



Backyard Bioblitz Program: BIRD PROTOCOL



Observing birds is as easy as opening your window or looking into your backyard. Birds can be observed at all times in the day and in all months of the year. Those who are skilled at identifying birds can even learn how to identify birds by their songs and calls!

Scan the QR code at the top of the page go to The Land Between Backyard Bioblitz Program homepage.

Before participating in the Backyard Bioblitz program please make sure that you have completed all of the steps and safety training on our website! When going out to look for birds, ensure you are dressed appropriately for the elements and have gathered all the equipment listed below. Like all of our Backyard Bioblitz protocols, please download the iNaturalist app and have joined the 'The Land Between Backyard Bioblitz Program' scan the QR code to the right to join.



PROTOCOL

Your best chances to observe birds are first thing in the morning and just before evening, while some birds can be observed in the middle of the day (such as feeder birds, waterfowl and others). Look for open areas and habitat junctions in your back yard. Try to observe for at least 15 minutes a day, even if it's in one single location. There's no limit to how long you observe for! Birding can be done stationary or traveling along a path. For smaller study areas, a stationary count near habitat junctions or areas with high visibility may be better. For larger areas such as large fields, forest with paths or areas with high habitat diversity, a walking survey may be best. When it comes to walking surveys, it's important to not backtrack – this may lead to counting the same bird twice and could lead to inaccurate results. If choosing to do a route survey, either continue the route to its end, or stop your observations when you decide to turn around.

EQUIPMENT

- Cell phone (or camera with GPS)
- Printed data entry sheet (if you can't directly submit to iNaturalist)
- Pencil or pen
- Watch
- Binoculars

TIPS FOR YOUR SEARCH

- Different birds can be found in different habitats and at different heights. If you have different habitats on your property (for example: waterfront, meadow and woodlot) consider taking the time to identify species using each of them, as well as looking at the ground, middle and top of trees. Some birds can also only be found high in the sky.
- Birds are most active in the morning and evening, but some are active throughout the day. Try to survey during the day to see different species than you may find at other times!
- Many birds become more active in the minutes before a storm or rain comes. If you have the chance, try to survey before a rain to see the frenzied feeding time!



