



Up and Down the River

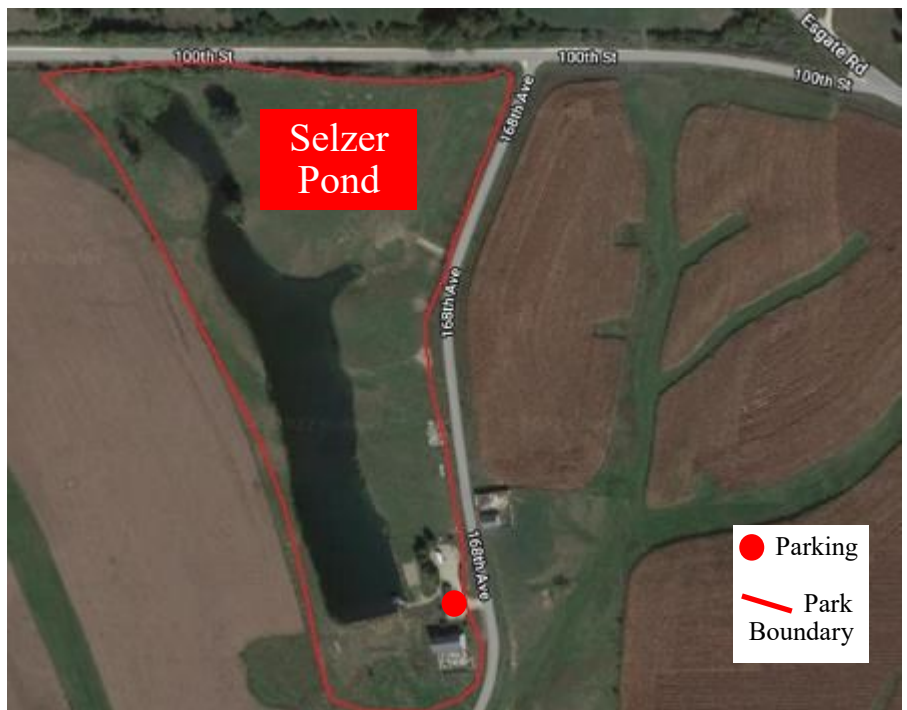
JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD, WINTER 2022-23

“Selzer Pond” Open to Public

The Estate of Carl R. Selzer is leasing a 25-acre property to Jackson County Conservation for the public to use for education and outdoor recreation.

The property is located at the corner of 100th Street and 168th Ave, just north of Maquoketa off the Esgate Road. There is a parking area off 168th Ave. The address is 10047 168th Ave, Maquoketa IA 52060

The area includes a 5-acre pond, stocked with fish, perfect for ice fishing this winter! The lease is for 6 months, ending March 31, 2023. At that time, the lease may be renewed, or the property may be turned over to our department. Please follow all county park ordinances. We are excited about this opportunity and to have another park available for the public to recreate outdoors.



Summer Conservation Jobs

Want to work for county parks? Be part of the conservation team? We will be hiring summer conservation workers and a seasonal naturalist for Summer 2023! Great jobs for college students hoping to get into the conservation and natural resource field and to build their resume!

Enjoy camping? Want to camp all summer along the Mississippi River and get paid to do so? Apply for our Campground Host position at Spruce Creek Park and/or South Sabula Lake Park.

Check our website in late January for job postings, www.JacksonCCB.com—click on *Employment*

We're Hiring!

Winter Outdoor Activities

By Jessica Wagner, Environmental Education Coordinator

Don't let the winter weather keep you indoors! With the proper attire, you can enjoy spending time outdoors all year round.

Snowshoeing is one of my favorite winter activities. All you need is a pair of snowshoes, and you can head out almost anywhere (just as long as there is snow!). I often walk around my neighbor's pasture, along the county road, or head to a nearby park.

Other popular outdoor winter activities include ice fishing, cross-country skiing, ice skating, and sledding. Sometimes the biggest hurdle to participating in these activities is having the right equipment. I gathered info from our neighboring county conservation departments and have compiled below what equipment is available to the public and where you can get it.

Jackson County Conservation @ Hurstville Interpretive Center, has snowshoes and ice skates available at no cost to the public to use during regular hours on site. Rentals available for multiple days. We are considering acquiring ice fishing equipment to loan out. Let us know if you are interested in this opportunity!

