

LESSON: Celebrate Urban Birds

Grade Level: First

OBJECTIVES:

Students will:

- Learn about 16 species of birds
- Connect with nature
- Become more aware of birds in their neighborhoods
- Understand how green spaces affect birds
- Use math skills such as sorting, grouping, counting and adding

MATERIALS:

- Bird Guide for “*Celebrate Urban Birds!*”

[http://www.birds.cornell.edu/celebration/resources-for-celebrating/CUB Coop Bird Guide edits.pdf](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/celebration/resources-for-celebrating/CUB%20Coop%20Bird%20Guide%20edits.pdf)

- Focal Species Tally Sheet

[http://www.birds.cornell.edu/celebration/resources-for-celebrating/CUBs Focal Species Tally Sheet-REV.pdf](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/celebration/resources-for-celebrating/CUBs%20Focal%20Species%20Tally%20Sheet-REV.pdf)

PRESENTATION:

Show students the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Web site, and explain how the organization interprets and conserves biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds. Many of the birds, mammals, and animated character sounds heard in movies and TV shows come from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s [Macaulay Library](http://macaulaylibrary.org/browse/common/11994031) (<http://macaulaylibrary.org/browse/common/11994031>). Explain that your classroom is going to help the lab learn about birds by learning 15 focal species, counting, cataloguing and reporting data. Explain that you can watch birds anywhere, and visualize HALF A BASKETBALL COURT. Each student will choose a space that size, watch and listen there for ten minutes. Then the class will enter the data from their tally sheets into the [online data bank](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/celebration/online-data) (<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/celebration/online-data>).

DIRECTIONS:

Have your students study the bird guide and take the [Bird Quiz](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/celebration/take-the-quiz/) (<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/celebration/take-the-quiz/>). They can take it as many times as they want, learning a little more each time. Once they get all ten questions correct, they can download a certificate.

Work with your class to decide on an area where they can do a 10-minute Bird Tally. The class will need to spread out so that each student can cover an area about the size of a basketball court. Any of these places will work fine for your class’ bird counting activity—

- a park of any size
- the school yard
- tree-lined streets
- community gardens
- yards

Once your class has decided where to conduct its bird count, print off a Focal Bird Tally Sheet for each student. Make sure your students bring along a pencil or pen. Take the group to the location and spread out. Watch and listen there for TEN minutes only.

Once you return to the classroom, have each student enter the data they collected at the [online data bank](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/celebration/online-data).