



Christmas Bird Count for Kids



Participating in the annual Christmas Bird Count for Kids is a great way to go outside while helping scientists learn more about birds!

Activity 1 Christmas Bird Count for Kids

Step 1: Use this website to get a list of common birds in your area at this time of year.

<https://naturecounts.ca/apps/checklist/index.jsp>

Step 2: Choose a location to go for a walk with your group and see how many birds you can find! Offer a challenge- "How many birds can we find today", to keep the walk engaging and make some predictions about what you might see.

Step 3: Record all of your findings on your data sheet and submit them online through Nature Counts and eBird Canada using the following link:

https://www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/christmas-bird-count-for-kids?_ga=2.169701985.1998881912.1669656220-2022570562.1669318404.

Tips for Birding

1. The best time to look for birds is in the morning. Remind your students that you will have a better chance of seeing and hearing birds if you are quiet!
2. Use the *Merlin* app to get species identification help on the go.

Activity 2 Draw the birds you see

Step 1: Take your group out on a nature walk. Point out the birds you see along the way.

Step 2: Once back inside have your group draw or paint what they saw.

Questions to ask to inspire

1. Where were they? In a forest, field, backyard, edge of a pond?
2. What colours were the birds they saw?
3. What were the birds doing? Flying, perching, calling.



HOW TO IDENTIFY DIFFERENT BIRDS



There are hundreds of species of birds that can be seen in New Brunswick, all with unique colours, behaviours, and habitats. Here's some helpful things to look for and ways to tell them apart:

SIZE

Size can be difficult to determine exactly, but try to judge whether it is a small, medium, or large bird.



Hummingbird



Crow



Heron

SHAPE

Different groups of birds have different shapes. You probably already know that a duck has a different shape than an eagle or a pigeon!

COLOUR

Is the species brown, yellow, black? All species have unique colour patterns. Colour can get tricky though, since males and females as well as adults and juveniles (young) can all be different colours. Males are typically the easiest to identify as they have the brightest colours - think of a peacock or a cardinal.



Male Cardinal

Female Cardinal

HABITAT

Think about the habitat that you are in. Waterbirds are typically found near or in water, forest birds typically are in or near forests.

SOUNDS

Each species has its own set of calls. Some species only have one call, and some have many, and some can sound similar to insects, or even mimic other birds, animals, and man-made noises! Bird song can be a helpful way to find or identify a bird. I bet you already know which bird has the call "*chicka-dee-dee-dee*"!

BEHAVIOUR

What is the bird doing? Some birds have specific habits that help you identify them. For instance, nuthatches are the only bird species here that can climb headfirst down a tree!



This is a White-breasted Nuthatch. It is a similar colour, shape, and size, and will often be seen together with chickadees, but only nuthatches are able to climb headfirst down trees!



Black-capped Chickadee



RECENSEMENT DES OISEAUX DE NOËL

— POUR LES JEUNES —

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

— FOR KIDS —

BIRD TALLY

DATE

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LOCATION

City/Town:

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Province/
Territory:

BIRD COUNT

Count Site:

Weather:

Start Time:

Finish Time:

PARTICIPATION

Bird Count
Coordinator:

Email:

Kids:

Adults:

DATA ENTRY OPTIONS:

Submit your bird count data to:
<http://birdscanada.org/cbc4kids>

'SHARE' your eBird checklists with:
CBC4KCanada

Or email this Bird Tally to:
education@birdscanada.org

BIRD SPECIES	TALLY	TOTAL
<i>e.g., American Goldfinch</i>	### ///	8

TOTAL BIRD SPECIES	
TOTAL INDIVIDUAL BIRDS	