

# Eagle Point Nature News

Adventure Awaits....

[www.epbrparkscouncil.org](http://www.epbrparkscouncil.org)



April 28, 2020



## For the Birds

*K.Schwengler, Education & Outreach Coordinator,  
EPBR ParksCouncil*

Spring is the perfect season to learn about science and nature! Migrating birds are returning, buds appear on the trees, frogs start to sing. So many welcoming sights and sounds just outside your door! Why not take the kids outside and do some active citizen science to give them a break from their online classes?

Citizen science projects often call on regular people with a keen interest in nature to help document, observe, identify and/or photograph animals, insects or plants.

### **Why Do Citizen Science Projects with your Kids?**

1. Quality Family Time in the Outdoors.
2. Create and strengthen a life long connection to nature!
3. Hone science, math, literacy skills! Citizen science requires observations skills, identification, counting, careful note taking, data collection, accuracy, follow up, photography, etc!
4. Volunteering is good for everyone!
5. Connect with a community of like minded people who have similar interests.
5. Monitoring animal populations helps with education and conservation!

In this issue, we hope to get you outside safely with your families for either a Citizen Science project or a full game of Bird Bingo! If you can't get outside, test your family's listening skills with the WHOSE SONG IS IT? BIRD SOUND CHALLENGE QUIZ.



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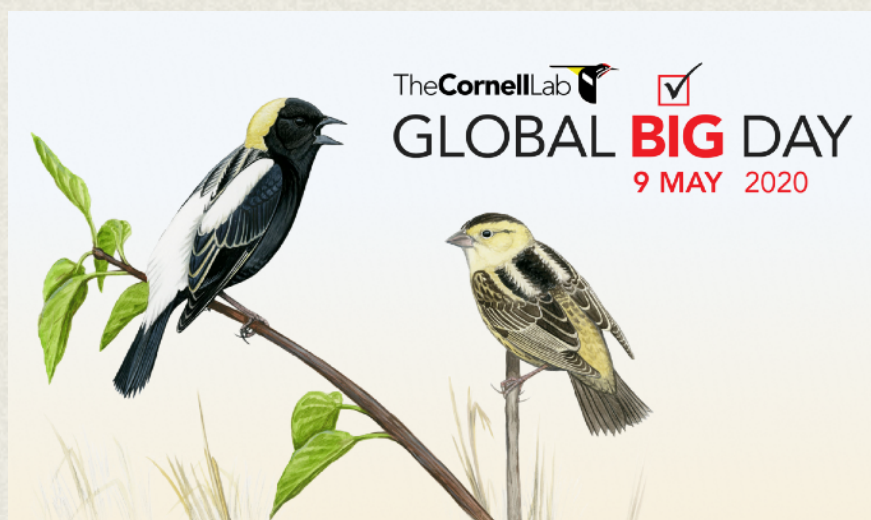
## GOOD STUFF TO DO WITH YOUR KIDS - Part 4

### Activity #1 - Global Big Day

#### Your First Citizen Science Project!

We invite your family to participate in this one day bird count on May 9! Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council will take part in our third [Global Big Day](#) with the help of volunteers like you! In 2019, around 35,000 people from all across the world counted 6833 species of birds on Global Big Day! Last year, our own Eagle Point Team spotted 56 species and 999 birds! (There are approximately 146 species in our area). This year, we'd like to increase our numbers with your help!

*(Please remember to follow Provincial Guidelines for social distancing while you are out birding!)*



*You can join the Eagle Point Team by counting birds in your backyard, at your feeder or on a trail in the Drayton Valley and surrounding area!*

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN GLOBAL BIG DAY WITH US

- STEP 1. Download the EPBR Parks Council [birding checklist](#) or visit our page <https://www.epbrparkscouncil.org/events/global-big-day-2/>
- STEP 2. Get a bird identification book or download a good bird identification app for Alberta or North American birds.
- STEP 3. Optional: Got binoculars? Got a camera?
- STEP 4. Go count those birds on May 9!
- STEP 5. Submit your final bird count or checklist to [outreach@epbrparkscouncil.org](mailto:outreach@epbrparkscouncil.org)

**Global Big Day is on May 9.** Join the Eagle Point Team to identify and count the birds in your neighbourhood over a 24 hour period. You can count for as little as an hour or as long as you like. Count in your backyard, count on a walk, count at your bird feeder! Got a question? Email Kathy at [outreach@epbrparkscouncil.org](mailto:outreach@epbrparkscouncil.org) for more information.



