



CORNELL LAB of ORNITHOLOGY
159 SAPSUCKER WOODS ROAD • ITHACA NEW YORK 14850

Celebrate Urban Birds!

Reconnecting with nature through the arts

www.CelebrateUrbanBirds.org

At the Lab of Ornithology we have decades of experience connecting hundreds of thousands of people with nature. Our newest initiative, Celebrate Urban Birds, involves using visual and performing arts, participatory art, and science projects to connect people in inner cities with the natural world. The arts give everyone the opportunity to connect with nature in deeper ways.

What is Celebrate Urban Birds?

- The project can be done by anyone, anywhere, anytime, at no cost
- Participants
 - learn about, watch, and record birds
 - participate in the arts
 - give back to their communities by improving local habitat

Instead of being shipped out to the country to find nature, people are going outside and reconnecting with nature in their own neighborhoods where they find community, commonalities, and meaning.

Since launching the project in May 2007, we have distributed nearly 50,000 bilingual kits in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Canada, and many other countries. More than 2000 partner organizations have joined our efforts.

“It is a fabulous way to get outside and enjoy nature. You don’t have to know a lot. You don’t have to have special equipment. You can just ENJOY!”
~ Anna Sanford, Aurora, Illinois

Benefits for youth and families

- **Getting outdoors:** families spend time together outdoors
- **Appreciating nature:** learning about and experiencing nature in their own city block
- **Free tools:** used to gain a deeper understanding of conservation issues, citizen science, and nature
- **Real science:** participating in real university research to better understand urban green spaces and birds
- **Lifelong skills:** developing observation and critical thinking skills
- **Family activity:** getting parents involved in children’s activities



Bilingual Celebrate Urban Birds Kit

- **Introduction**—instructions for the project and drawings of 16 target bird species
- **Silhouette guide**—features 16 species of urban birds and cool facts
- **Full-color urban birds poster**—bird identification guide, with information on urban greening, threats to birds, and more
- **Sunflower seeds**—to plant in pots and gardens
- **Zero Means a Lot stickers**—emphasizes importance of reporting data even when NO birds are seen
- **Simple data form and return envelope**—for recording observations
- **Gardening for the birds poster**—features plants that are good for birds, are easy to grow in cities, and encourage arts activities



The Celebrate Urban Birds Website

www.CelebrateUrbanBirds.org

Provides a wealth of resources for education and organizing events

- **Learn** to integrate the arts into Celebrate Urban Bird events.
- **View** bird observations in real time and share what you have seen with others.
- **Find** activities to engage families and obtain resources to re-connect kids with nature.
- **Share** ideas, photos, and highlight local events.
- **Obtain** resources to learn about birds and conservation.

What's Next?

- **Expand** our call for artists and create a [centralized location for local artists and educators](#) to easily connect and share ideas.
- **Host** [cell phone photo and video contests](#) to keep participants engaged and connected with the natural world.
- **Create** [social networking opportunities](#) for sharing images, ideas, and resources.
- **Encourage** communities to [partner with local artists](#) and co-create community and habitat art projects
- **Report** [scientific findings](#) obtained from data collected by the public.

www.CelebrateUrbanBirds.org