

Bird Count



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What is a Bird Count?

Birding is simple and can be done anywhere. You can observe birds in a park, from a window, or even at the beach. The main purpose of a Bird Count is to keep track of the number of birds seen. At the end of a Bird Count, you'll share your data with ornithologists at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.



Conducting a Bird Count

First, copy this format for your Bird Count onto a piece of paper or in your notebook like in the example below:

The first set of information to collect is the date, time, and location you are conducting your Bird Count. As scientists, it is necessary to keep accurate records of when and where data is collected and observations are recorded.

Location:

Date:

Time started:

Time ended:


Bird (name or description)	Number seen
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[illegible]

Using a pair of binoculars, find a safe place outside to go birding. If it is unsafe to be outside, you can bird watch from a window. If you don't have a pair of binoculars, you can use the camera on a mobile device and zoom in on birds or just observe without tools.


Set a timer for 10 minutes and get started counting birds. The data you want to collect should include the number of birds you saw and their size and color.

Note whether the bird had any field marks, such as distinguishing stripes or spots. Make sure to indicate if the bird is seen flying, walking, or perching. Descriptor words or a drawing of the bird will help keep track of the individual birds you've seen.


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LOCATION: SAN FRANCISCO
DATE: 12-13-2022
TIME STARTED: 9:15 A.M.
TIME ENDED:

BIRD (NAME OR DESCRIPTION)	# SEEN
- HUMMINGBIRD	1
- BROWN	
- LONG BEAK	
- WHITE SPOT ON TOP OF HEAD	


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LOCATION: SAN FRANCISCO
DATE: 12-13-2022
TIME STARTED: 9:15 A.M.
TIME ENDED:

BIRD (NAME OR DESCRIPTION)	# SEEN
- HUMMINGBIRD	1
- BROWN	
- LONG BEAK	
- WHITE SPOT ON TOP OF HEAD	
	

Be careful not to count the same individual bird more than once, but you can count multiples of the same species, if you see a flock of many birds, for example. This can be tricky, so do your best. At the end of your 10-minute timer, record your end time.

LOCATION: SAN FRANCISCO
DATE: 12-13-2022
TIME STARTED: 9:15 A.M.
TIME ENDED: 9:25 A.M.

BIRD (NAME OR DESCRIPTION)	# SEEN
- HUMMINGBIRD	1
- BROWN] FIELD MARKS
- LONG BEAK	
- WHITE SPOT ON TOP OF HEAD	
] OPTIONAL DRAWING

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Head outside for a Bird Count

Now that you have all the steps and basic materials, you can head outside and conduct your Bird Count. Reference this Bird Count Guide for step-by-step directions.

Bird Count and eBird Guide

Use the PDF titled *Bird Count and eBird Guide* as a step-by-step guide birding for a Bird Count.