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## Activity II. Bird Bingo



EAGLE POINT-BLUE RAPIDS PARKS COUNCIL

### BIRD BINGO

B	I	N	G	★
				
SPARROW	ROBIN	WAXWING	NUTHATCH	MAGPIE
				
RED WINGED BLACKBIRD	CANADA GOOSE	DUCK	OSPREY	GULL
				
WOODPECKER	BLUEBIRD	OWL	PIGEON	PURPLE FINCH
				
CHICKADEE	COWBIRD	HAWK	RAVEN	WARBLER
				
OWL	CANADA JAY	HUMMINGBIRD	WOODPECKER (PILEATED)	SWALLOW



1. Can you find all the birds on one line?
2. Can you find all the birds on one page?
3. Challenge your friends to a game of Bird Bingo!

Download a full size PDF [www.epbrparkscouncil.org/bird-bingo](http://www.epbrparkscouncil.org/bird-bingo)



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## Further Learning

### Interested in more Citizen Science Projects?

More ways to get your kids involved in field science:

#### BUTTERFLIES:

Sign up for an **eButterfly** Account, learn to identify, document your butterfly sightings and share your photographs. The website has excellent photographs to help families identify the butterflies you observe. Visit <https://e-butterfly.org>

#### BATS

[Alberta Community Bat Program](http://www.albertabats.ca/citizenscience/) is an excellent project for families. Help document and monitor maternity roosts in Alberta in order to keep bat populations safe!

#### FROGS (and other Amphibians)

[Alberta Volunteer Amphibian Monitoring Program](https://www.ab-conservation.com/avamp) helps participants identify species and log their observations of amphibians. Visit <https://www.ab-conservation.com/avamp>

#### MISC

##### Nature Lynx

Record your observations of plants and animals with their user friendly app.

Nature Lynx is a non-profit scientific organization that tracks changes in Alberta's wildlife and habitats from border to border to provide ongoing, relevant, and scientifically credible information on Alberta's living resources.

## Birds - Links & Learning

Whose Sound is it Anyways Quiz & Video

[www.epbrparkscouncil.org/bird-sounds](http://www.epbrparkscouncil.org/bird-sounds)

Eagle Point Bird Bingo Download

[www.epbrparkscouncil.org/bird-bingo/](http://www.epbrparkscouncil.org/bird-bingo/)

Audubon's Easy Ways to Get Kids

Birding, <https://www.audubon.org/news/easy-ways-get-kids-birding>

Cornell Lab's Best Apps for Birding with

Kids, <https://www.birds.cornell.edu/k12/best-apps-for-birding-with-kids/>

Audubon [www.audubon.org/birding](http://www.audubon.org/birding)

Bird Searcher, "The Ultimate Guide to Choosing Binoculars for Birding"

MOVIE: **The Big Year (2011)**, PG, starring Owen Wilson, Jack Black and Steve



### WATCH BIRD SOUNDS! WHOSE SONG



**BIRD SOUNDS**  
**Interactive**  
**QUIZ**  
**VERSION**  
**(iOS)**





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## Questions or Suggestions?

### Contact:

Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council

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[outreach@epbrparkscouncil.org](mailto:outreach@epbrparkscouncil.org)

### Visit our website:

[www.epbrparkscouncil.org](http://www.epbrparkscouncil.org)

[EPBR Parks Council on Facebook](#)

[EPBRParks on Instagram](#)

### Share your birding photos!

Email your photo to

[outreach@epbrparkscouncil.org](mailto:outreach@epbrparkscouncil.org)

and we'll post it on our  
Facebook page!



## IV. Track of the Week!

*Can you guess what made this track?  
We'll give you a hint. This animal  
raises its babies in trees!*

- A. Canada Goose
- B. Wolverine
- C. Northern Raven
- D. Snowshoe Hare

Last issue's track was a Black Bear

Eagle Point-Blue Rapids Parks Council thanks our supporters  
for their continued support during this challenging time!

**Our featured supporter of the week is ECDC!**



EARLY CHILDHOOD  
DEVELOPMENT CENTRE  
NURTURING TOMORROW'S LEADERS