

# Challenge Card Backyard Bird Count

## Suited to Section



Joey Scouts



Cub Scouts



Scouts



Venturer Scouts



Rover Scouts

## Challenge Area



COMMUNITY



PERSONAL GROWTH



OUTDOORS



CREATIVE

## Key SPICES growth



SOCIAL



PHYSICAL



INTELLECTUAL



CHARACTER



EMOTIONAL



SPIRITUAL

## Likely Scout Method elements



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



LEARNING BY DOING



NATURE AND THE OUTDOORS



PATROL SYSTEM



PERSONAL PROGRESSION



PROMISE AND LAW



SYMBOLIC FRAMEWORK



YOUTH LEADING, ADULTS SUPPORTING

## Summary statement

Scouts will conduct a timed bird count and learn about nature in their neighbourhood while collecting data that will be used by Birdlife Australia to inform bird conservation and help combat the many threats facing Australia's many wonderful birds.

# Challenge Card Backyard Bird Count

## Plan

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Ask your Unit to consider the purpose of this activity:

- What are some of the threats faced by birds?
- Are all the birds in our backyards native?
- How might information about the birds in our backyards help scientists protect birds?
- Decide where your Unit will do their bird count.
- At your Scout hall? In a local park or reserve? Will you all conduct your surveys in the same area, or will you split up?

Let participants know what they need to bring and gather any equipment you will provide:

- Bird guides (books, apps or online resources).
- Binoculars.
- Paper, pens and pencils.
- Phones or computers to submit results to the Birddata app or website.

## Do

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- Sign up for the Birddata platform at [birddata.birdlife.org.au](http://birddata.birdlife.org.au)

- In patrols, conduct your bird counts:

If uploading data via the Birddata website, skip to step 4 and upload your survey details and results afterwards.

1. Tap "record survey" and select the "Birds in Backyards" program.
2. Select your survey location.
3. Fill out the survey details including your site details.
4. Spend 20 minutes birdwatching and record which birds you see.
5. Review and submit your results.

## Review

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- Come together as a Unit and discuss what you saw.
- What birds did you see?
- Were there more or less birds than you expected?
- Where did the birds spend their time and what did they do?
- How many birds were native species? How many were introduced?
- Do you think you would see different birds at a different time of day? What about at a different time of year?
- What could you do to make your area more bird friendly?
- What went well? What could be improved?
- Thank the participants and organisers.
- Make sure everyone who should fill in their record books for participating, assisting or leading.