



OHS HUMANE EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

Promoting Education in Animal Welfare



February Animal Holidays

- National Nest Box Week - February 14-21
- Great Backyard Bird Count - February 16-19
- National Justice for Animals Week - February 18-25
- National Wildlife Day - February 22
- National Invasive Species Awareness Week - February 26 - March 1
- Adopt a Rescued Rabbit Month

FEBRUARY 2024

IT'S NOT ONLY THE INTERNATIONAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT, FEBRUARY 16-19 IT'S TIME FOR...

THE 3RD ANNUAL OHS GREAT SCHOOLYARD BIRD COUNT! FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

WHAT IS THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT?

In 1998, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society started the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) as the first online citizen science project to collect data on wild birds with real time counts. Birds Canada joined the project in 2009 and in 2013, the project went global with their eBird (ebird.org) website.

The Great Backyard Bird Count



2022 GBBC RESULTS

Species identified: 7,099

Estimated Participants: 384,641

Countries Represented: 192

WEBSITES COLLECTING GLOBAL DATA

eBird (ebird.org) Checklists: 359,479

Merlin Bird (merlin.allaboutbirds.org) IDs: 298,208

Macaulay Library (macaulaylibrary.org) Photos Added: 141,990

WHAT IS THE GREAT SCHOOLYARD BIRD COUNT?

To make the bird count and citizen science more meaningful for our students, we invite our local teachers and students to participate in **The Great Schoolyard Bird Count!** OHS asks teachers to encourage their students to count birds outside as a classroom activity, report their numbers, and then send in their counts and pictures. Classrooms are sent an award of participation for excellence in bird counting & drawing. Hope to see your drawings and comments!



TEACHER COMMENTS

My second graders loved the great bird count! We did our count for 15 minutes in the afternoon. Children were in groups of two. Each group kept a count and we came up with the average of 46 birds. Here are a few pictures of my science researchers...with their bird art. We had a wonderful time talking about the birds we saw on Friday. ...Thanks again for the fun activity.

We...did get a great count for the 15 minutes we did it!
1 hummingbird, 1 red-tailed hawk,
1 crow, 3 gulls
I [maybe] a flycatcher, but the black tuft of head feathers seemed more pronounced?
We had fun!!



How many birds can you find?

27th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

Feb 16-19, 2024

birdcount.org

AWARENESS FUN FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

The OHS Great **SCHOOLYARD** BIRD COUNT

One year, among the gulls, crows, and assorted unnamed birds, one classroom saw a Blue Heron in their schoolyard!

Join in the Bird Counting Fun!

- Teachers take their students outside for 5-15 minutes, depending on their age, on a particular date within the observation period of the GBBC, this year held February 16-19. We have been picking the Friday of the GBBC event, but any day is fine, depending on the weather.
- Teachers ask the students to count the numbers of birds they see within the time assigned, then return to class and draw pictures of one or more birds that they saw. If they can identify the birds and write the name, all the better!
- Teachers can then take photos of their students' drawings and send to us at humane_education@ohlonehumaneociety.org and we will post them on our website for a couple of weeks and then store in our archive for others to admire.