Clinton County Conservation, our neighbors to the south, have snowshoes, ice skates, and cross-country skis available for rent at the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center.



Dubuque County Conservation, our neighbors to the north, have snowshoes and cross-country skis at both Swiss Valley Nature Center and EB Lyons Center at no cost to the public during regular business hours.



Jones County Conservation, our neighbors to the west, have ice fishing gear and snowshoes available at no cost at Central Park Nature Center. Call ahead for availability.

Certain conditions are required for the above activities. Call ahead to ensure availability and hours. All the county conservation departments above offer public programs open to the public, that include the activities above, plus more. So, if you aren't sure how to get started, attend a program to learn more. **Get outside this winter and try a new activity and explore a new park!**

Recycle holiday lights



Drop off broken or old Christmas lights at the collection box at the Hurstville Center **through January 13**. Sponsored by the Jackson County Energy District.

Recycle Styrofoam

Drop off clean, white Styrofoam at the Hurstville Center between **January 3-13 ONLY** for recycling.

Arrgh! What to do With That Foam Packaging!

By Ann Burns, Friends Sustainability Committee Member

It keeps your double caramel mocha hot as you drive, one handed, to work. It protects the new lamp you ordered from the online home goods store. And you generally cannot recycle it if you live in Jackson County. While we all call it Styrofoam, it is known in the industry as expanded polystyrene foam (more on that later).

Knowing people make purchases that come protected by polystyrene foam over the Holiday season, **Friends of Jackson County Conservation will collect clean, white polystyrene foam at the Hurstville Interpretive Center weekdays, January 3-13, between 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM.**

Volunteers will take the collected material to a site in Cedar Falls where the material is processed for recycling. At this facility the foam is loaded into a machine called a thermal densifier which turns it into a thick syrup-like substance. This drains into large brick molds where it is formed into solid blocks. The blocks are shipped to manufacturers to be made into products.

Calling something Styrofoam or polystyrene is kind of like saying "Please hand me a Kleenex", instead of "Please hand me a facial tissue". Styrofoam is a brand name for a particular kind of extruded polystyrene and is most used in construction – think "Blue Board". Foam coolers, cups, food containers and packaging are made of expanded polystyrene. Both are petroleum-based products, so both require use of a non-renewable resource. The foam used in construction materials stays in place for years. The foam used in our insulated to-go cups and shipping packaging is sadly, used once, then tossed into the trash, or worse; blows across parking lots and roadsides.

While both materials break down into smaller bits and pieces, polystyrene foam does not decompose. Those broken-down bits, known as microplastics wind up in our waterways and soil. Research on microplastics in food webs is new but shows concerning results. In waterways, the plastic is ingested by small filter-feeding animals and eventually works up the food web. The same appears to happen in soil-based food webs. A recent study in Finland found that microplastics moved from the soil through a food chain of lettuce to insects and then to fish that were fed the insects.

The science on plastics in our environment is new. There is a lot more to discover. Meanwhile, we keep producing more single use plastic (including foam). Since 1950 the world has produced more than 9 billion tons of plastic. More than two thirds of this plastic have outlived its usefulness and become waste. Only 9 percent of plastic waste is recycled.

The first step is to drastically reduce our use of single use plastics. The second step is to do a better job of recycling what plastic we do use. The Friends of JCC are providing an opportunity to recycle a sometimes-difficult plastic.

Winter Calendar of Events

Registration is REQUIRED at least 48 hours in advance for ALL programs.

Register by calling (563) 652-3783 or email conservation@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov

*Programs are free of charge unless otherwise noted. Donations are accepted.
Programs are open to all ages and are family friendly unless otherwise noted.*

For up to date information on our programs, check our website, www.JacksonCCB.com or visit the Hurstville Interpretive Center's Facebook page.

Full Moon Snowshoe Hike

Friday, January 6 at 5:00 PM

Prairie Creek Recreation Area—Meet at Pavilion
Strap on some snowshoes and enjoy a walk along the trails. The initial full moon of a calendar year has been nicknamed the Wolf Moon. Let's hope for clear skies and let the Wolf Moon guide us along the trails. Snowshoes are provided. If no snow, wear good boots for hiking.

