



**A.D. HENDERSON &
FAU HIGH SCHOOL**

777 GLADES ROAD
BLDG #26
BOCA RATON, FL 33431

THE
**CANE
INSTITUTE**
FOR
**ADVANCED
TECHNOLOGIES**

Hello ADHUS and FAUHS Students and Parents!

The Cane Institute is excited to provide your TCI STEM@Home mailer in collaboration with Cornell University's [Great Backyard Bird Count](#). Included in this mailer you will find a monocular pocket telescope which you can use as you become an **ornithologist** for Cornell University and track the birds in your area as part of the Great Backyard Bird Count. You can also use your pocket telescope to get a closer look at our FAU Burrowing Owls on campus! Hold on to these telescopes as we will use them again in our next mailer!

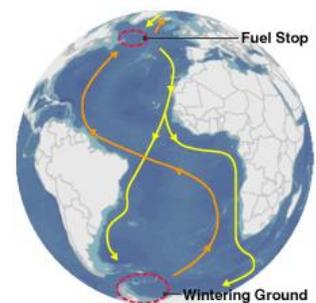


An **ornithologist** is someone who studies birds. **Ornithologists** study every aspect of birds, including bird songs, flight patterns, physical appearance, and migration patterns.



The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual **Citizen Science** project that happens each February. During the Great Backyard Bird Count, people all over the world visit their favorite outdoor places and make observations on the birds they see. These observations help scientists better understand global bird populations before one of their annual **migrations**. Last year, over 268,674 people from 194 countries participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count where they counted over 27 million birds! Let's have ADHUS and FAUHS students join in the fun!

Migration is the movement of people or animals, usually in a large group, from one place to another. Many birds **migrate** yearly between breeding and wintering grounds. Did you know the Arctic Tern migrates from the North Pole to the South Pole EVERY year? That's an annual migration of over 55,923 miles! Since Arctic terns can live to be 30 years old, so if you add up all of those miles, Arctic terns could travel to the moon and back **THREE** times! **Migration** patterns are important for scientists to study so conservation efforts can be more efficient and effective in protecting vulnerable bird populations.



The Great Backyard Bird Count takes place officially **February 12-15**, but you can use these instructions and your scope to count birds anytime! Check out the website for more information: <https://www.birdcount.org/participate/>.

Online Course



eBird ESSENTIALS:

Check out this [FREE online short course](https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/product/ebird-essentials/) or go to <https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/product/ebird-essentials/> that guides you through how to get the most out of your eBirding experiences and invites you to become a part of this worldwide project!

Counting Instructions: To participate in the official Great Backyard Bird Count, you can start entering bird lists at midnight local time on the first day of the count (2/12). You can count your birds using a piece of paper and a pencil, or you can use one of the apps below which are available for free download in Google Play or the App Store.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify birds, download the Merlin Bird ID app. Answer five simple questions about the bird you see to get a match and correctly identify each species!
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To add sightings to your list using a cell phone/tablet, download the eBird Mobile app To enter your bird list on a using a desktop/laptop, download the eBird website which can be found at https://ebird.org/home

Once you have decided how to track your birds, follow the instructions below:

1. Find your favorite outdoor place and make yourself comfortable. Sit and count birds for at LEAST 15 minutes—or for as long as you wish. Keep track of the kinds of birds you see and how long you watched. Use your app to identify any birds you cannot identify.
2. Make your best estimate of how many birds you saw of each species. For example, 5 Northern Cardinals, 3 American Crows. Huge flocks may be a challenge, but your best guess is still valuable.
3. Enter your list(s) online using one of the apps you downloaded or on your computer/device through the [eBird website](#).

REMEMBER that you should start a new checklist:

- for each new day
- for each different location
- for the same location, same day, if you counted at a different time of day

4 News-Mentions Research Citations:

Kids reluctant to watch the birds? Try this: <https://www.audubon.org/news/easy-ways-get-kids-birding>

The Benefits of Bird-watching for kids:

<https://www.tomsomaine.com/good-matters/thinking-sustainably/the-benefits-of-bird-watching-for-kids>

Why do birds matter? The experts weigh in:

<https://www.audubon.org/news/why-do-birds-matter>

Take it one step further and learn more with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Committee:

<https://myfwc.com/research/wildlife/birds/>