

# BACKYARD BIRD COUNT - 2020



## Ethical Considerations of participating in the WRDSB Backyard Bird Count 2020: APRIL 21, 22, AND 23

### Birding Ethics:

(Summarized from the Ontario Field Ornithologists Birding Code of Ethics).

#### Why is a Code of Ethics necessary?

In this time of social distancing, respect for ourselves, each other and our community is very important. Regardless of our level of interest in birds, we need to make every effort to act in a positive and responsible way to protect each other, the birds and their habitat.

- 1) **Be considerate of others.** Respect social distancing if you go beyond your home, and stay at least two metres apart.
- 2) **Be considerate of the birds** and their needs including space, food, water and shelter. Always assume that a bird is sensitive to your presence and please do not deliberately scare birds.
- 3) **Be considerate of wildlife habitat**, we should not trample or damage wildlife homes. Many birds, like ducks and geese, have already started nesting.
- 4) **Respect the rights of landowners.** If you go beyond your home, be aware that all parks and recreation areas are currently closed. The use of some trails and natural areas is still permitted, but please check before heading out.
- 5) **Try not to disrupt others' activities.** Many other people enjoy the outdoors, so try not to interfere with their activities.
- 6) **Be responsible with your binoculars.** If you are using binoculars, do not look into peoples' windows. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

Going further, please think on how we all can respect and promote birds and their environment. Support the conservation of birds and their habitats. Engage in and promote bird-friendly practices whenever possible, such as keeping cats and other domestic animals indoors. Act to prevent window strikes, maintain safe feeding stations, landscape with native plants, drink shade-grown coffee, and advocate for conservation policies. Be mindful of any negative environmental impacts of your activities, including contributing to climate change. Reduce or offset such impacts as much as you are able.

Thank you!

Sincerely,  
The Outdoor and Environmental Education Team.

"In 1970, 20 MILLION INDIVIDUALS — AT THE TIME, 10% OF THE U.S. POPULATION — MOBILIZED TO CALL FOR GREATER PROTECTIONS FOR OUR PLANET. THIS BECAME THE WORLD'S FIRST EARTH DAY."

—EARTHDAY.ORG

#### WHY COUNT BIRDS?

"Scientists and bird enthusiasts can learn a lot by knowing where the birds are. Bird populations are dynamic; they are constantly in flux. No single scientist or team of scientists could hope to document and understand the complex distribution and movements of so many species in such a short time."

—GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

"BE AS A BIRD PERCHED ON A FRAIL BRANCH THAT SHE FEELS BENDING BENEATH HER, STILL SHE SINGS AWAY ALL THE SAME, KNOWING SHE HAS WINGS."

—VICTOR HUGO