Ice Fishing Clinic

Saturday, January 14 at 10:00 AM

Selzer's Pond, 10047 168th Ave Maquoketa
Learn how to ice fish, what equipment is needed, and ask questions to get you going with this great winter activity. Equipment will be provided. All ages and skill levels are welcome to join us! Those 16 & older need a fishing license to fish.



KinderNature Homeschool Series

Fridays at 10:00 AM

January 20—Mammals of Iowa

February 17—Birds of Iowa

March 17—Bugs, Bugs, Bugs

April 21—Drumming in Nature

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Homeschool families with elementary aged children are welcome to join us in learning more about nature. Youth will have fun learning about the month's topic through stories, games, and activities. Families are welcome to bring a picnic lunch and stay after to visit with other families.

Homeschool Science Series

1st & 3rd Mondays Sept-May at 10:00 AM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Middle and high school homeschool students are invited to learn more about various science topics with Dave & Sue Gossman. Topics selected by requests from students. *January 3—no program; January 16—What is Geology.*

Brown Bag Lunch—Prairies

Tuesday, January 17 at Noon

Clinton Engine's Museum, Maquoketa

Naturalist Tony Vorwald will present about prairies in Jackson County. Learn more about the prairie ecosystem and the history of prairies in Iowa.

Snowshoe & Brew

Saturday, January 21 at 2:00 PM

Prairie Creek Recreation Area—Meet at Pavilion

Strap on some snowshoes, hit the trails, and sample some fine craft beer. We will provide snowshoes and a guided hike. Maquoketa Brewing will provide delicious, local craft beer for sampling at the Pavilion around a campfire. If no snow, plan for a hike.

Basket Coiling Class

Monday, January 23 from 5:00-8:00 PM OR

Tuesday, January 24 from 9:00-Noon

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Explore the lovely art form of basket making by coiling pine needles, native grasses, and other plants. Materials and instruction will be provided for participants to make their own basket. Cost is \$10. Class is for adults and youth ages 12 & up.

Live Animal Feeding

Wednesday, January 25 at 2:00 PM

Wednesday, February 8 at 2:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Join a Naturalist in helping feed the resident turtles and snakes, while learning about reptiles of Iowa!



OWLS: Snowshoeing

Friday, January 27 at 1:00 PM

Whitewater Canyon, 29912 9th Ave Bernard, Iowa

Enjoy a guided snowshoe walk along the trails at the park. Snowshoes are provided. OWLS (Older, Wiser, Livelier, Souls) is a collaboration between Dubuque, Jackson, & Jones County Conservation Naturalists and programs are open to all adults.

Winter Calendar of Events Continued



North & South Poles

Tuesday, January 31 at 6:00 PM

Virtual program via Zoom

Join us for a virtual presentation with Kathi Atkinson about her travels with National Geographic to Antarctica and Iceland. "Summer of 2021: after getting the second dose of the new COVID vaccine, I booked a July National Geographic cruise to Iceland, my number-one "bucket list" travel goal. Fellow travelers told me that I really needed to go to Antarctica. National Geographic had a cruise that exactly matched my school vacation dates, so that was my Christmas gift to myself." Kathi will share about her travels to both poles in 2021 and what she found most fascinating on each trip! Kathi was a regular Hurstville volunteer for many years, and now lives in Flagstaff, Arizona. *Zoom link will be emailed to those that register.*

Trivia Night

Friday, February 3 at 6:00 PM

Maquoketa Brewing

Gather family and friends for nature trivia at the brewery! Teams of up to 4 people can compete. \$20/team. Sponsored by Maquoketa Brewing! Funds raised go to Friends of JCC.

Seed Swap at Maquoketa Brewing

Sunday, February 5 from 1:00-3:00 PM

Maquoketa Brewing

Time to start making our garden plans! AJ Shultz of Convivium Urban Farmstead will be available to chat and provide resources on vegetable plants, seeds, and gardening. Tony Vorwald of Jackson County Conservation will be available to chat and provide resources about native plants and how to integrate natives into your home garden. Also if you have vegetable seeds that you have and want to share with other garden enthusiasts come swap your seeds. There will be materials you to package and share small amounts of vegetable seeds. Door prizes will be given.

Brown Bag Lunch—Christmas Bird Count

Tuesday, February 7 at Noon

Clinton Engine's Museum, Maquoketa

Jess Wagner will present about the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count and its history, starting in 1900, and the counts in our area.

