



Vancouver Avian Research Centre

Research - Conservation - Education

The Vancouver Avian Research Centre

Schools Classroom Program

The Vancouver Avian Research Centre (VARC) is excited to now offer in-school presentations and workshops. We aim to provide an engaging, educational experience while fostering awareness and appreciation of birds and the environment all within the comfort of your own classroom. Each presentation will be led by a knowledgeable VARC facilitator and all supplies and materials are provided.

“Brilliant Birds Workshop” for Grades K-2

This engaging, 90-minute workshop is the perfect program to bring out the nature loving side of every student. Through the use of local bird artifacts, beautiful bird photography, and other hands-on teaching tools, your facilitator will guide students to learn about living things and their survival in the environment through the lens of avian ecology. Some topics that will be shared include bird diets, local habitats, nesting and baby birds, and bird song. You will also get a chance to see some real bird banding and monitoring tools and learn how VARC conducts research to contribute to local bird conservation. At the end of the presentation, we will have time for a bird-friendly craft! (For those with a shorter time-frame, the workshop can be presented in 60 minutes without a craft). This workshop is an excellent way to get students excited, interested, and inquisitive about the natural world around them. Are your students ready to meet some “Brilliant Birds”?

Science curriculum content covered:

- Basic needs of animals
- Adaptations of local animals
- Names of local animals
- Structural features of living things in the local environment
- Behavioural adaptations
- Similarities and differences between offspring and parent

“Conservation is Cool” – Workshop for Grades 3-5

In this 90-minute workshop, your knowledgeable facilitator will delve deep into what it takes to protect birds and conserve habitat while fostering awareness of the environmental issues facing local and migratory birds. With some authentic bird banding and monitoring tools, students will learn all about VARCs banding station at Colony Farm and get to know terms like mist netting, extraction, banding, data, migration, and conservation. Once the students are official banding experts, we will cover topics including adaptations for feeding, habitats within the ecosystem, development of young birds, communication through bird song, and features that make birds unique, either together as a class or in small groups through station activities. Students get to explore local and migratory bird species right at their fingertips

with real bird artifacts. At the end of the presentation, we will have time for a bird-friendly craft. This workshop is a wonderful way to jump start students on their paths to becoming Citizen Scientists!

Science curriculum content covered:

- Biodiversity in the local environment
- Biomes and ecosystems
- Animals sensing and responding to their environment
- Structure and function of avian body systems

What about workshops for older students (Grade 6 and up)?

Although we do not have a structured program for older age groups, we are happy to work with teachers and group leaders to prepare a unique program suited to the level and interest of your students. Some topics for older groups may include:

- Birds as Environmental Indicators
- Basic Bird Identification
- Form and Function: Avian Adaptation Specialists
- The Roles and Responsibilities of Human Beings in the Avian Environment
- How to Help Birds – Conserving bird populations in our own backyard
- Guided bird walk around the school's community

For more information about our in-school programs or to book a presentation, please contact info@birdvancouver.com (or tonya@birdvancouver.com if you prefer)