

March 17, 2020

To Birds Canada volunteers undertaking Citizen Science surveys in 2020

We want to touch base with Birds Canada volunteers regarding the impact of COVID-19 on you, as it may affect the survey activities you undertake for us. Spring is just around the corner and several of our volunteer Citizen Science programs are starting soon or are already underway and will carry on into the next several months.

First and foremost, your health and safety come first. We hope that you are well and are taking steps to stay well. At all times, we encourage you to follow the advice of your health and public officials, when deciding whether you should carry on with your survey activities. The general statement from Birds Canada regarding COVID-19 is on our website [here](#). More specific information for you, as a survey volunteer, follows.

Please take your own personal situation into account. If you cannot or do not wish to complete your surveys this year, please let us know by reply email to your Birds Canada contact. Thanks to year-over-year support from wonderful people like you, our surveys are robust and are focused on long-term trends. As such, they will be able to accommodate occasional gaps in data.

Please keep in mind the following:

- Put the wellbeing of your family, friends, community and yourself first. If you feel that you are putting yourself or others at risk by conducting your survey, then please do not survey.
- If, after reviewing your provincial and local public health recommendations for your area concerning COVID-19, you feel you are safe to survey without impacting your health or others, feel free to do so.
- If your survey location is accessed through public lands, please double-check access and ensure that the location is still open to visitors.
- Try to limit the number of people involved in your activity (e.g., go with one survey partner), avoid carpooling, and practise social distancing.
- If you feel you can only achieve partial surveys, please conduct only the portion of a survey that you can manage safely.

If you can't survey at all, please contact your Birds Canada survey coordinator.

If you are looking for alternative activities:

- Keep an eye out for birds at home or head outdoors in areas with few people and report your local bird sightings on [eBird Canada](#).
- Learn the birds in your area with our [photo identification guide](#).

Thank you for your continued support and stay well!

Steven Price
President
Birds Canada