

BACKYARD BIRD COUNT - 2021



Waterloo Region District School Board Invites you to participate on: APRIL 22nd to the 26th, 2021

Earth Day, April 22, is an international day to celebrate and care for our planet. During this time of social distancing, getting outside and connecting with nature is very important.

We know that many of our students will want to do something on this special day. To help families get outside safely, the Waterloo Region District School Board's Outdoor and Environmental Education Department is organizing a Backyard Bird Count. Counting birds can be done easily from a school yard, backyard, balcony or window. With a few simple resources, everyone can enjoy a bit of nature this Earth Day and do something to help Waterloo Region's beautiful birds.

The Backyard Bird Count is a five-day event that engages students of all ages in the WRDSB. It creates a real-time snapshot of the birds that live here, showing us how many there are and where they live.

Anyone can participate, from beginners to experts. You can count for as little as 15 minutes on a single day, or for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun and easy – and it helps the birds!

The Backyard Bird Count is modeled after the "Great Backyard Bird Count," an annual event run in February, jointly sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Audubon and Canadian partner, Birds Canada.

To help prepare students for this fun activity the Outdoor and Environmental Education Department has prepared a few resources for our students. Below are suggestions that will help make the count a success for all. <https://www.wrdsb.ca/birdwatch/>

- Watch the 'how-to' videos.
- Gather resources (Pencil and paper or a digital device to submit observations)
- Download and read the instructions for participants.
- Build a bird feeder.
- Practice.

THE BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Who: Anyone in the WRDSB can participate.

What: Count what birds you see, how many (best guess), and where (Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge, or Township).

Where: From your backyard, balcony, porch or window!

When: 8AM on April 21 until 4PM on April 23.

How: Submit your results electronically using this google form.... See results live on our website at Share pictures via Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

#WRDSBbirdwatch

EARTH DAY

"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

All participants that submit observations will get a certificate of appreciation from our OEE Department.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- 1) Checklist of Waterloo Birds
- 2) WRDSB Resources
- 3) Merlin Bird ID app
- 4) eBird (website and/or app)
- 5) Audubon Bird ID app
- 6) Seek app
- 7) iNaturalist app/website
- 8) www.allaboutbirds.com

THE WATERLOO REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNIZES, CURRENT EDUCATIONAL THOUGHT EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF OUTDOOR EDUCATION AS A HOLISTIC METHOD OF EDUCATION USED TO ENRICH THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM THROUGH EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

—WRDSB POLICY 6004
OUTDOOR EDUCATION/ OFF CAMPUS EDUCATION

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE WATERLOO REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD (WRDSB) TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND VALUES BY MODELING APPROPRIATE PRACTICE, BY SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND ACTIVITIES AND BY SUPPORTING A COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

—WRDSB POLICY 2000
ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

“Education can either maintain domination or it can liberate. It can sustain colonization in neocolonial ways or it can decolonize. Every school is either a site of reproduction or a site of change.”

—MARIE BATTISTE