



Our Ontario Programs

Birds Canada coordinates science programs where dedicated volunteers collect valuable data to help understand how birds are doing and use the data to inform conservation actions. From nationwide initiatives to regional projects, our volunteers, members, and supporters are making a difference for Canada's birds.

Here is a sampling of the volunteer programs we offer **in Ontario** ordered by time of year (winter to summer). For details please visit our website at birdscanada.org/you-can-help or click on each program's title.

Project FeederWatch: A great family activity! Participants across Canada count birds at their feeders at regular intervals from November to April, to help scientists monitor winter birds.

Christmas Bird Count: This long-running project is separated into bird count "circles" throughout North America. Each circle conducts their single-day event between December 14 and January 5.

Christmas Bird Count for Kids: Fun and family-friendly, the CBC4Kids celebrates birds while engaging youth and their families in the science of monitoring winter birds. Events are hosted by community partners across Canada during December and January.

The Great Backyard Bird Count: This worldwide event takes place each February. Anyone can take part, spending as little as 15 minutes (or as much as the entire 4 days) counting birds, creating a real-time snapshot of where birds are around the globe.

Ontario Nocturnal Owl Survey: This survey occurs in Northern and Central Ontario and monitors Owl species that nest in our large expanses of forest. Participants are assigned a roadside route and are asked to survey annually on an April night.

Great Lakes Marsh Monitoring Program: Marsh Monitors track the presence and abundance of marsh birds and amphibians. Data collected is used to guide wetland conservation actions.

American Woodcock Singing-ground Survey: Participants listen for American Woodcocks along assigned survey routes that occur randomly across the province. Data is used to advise management practices.

Canadian Lakes Loon Survey: The Loon Survey helps us assess the long-term health of Common Loons and the Canadian lakes they depend on. Surveyors spend time observing loons at their favourite lake throughout the summer.

www.birdscanada.org/you-can-help



Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas: This multi-partner project is in its LAST year of data collection in 2025. The Atlas documents all breeding birds across Ontario (2021-2025) and is key to future bird conservation. While many tasks require experienced birders, there are plenty of roles for those building their bird ID skills. Also, check out the [self-directed remote canoe and backpack trip opportunities](#).

Birds Canada Birdathon: The time you spend birding can help the very birds you're looking at. Participate in the Birds Canada Birdathon to help conserve birds across Canada!

Ontario Piping Plover Conservation Program: Monitor Piping Plovers as they nest on beaches (May-Aug) and educate beach goers about how they can share the shores with this endangered species. Volunteer needs are based on nesting distribution. Check out the [volunteer training](#) on Birds Canada Learn.

Ontario SwiftWatch: You can help threatened Chimney Swifts in your community by monitoring roost and nest chimneys in your neighbourhood or through habitat stewardship activities. Check out the [volunteer training](#) on Birds Canada Learn.

Canadian Nightjar Survey: Volunteers conduct annual nocturnal roadside surveys for nightjars to contribute to the invaluable dataset on these under-reported species.

Forest Bird Monitoring Program: Volunteers monitor forest birds via point counts within targeted forest lots. The data collected by this monitoring program contributes to an understanding of population trends for forest birds in Ontario.

eBird Canada: Contribute to bird science and monitoring anytime you go birding by submitting data to www.ebird.ca. Contribute your sightings year round, plan your next birding trip, or learn about birds by exploring the entire database.

Key Biodiversity Areas / (KBAs): Connect to local green spaces through KBAs, as an on-the-ground steward. Conservation actions include bird monitoring, education, site assessment, and restoration.

Bird Gardens: Take your love of birds to the next level by creating habitat in your yard or garden that provides life-saving resources for birds throughout the year.

Self-directed learning: [Birds Canada Learn](#); [NatureCounts Learning Hub](#); and [MarshWatch](#) will help you learn about birds, bird identification, and provide training on projects and data entry.

For more information on any of these programs, contact:

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