

Becoming a Bird Expert

Become a bird expert to identify native and invasive species in your area and teach others in preparation for the YYC City Nature Challenge (April 24th to 27th).

<http://citynatureyyc.ca/>

Suitable for ages: can be adapted for kindergarten to grade 12.

Science Curriculum links:

- Kindergarten: allows students to develop environment and community awareness. Modify to draw and label the selected bird, encourage them to observe birds in the backyard.
- Grades 1-6: encourages scientific inquiry and problem solving through technology. Research allows students to answer proposed questions, investigate and share findings by using technology (internet, apps). Modify which questions to research based on grade and skill level.
Curriculum: <https://education.alberta.ca/science-k-6/program-of-studies/?searchMode=3>
- Grades 7-12: connects with the Science, Technology and Society requirement, allows students to make a connection between technology and nature – especially if they participate in the City Nature Challenge! It also plays into stewardship under the attitudes requirement.
Curriculum: <https://education.alberta.ca/science-7-9/programs-of-study/?searchMode=3>









Instructions

What you will need checklist:

- Journal, notebook or laptop (go paperless) for taking notes
- Internet access or books for research
- Poster paper or scrap paper if you choose to create a poster or comic book
- Markers, pens, crayons, pencils
- Costumes and props if you choose to create a play or skit
- Audience (can be our family or connect with friends remotely)

Instructions:

1. From the options of bird species below
2. Select the one you'd like to become an expert for:

 <p>Canada Goose</p>	 <p>Black-capped Chickadee</p>	 <p>Black-billed Magpie</p>	 <p>Northern Flicker</p>
 <p>American Robin</p>	 <p>Ring-billed Gull</p>	 <p>Rock Pigeon</p>	 <p>House Sparrow</p>

Photos sourced from eBird.

2. Once you've selected your bird, its time for some research! Start by doing the following:
 - a) Draw a picture of your chosen bird to understand its **body shape or silhouette**. This will be helpful for identifying birds in flight. Label all body parts you can see on your drawing!
 - b) Take note of its **colouring or markings**. What colours and markings does this bird have relative to others? Are the males and females different in colouring?
 - c) Does the bird migrate? If so, where? When can we expect it here?
3. Once you've completed your scientific research, share your learnings with your family at home or with your friends remotely! Channel your inner creativity to share your findings: create a poster, a cartoon/comic book, story, a play/skit or article to educate others.
4. Challenge your family and friends to become an expert and participate in the YYC City Nature Challenge.

Did you know?

In bird species that mate for life, the females and males will often look very similar in colouring (like the Canada Goose). This is because they don't need to compete to find a mate as much as other birds that do not mate for life! For example, male Mallards have vibrant colours relative to the female.

Share with us!

We would love to see photos of your research projects. Feel free to tag us or hashtag #GreenCalgary in your social media posts! Find us here:

