



OHS HUMANE EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

Promoting Education in Animal Welfare

FEBRUARY
Animal Holidays

- Groundhog Day Feb 2
- Western Monarch Day Feb 5
- Great Backyard Bird Count Feb 14-17
- National Wildlife Day Feb 22

FEBRUARY 2025

THE 4TH ANNUAL OHS GREAT SCHOOLYARD BIRD COUNT

GREAT BACKYARD & SCHOOLYARD BIRD COUNT

What is the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)?

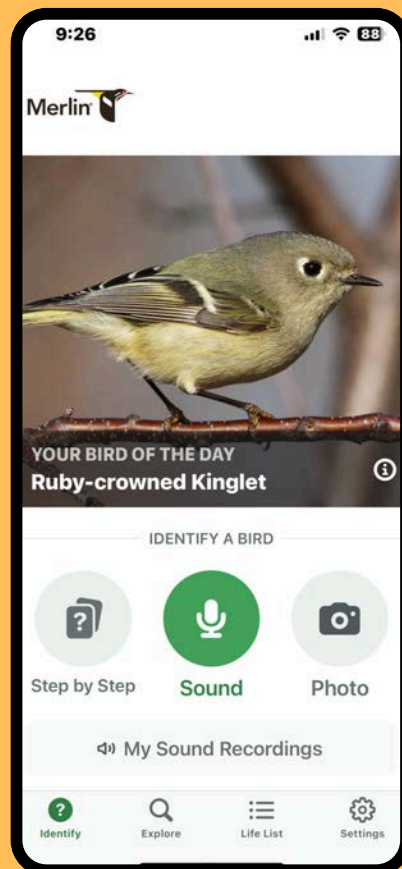
The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is the first online citizen science project to collect data on wild birds with real time counts. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society initiated the project in the United States. Birds Canada joined the project, and in 2013 the project went global with the eBird (ebird.org) website. On that website citizen scientists can add photos, bird calls, and sighting info for various locations. An example is this link to the record for birds sighted at Fremont Central Park <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L823954/illustrated-checklist>

What is the Great SCHOOLYARD Bird Count (GSBC)?

The Great Schoolyard Bird Count (GSBC) is a fun introduction to citizen science data collection of wild birds right from your own schoolyard. OHS started this event to informally encourage the love of our wild birds and connect the activity to an easy, but educational event for students and teachers.

Need a free and easy to use bird field guide? Check this one out:

[Merlin ID app for a phone or tablet](#)



WHAT BIRDS MIGHT YOU SEE?

Here are some birds common to Fremont, Newark and Union City, many species of which have been treated in the OHS Wildlife Rehabilitation Center.

- Canada Goose
- Bewick's Wren
- American Crow
- House Finch
- Rock Pigeon
- Anna's Hummingbird
- Mallard Duck
- Blue Heron
- Snowy Egret



AWARENESS FUN FOR STUDENTS OF ALL AGES

How many birds can you find?

28th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count
February 14-17, 2025
birdcount.org



Great Blue Heron / *Ardea herodias*.
Photo: Danielle Cooper/Macaulay Library

Citizen Science in the Schoolyard! Bird Counting Fun!

- Teachers bring their students outside for 5-15 minutes, depending on their age. The observation period for the Great Backyard Bird Count this year happens to include Valentine's Day too! What date could be better to share your love for birds--other than every day? However, any day will be fun pending 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!
- Another activity is to tally by type of bird or if the bird is flying, sitting, feeding, or making sounds!
- Teachers can then take photos of their students in action, students' drawings, worksheets, or reports and send to us at humane_education@ohlonehumanesociety.org and we will post them on our website for a time and then store in our archive for others to admire. A classroom participation certificate will be issued.