Luminary Walk

Tuesday, February 14

Bellevue State Park

Let luminaries light your way along the trails as you enjoy a walk after dark at the park.
Times and route TBD.

Bird Silhouette Hunt

Saturday, February 18 at 10:00 AM

Prairie Creek Recreation Area

Join Naturalist Jen Meyer in a GPS hunt for the bird silhouettes at the park while learning more about birds of Iowa.

Luminary Walk

Friday, March 3 from 6:00-7:30 PM

Prairie Creek Recreation Area

Let luminaries light your way along the trails as you enjoy a walk after dark at the park. Dress for the weather and wear good walking shoes. The trail may have snow or ice.

OWLS: Skunk Cabbage Hike

Friday, March 31 at 12:30 PM

Swiss Valley Nature Center, Peosta

Join the OWLS group for an early spring hike in search of the extremely early blooming skunk cabbage. Skunk cabbage emerges in early spring in Eastern Iowa and grows in wet areas, including the hanging bog at Swiss Valley. Skunk cabbage has the unique ability to produce heat which allows it to emerge and bloom even if there is still snow on the ground. As you may have guessed, this plant gets its name from the unpleasant smell it emits. Dress for the weather as we hike the trails in search of skunk cabbage! *OWLS programs are open to all adults!*



Live Birds of Prey

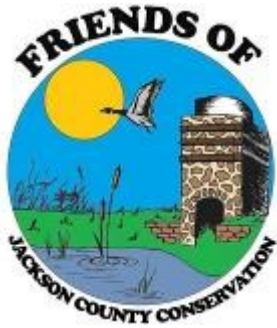
Sunday, April 2 at 2:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Muscatine County Naturalist will be bringing live birds of prey for a presentation. Learn more about owls, hawks and eagles and see one up close.

Registration is REQUIRED at least 48 hours in advance for ALL programs.

Register by calling (563) 652-3783 or email conservation@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov



Friends of Jackson County Conservation

**Support Your Local Parks—
Become a Friend or renew your
membership today!**

A big thank you to those who continue to renew their membership with Friends of JCC!! The dollars brought in through membership dues help sustain our organization and **we appreciate your support!**

Membership is for a calendar year. That means, January 1st is renewal time! Clip the portion below and mail in. Make sure we have an up-to-date email address. Most of our correspondence throughout the year is via email.

Save us time, postage, and paper by mailing in your membership before mid-January when we send out a mailing to all Friends members.

The Friends of Jackson County Conservation brings people together through educational and recreational opportunities in partnership with the Jackson County Conservation Board and inspires people to understand and care for our environment.

Join us for the Next Friends Meeting Tuesday, January 10

6:00 PM at the Hurstville Interpretive Center

Potluck at 5:30 PM, bring your own beverage, tableware, and a dish to share!

Agenda and minutes from last meeting will be sent via email a few days before the meeting. Didn't get the email? Make sure we have up-to-date contact info for you!

Mark your calendars for 2023 Friends Meeting Dates: **January 10, April 11, June 13, October 10**

**Friends of Jackson County Conservation
Membership Form**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone number: _____

Email Address: _____

Type of Membership

Student \$5

Regular \$10

Senior Citizen \$5

Family \$20

Sustaining \$50

Individual Life \$500

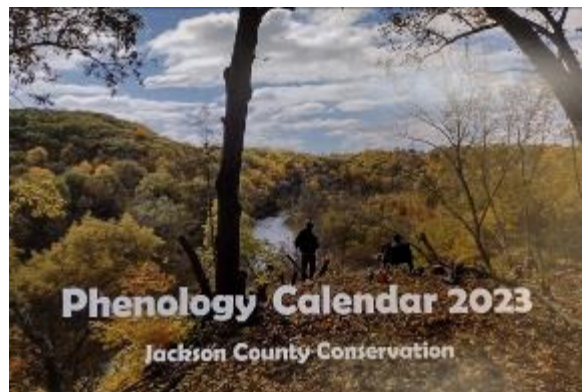
I'd like to make an additional donation to support my local parks in the amount of _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Please send form and money to:
Friends of Jackson County Conservation
18670 63rd Street, Maquoketa, Iowa 52060

Phenology Calendars

Phenology is nature's calendar—when apple trees bloom, when a robin builds its nest, and when leaves turn color in the fall. Naturalist Tony Vorwald has put together a Phenology Calendar specific to Eastern Iowa. Pick up at the Hurstville Center Gift Shop for \$10. We can also mail you a calendar for \$12 each.



