

Biosphere Birds



Birds come in a huge variety of shapes, sizes, and colours and each species is adapted to fit into a special role in the environment. While not all birds can fly, they do all have certain features including beaks and feathers, making them different from other types of animals. Birds have several different kinds of feathers. The stiff contour feathers cover the wings and body, they are strong but lightweight. Soft, fluffy down feathers insulate a bird and keep it warm. In addition to helping the birds fly, feathers protect a bird's sensitive skin.

There are 170+ bird species that call Georgian Bay Biosphere home. Some birds are in the Biosphere all year, some migrate through, and some visit in the summer to raise their young. Of these birds, 18 are species at risk, which means their population has declined over time.

English: *Bird*
French: *Oiseau*
Ojibwe: *Bineshiinh*

Eastern Wood-Pewee



E. Meleg

Canada Warbler



CanadianMol

Red Headed Woodpecker



T. Krug

Bald Eagle



K. Otterbein

1. Bird Nest Challenge

Did you know some birds don't build nests at all, but use the old nests of other birds? Some birds nest on the ground, but many birds build nests in trees, bushes, or a clumps of grass.

Challenge your family to the Bird Nest Game!

1. Individually or in teams, find somewhere to build a nest. Choose a location that offers protection and camouflage from predators.
2. Build your nests in the chosen place using only the materials available to a bird: grass, twigs, leaves, mud, feathers, pine needles, weeds, and even human trash (e.g., string or yarn). How well hidden is your nest? Is it *camouflaged*?
3. When the nests are built, everyone becomes a predator! Try to find each others' nests.
4. If your nest is found easily, you may want to try again to make it more difficult!

Don't confuse a bird nest with a squirrel's summer home, called a *drey*! Dreys are messy looking, mostly made of leaves, and are near tree's trunk, out of the wind.





Practice for the Great Backyard Bird Count

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is an annual four-day event for birdwatchers of all ages around the world. Anyone can participate, from beginners to experts. You can count for 15 minutes on one day, or for hours each day of the event. It's free, easy, and it helps the birds! The GBBC is a joint program of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Audubon, and Birds Canada. www.gbbc.birdcount.org



2. Art for the Birds

Every year millions of birds collide with windows. To a bird, the glass looks like an open pathway to fly through. Luckily, there are steps we can take to help protect them. To prevent collisions, we need to help birds see the windows on our buildings. Use your imagination to turn your windows into canvases for art!

If you have tempura paint, it will wash off! If you have acrylic paint, you can mix it with dish soap to improve its ability to wash off. Use 1 tsp of dish soap to every 1/4 cup of acrylic paint and mix well. Test a small corner first and never use any type of permanent paint. As a paint alternative, cut out shapes, magazine images, or draw pictures and tape to the window! To get really creative, try using several types of these art options.



<https://innerchildfun.com>

Materials: Paint, or coloured paper, cut outs, drawings, your imagination!

1. Small birds are used to speeding through obstacles like branches. Make sure that your designs are close enough together that small birds won't try to fly between them. A good rule of thumb is that designs shouldn't be more than 5 cm apart.
2. Use a paintbrush or your fingers to paint the designs on your window canvas.
3. Another cool trick is to use nature paintbrushes. Nature paintbrushes are made from natural items found outdoors like pine needles, leaves, and blades of grass.
4. An excellent website for tips on creating bird-friendly windows is www.flap.org.
5. We want to see your final designs! Share them on social media or email pictures of your bird-friendly windows to Delaina at education@gbbr.ca.



lubietworzyc.pl