



Great Backyard Bird Count



Key Resources

The following resources and support materials are provided as general guidance for promoting the study of birds, backyard habitats, and the Great Backyard Bird Count. All of these are applicable across all grade levels.

KEY INTERNET RESOURCE SITES

BirdSource (www.birdsource.org)

This interactive site provides information and access (links listed below) to a number of bird monitoring projects designed to allow interaction between citizens and scientists interested in birds. These programs are designed and managed by a unique partnership between the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Examples of programs supported by BirdSource include:

- The Great Backyard Bird Count (annual) – www.birdsource.org/gbbc/toc_page.html
- Classroom Feeder Watch (year round) – www.birds.cornell.edu/cfw/index.html
- Christmas Bird Count (annual) – www.audubon.org/bird/cbc
- eBird (year round personal inventories) - www.ebird.org/content/index.html

Great Backyard Bird Count Website

This interactive site focuses on promoting and supporting participation in the annual Great Backyard Bird Count held in February of each year. Major sections of the website (www.birdsource.org/gbbc/toc_page.html) are:

- Why Count Backyard Birds
- Learn About Birds
- Show Me How
- Submit Your Bird Checklist
- Results

The “For Educators” portion of the “Learn About Birds” section listed above (www.birdsource.org/gbbc/learning/learn.html) provides useful guidance and resources that can support the classroom activities listed in the Classroom Activity Kit and the Great Backyard Bird Count. The major sections are:

- Schoolyard Feeding Stations
- Ways to Involve Kids
- Backyard Activities
- Making Feeders
- Feeder Types

The Great Backyard Bird Count website also includes a link to an Online Bird Guide (<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/programs/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide/>) developed and maintained by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. This site includes descriptions, sounds, conservation status, other names and cool facts for a large number of North American birds. The short wave files of bird song may be a valuable tool for classroom use.

National Audubon Website (www.audubon.org)

This site provides information about North America's premier bird conservation organization, including information about state and local chapters and the Audubon Adventures program, Audubon's award winning environmental education program for children in grades 3-6. The Audubon At Home program is also a great resource for information on promoting backyard conservation and enjoying wildlife viewing (www.audubon.org/bird/at_home/index.html).

SUPPORT MATERIAL

- The Do's and Don'ts of Promoting the Great Backyard Bird Count – Provides a few suggestions for encouraging student participation in the annual count AND a word of caution about a few Don'ts that would defeat the purpose of the effort.
- Program Evaluation and Participation Form – Form to evaluate the Classroom Kit and apply for incentive for teachers promoting the Great Backyard Bird Count
- Certificate of Participation in the Great Backyard Bird Count – A printable certificate for presentation to children that participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count
- Audubon Mississippi Overview – A Power Point presentation that provides background and information about the Audubon Society.
- Promoting the Great Back Yard Bird Count – A Power Point presentation that can be used in the classroom or at public meetings to promote participation in the count. The presentation includes overviews of:
 - the why, what and how of participating in the Backyard Bird Count,
 - bird identification, ○ native food plants, and
 - bird feeders and feeding, ○ bird cover and water.
- Common Backyard Birds of Mississippi – A Power Point presentation that can be used in the classroom to study, review or test students' knowledge of the common backyard birds. Two versions are provided: one with the species identified on each slide, the second without identifications (can be used for quizzing)
- National Audubon Society (NAS) Citizen Science Fact Sheets – This series of fact sheets provides basic information on the many Citizen Science programs sponsored by the Nation Audubon Society, including the Great Backyard Bird Count.

BOOKS ABOUT JOHN JAMES AUDUBON

- (4-8th Grade) *Audubon: Painter of birds in the Wild Frontier*, Jennifer Armstrong w/illus. by Jos. A. Smith. 40 pp. Harry N. Abrams, Inc. (2003). ISBN: 0810942380.
- (Young Adult) *First Impressions, John James Audubon*, Joseph Kastner. 92 pp. Harry N. Abrams, Inc. (1992). ISBN: 0810919184.
- (Young Adult/Adult) *John James Audubon: The Making of an American*, Richard Rhodes. 528 pp. Knopf (2004). ISBN: 0375414126.
- (Adult) *John James Audubon: Writings and Drawings*, John James Audubon and Christoph Irmischer. 928 pp. Library of America (1999). ISBN: 188301168X.