Fall Fun with Jackson CCB!



Ray Hamilton opened up his remnant prairie in Jackson County for public prairie walks monthly this past summer/fall.



Luminary Walk at the Center in November was a success. More to be held this winter around the county!

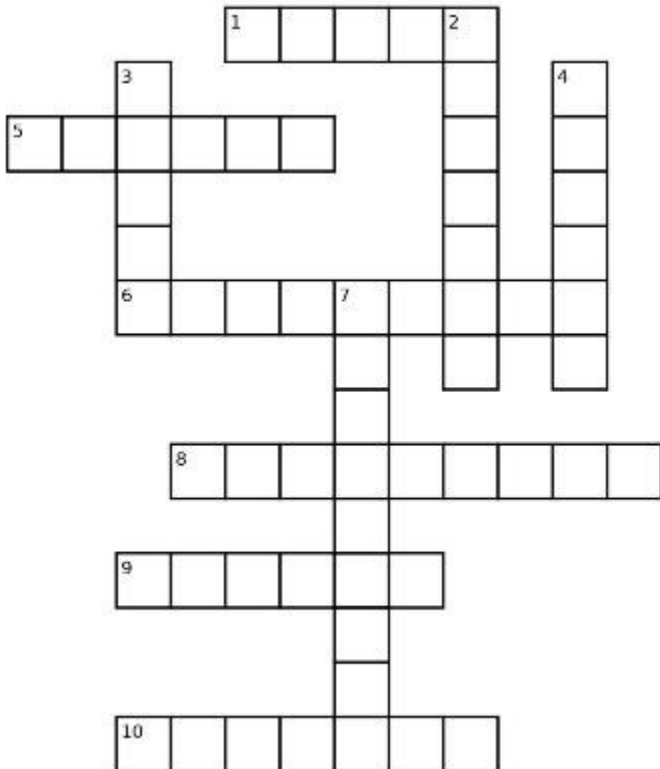


Above and left, students from area schools learned about birds, prairies, and more during fall field trips at county parks!

Andrew & Easton Valley 5th graders participated in School of the Wild at Prairie Creek in September. This was the 3rd year the two schools participated in SOW!



Winter Crossword

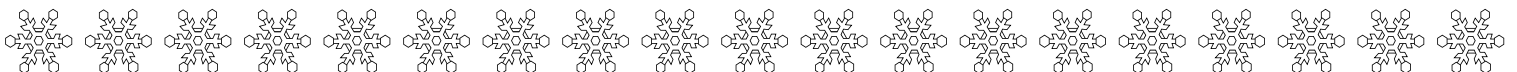


Down:

2. something you make out of snow with a carrot nose
3. you might give or receive these for the holidays in wrapping paper
4. winter sport where you skate around with a puck
7. something attached to your chimney that you can light a fire in

Across:

1. warm shoes that you wear outside in the winter
5. a thin tapered object formed by frozen water drops
6. a unique crystalized object that falls from the sky
8. something bears and other animals do to sleep during the winter
9. something scented that you light with a match
10. you wear these on your hands to stay warm outside





A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Jackson County Conservation would like to thank and acknowledge the following individuals, organizations and businesses for their continued support and donations. With your help, we have been able to do so much more!!!

Volunteers—Pam Bahr, Judy Bickford, Connie Breno, Ann Burns, Kurtis Cornilsen, Jim Dean, Jim England, Bruce Fisher, Laura Fisher, Nancy Flagel, Dave Gossman, Sue Gossman, Mike Griffin, Jeanette Hartung-Schroeder, Bill Hainstock, Wendy Hainstock, Ray Hamilton, Mary Hayward, Emily Highnam, Sarah Hobbs, Hoerschelman Family, Dan Holm, Debora Holm, Ryan Hupfield, Kim Jochum, Louise Jones, Ron Jones, Carolyn Keck, Nathan Kilburg, Jo Ellen Langerman, David Manning, Karen Manning, Nick McClimon, Larry McDevitt, Doug Melvold, Dean Nelson, Cindy Parker, Daryl Parker, Lori Roling, Roberta Rosheim, Pam True, Sam True, Greg Ueland, Bob Walton, Karen Watters, Jennie Willcox, First Lutheran Church Maquoketa, Izaak Walton League Maquoketa Chapter

