



MASSACHUSETTS ENVIROTHON

Seasonal Envirothon Engagement – Wildlife (Birds)

Go outside, wherever you live, and make observations of the ‘wildness’ around you with a special eye to the connection of wildlife, water, soils and forests. Select the same area (yard, vacant lot, field, woods, neighborhood) every time you go outside so you can gain a better understanding of the natural world you inhabit. Engage all of your senses, connect to your surroundings, learn who and what are your natural neighbors, ask questions, be curious, spend 15 minutes 3x/week on the same Engagement. Once the fifth Engagement is completed start again at number one since there will be many natural changes throughout the seasons.

Collaborate with your teammates as you each go out to investigate your own respective area at the same time and day, make observations and then reconvene, electronically, to compare and contrast your observations, and share reflections on the experience. Feel free to share your observations or questions with Pam Landry, MassWildlife Education Coordinator at pam.landry@mass.gov. Please put Envirothon Engagement in the subject line. For Massachusetts wildlife fact sheets visit <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/division-of-fisheries-and-wildlife> If interested, post your observations of plants, wildlife, and more through the NCF-Envirothon iNaturalist project <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/ncf-envirothon?tab=about>

III. Envirothon Engagement – Birds

Observers name:

Location:

Date:

Start time:

Ending time:

Weather:

Look for birds on a short walk in your neighborhood.

How many different birds did you see and describe in detail how they were different?

What were the birds doing?

Describe the habitat in which they were observed?

Select one bird and write down as many characteristics of that bird you observe.

What questions resulted from your observation? Is there something you would like to learn more about?

To learn more about birds and whether the birds you observed were residents or migrants visit The Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds website at www.allaboutbirds.org

