

## Backyard Birding

Use the five S's of birding to help you identify the birds that live in your neighbourhood.

**Size.** Birds vary greatly in size, and it can be hard to guess a bird's actual size from far away. Instead, it helps to compare a new bird to a common one you already know.

**Shape.** Knowing the shape of the bird will help you narrow down the family the bird belongs to. Is it tall and slender? Is it a small perching type of bird?

**Shade.** Does the bird have special features like bold colours, unique markings or ornaments (crest on it's head).

**Song.** Most of the time you'll hear a bird before you see it, so it's important to listen carefully to their song. You can download a birding app (iBird Canada or Merlin) and listen to different calls before you go out birding. This will help you familiarize yourself with the songs of some of the birds you may hear.

**Sweep.** The flight pattern and habitat-type of the bird can be very helpful when it comes to identification.

# Nature Activity

## Owlsome birds

Chickadee-dee-dee...cheeseburger...chickadee-dee-dee...cheeseburger. What type of bird am I? (Hint: the name is in it's song – and no it's not cheeseburger).

Nothing is more inspiring than seeing children outdoors exploring nature. And birds are the perfect way to get kids off their screens and interested in the natural world.

With hundreds of species of birds in Ontario, you can look for birds everywhere – from your window or your backyard, while playing at the park or walking through your local greenspace. How many different species of birds can you find?



BLUE JAY

🎵 sounds like  
jay-jay or a loud jeer



RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

🎵 sounds like  
konk-la-ree



BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

🎵 sounds like  
chickadee-dee-dee or  
cheeseburger



NORTHERN CARDINAL

🎵 sounds like  
cheer-cheer-cheer or  
birdie birdie birdie

Share images of the birds you've seen in your neighbourhood by tagging us on Twitter @LSRCA or Instagram @lakesimcoeconservation.



Lake Simcoe Region  
conservation authority

www.LSRCA.on.ca