Cash Donations—Don Helms Estate, Lisa Dague, Pedal Pushers, Bellevue Ducks Unlimited, Jackson County Retired School Personnel, Mike Griffin, River Ridge Brewery, Sabula Ducks Unlimited, Daniel & Debora Holm, Sabula Chapter Izaak Walton League

Food Donations For Events & Codfish Concerts—Sarah Hobbs, Pam True, Sheila Root, Jo Ellen Langerman, Ann Burns, Mary Hayward, Wendy Hainstock, Emily Highnam, Debora Holm, Bruce Fisher, Laura Fisher, David Manning, Roberta Rosheim, Ron Jones, Louise Jones, Bill Hainstock, Wendy Hainstock, Tony Vorwald, Jennie Willcox, Greg Ueland, Cindy Parker, Daryl Parker, Dan Holm

Donations—Cascade Girl Scout Troop (raised garden beds, bat houses), Bonnie Parmer (shirts, Hurstville pencil), Ralph Saunders (butter churn), Jackson County Relay for Life (blocks and bags for luminary walk)

Donations made in memory or in honor of:

Don R. Helms



Jackson County Conservation

Conservation Board Members

Mike Griffin, <i>chair</i>	Springbrook	563/357-1736
Jim England	Maquoketa	563/652-3213
Lori Rolling	Bellevue	563/872-3299
Larry McDevitt	Maquoketa	319/541-6357
Mary Hayward	Maquoketa	563/357-0814

The Jackson County Conservation Board meets the third Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm. Public welcome.

Conservation Staff

Our emails have changed!

- Nathan Jones, Executive Director
njones@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov
- Sheila Root, Office Manager
sroot@jacksonccb.com
- Jessica Wagner, Environmental Education Coordinator
jwagner@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov
- Jennifer Meyer, Naturalist
jmeyer@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov
- Tony Vorwald, Naturalist
tvorwald@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov
- Jeannie Collins-Heer, Park Ranger/Roadside Manager
jcollinsheer@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov
- Jerry Widel, Operation Technician
jwidel@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov
- Katelyn Yauslin, Park Ranger
kyauslin@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov
- Adam McPherson, Park Ranger
amcpherson@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov



Address & Contact Information

18670 63rd Street Maquoketa, IA 52060
Phone: (563) 652-3783
Fax: (563) 652-2191
Spruce Creek Shop (563) 872-3621
Website:

JacksonCCB.com

www.facebook.com/HurstvilleInterpretiveCenter

Office Hours / Hurstville Center

18670 63rd Street Maquoketa, IA 52060
Weekdays: Monday–Friday 9:00 am–4:00 pm
Weekends: Saturday & Sunday Apr–Oct 12:00–5:00 pm; Nov 12:00–4:00 pm; Dec–Mar CLOSED

Holidays:

CLOSED Dec 30 & Jan 2 for New Year's
OPEN Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President's Day

Jackson County Conservation
Hurstville Interpretive Center
18670 63rd Street
Maquoketa, IA 52060

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JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD UP AND DOWN THE RIVER—Winter 2022-23 Newsletter

Great Backyard Bird Count

Spend time in your favorite places watching birds, then report them! In as little as 15 minutes notice the birds around you, identify them, count them, and submit them to help scientists better understand and protect birds around the world.

February 17-20, 2023
www.birdcount.org



How to Participate:

Participating is easy, fun to do alone or with others, and can be done anywhere you find birds.

Step 1: Decide where you will watch birds. A local park, a friends' backyard, from your living room window!

Step 2: Watch birds for 15 minutes or more, at least once over the four days, February 17-20.

Step 3: Identify all the birds you see or hear within your planned time/location and share your sightings.

If you are a beginning bird admirer and new to bird identification, try using the Merlin Bird ID app to find out what birds you are seeing or hearing. The Merlin Bird ID app can help you identify birds by sound and sight. It is a great resource for identifying birds.

If you want to record numbers of birds, try the eBird Mobile app or enter your bird list on the eBird website. For more information, visit www.birdcount.org and be a citizen scientist! Great activity for all ages!