birds of Vermont Museum		22	0
10/13/24	2.52	1	US-SC	Table Rock SP	Table Rock SP Day 1	22	0
10/12/24	12.00	1	US-CT	17 Hunters Ridge Rd, Killingworth US-CT 41.40574, -72.59557		21	0
10/12/24	incidental	14	US-FL	Penney Farms		21	0
10/12/24	0.58	2	PT-02	Craveiral Farmhouse Big Sit		19	0
10/13/24	0.70	1	US-ME	Grandview Point, Little Sebago Lake		19	0
10/13/24	2.00	2	US-CT	Riverbound Farm Sanctuary		19	0
10/13/24	0.50	1	US-TX	Crescent Lakes		16	0
10/13/24	2.00	3	US-NY	EABC Beaver Island State Park NY Sledding Hill		14	0
10/13/24	7.25	2	US-CT	Filley Road Haddam CT		14	0
10/12/24	6.00	1	US-PA	6236 Jerome Boulevard, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, US (40.341, -76.781)		12	1

Golden Bird Award for the Big Sit!® 2024

It has been five years since the New Haven Bird Club, Inc., once again resumed administration of the Big Sit!® from Birdwatchers Digest. The event was started by the New Haven Bird Club in 1992, but was soon being administered by Birdwatcher's Digest and grew to be the international event that it is today. We have had circles in more than six different countries.



Zeiss sponsored the Golden Bird Award for 2024 by donating a pair of Conquest HDX 8x 42 binoculars. The “Golden Bird” itself is randomly drawn from all of the bird species reported for the Big Sit!®. Next, the winning circle is randomly drawn from all of the circles that reported the Golden Bird species.

The Golden Bird for 2024 is the [Yellow-throated Euphonia](#) (*Euphonia hirundinacea*). This bird is found in southeastern Mexico and throughout Central America with its range stretching from Belize south to western Panama. It inhabits primarily both humid and dry regions where it prefers the forest edge, open woodland, and shaded plantations.

The winning circle for 2024 is [The Lost Tinamou](#), Finca La Gracia's birding center located in Santa Lucia Cotzumalguapa, in the municipality of Escuintla, Guatemala. This sanctuary, on land that was previously used for coffee cultivation, is today occupied by very humid subtropical (warm) forest. The Finca La Gracia sanctuary is a refuge among a sea of intensive cattle ranching, pineapple, rubber, and sugarcane fields. The native flora and fauna have found refuge in this relatively small preserve.



1 - Heidi Pasch de Viteri, Male Yellow-throated Euphonia

The New Haven Bird Club's Big Sit!® committee is looking forward to some exciting developments for 2025. We are entering into a partnership with World Migratory Bird Day so the Big Sit!® will be promoted as an activity for their international event. One of the two World Migratory Bird Days usually falls on the second Saturday of October. Also, we have heard that eBird has been working on some changes in their data reporting functionality that will make eBird checklists for the Big Sit!® easier to submit and will capture more information. We are also looking forward to a new look on our website that will feature mapping capabilities.

Craig Repasz

Chair, the Big Sit!®

New Haven Bird Club, Inc.