



Vancouver Avian Research Centre

Research - Conservation - Education

The Vancouver Avian Research Centre (VARC) is a Registered Canadian Charity dedicated to wild bird research, conservation and education. It conducts year-round bird monitoring and banding and provides public outreach to raise awareness of environmental issues particularly as they relate to breeding and migratory birds.

In support of VARC's mandate to educate youth, we have developed programs for schools that provide engaging educational experiences, 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.

Younger Students

Children are innate scientists and we want to help foster that inquisitive nature and inspire the next generation of environmental stewards! Let us bring our fun and engaging programs to your classroom! Imagine having your own VARC expert with a lesson plan and activities prepared specially for your students. Our program is hands-on, informative and memorable. We encourage students to inquire and think critically about the natural world around them while still being centered around the professional needs of teachers and the curriculum. VARC presentations offer a unique stimulation for students daily learning.

Each presentation is approximately an hour long but can be tailor fit to accommodate your parameters. A typical visit consists of:

- Facilitator greets group/introduction
- Facilitator talks with class about birds they know and why they think birds are important
- Activity: interactive warm up exercise that illustrates the different types of jobs that birds have
- Activity: interactive exercise that illustrates how birds and their various jobs are connected to us and the planet
- Facilitator discusses with group about the issues that birds face today
- Facilitator shares with group all of the wonderful things that we can do to help birds at school and at home!
- Facilitator can share information about what we do at VARC

Please note: Aspects of the program are tailored in complexity to be age-specific to your group and may vary slightly from the structure listed above

Overall Themes and Concepts:

- Birds are tremendously important to the maintenance of ecosystems and help keep the earth healthy with their many specialized "jobs"
- Birds also help us as people with their special jobs
- Interconnectivity is what keeps ecosystems and habitats thriving
- Birds face many difficulties in the modern world and when birds lose, we all lose
- There are many simple but effective and important ways that we can keep both birds and the connectiveness of ecosystems healthy
- Birds work for us, so let's work for them!

Higher grades

Our program for higher grades takes a close look at the state of the world's birds, the issues they currently face and what each of us can do to make a positive difference for the biodiversity of our planet. We also explore the research we conduct at VARC in order to inspire students with some of the possibilities in future careers in the sciences! Students are introduced to the research techniques required for monitoring migratory birds and the population ecology and ecosystem dynamics of wild bird populations. Students will also learn about bird migration; the various habitats and communities they depend on during both spring and fall migration and the breeding season; and the conservation actions required to protect these habitats to ensure the long-term survival of bird species.

Each presentation is approximately an hour long but can be tailor fit to accommodate your parameters. A typical visit consists of:

- Facilitator greets group/introduction
- The state of the world's birds with a special focus of birds in peril
- Why banding birds makes a difference and how banding and research works
- Facilitator discusses with group about the issues that birds face today
- Facilitator shares with group all of the wonderful things that we can do to help birds at school and at home!
- Question and answer opportunities
- Wrap-up

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VARC's program encourages student development of empathy for nature and a sense of empowerment by teaching them what they can do to help make a difference.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRAM

- 1 Hour long, hands-on, interactive presentation with your own VARC expert
- Curriculum based learning
- Interactive materials and activities

PRICING

We do ask for a minimum donation for each presentation which allows our registered non-profit charity to continue its mission to further our research, conservation and educational efforts here in Vancouver. We also offer great group rates and package deals for those looking to book recurring or multiple visits. Our pricing is as follows:

\$50 minimum donation request for 1 single presentation

\$40 minimum donation request per presentation if booking multiple presentations on different days

\$75 minimum donation request flat fee for multiple presentations on same day (maximum of 4 sessions in one day)

For Summer Camps, please contact us to discuss the number of sessions you require and the cost.

Payment can be made online through our website or by mailing a check to:
VARC
4115 Braemar Road East,
North Vancouver BC
V7K 3C9

All payments go directly to our education programs and bird research.

Dates of availability:

Our school programs operate within normal school hours on weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Summer Camp programs run on weekdays for July & August – please contact us to discuss the number and timing of your sessions.

If you are interested in having us present to your class, it is best to fill out our registration form and include dates that you are interested in. One of our team members will then be in touch with you to plan and arrange the booking.

Booking requirements and Cancellation

- We do ask that bookings are finalized at least 2 weeks prior to presentation day
- We are happy to do more than one presentation for the same school as outlined in our pricing structure. Please note that if booking us for multiple presentations on the same day we can do a maximum of 4 in one day (2 in the morning and 2 in the afternoon).
- In order to keep students engaged and for best impact of material presented we ask that each group be no larger than 25 - 30 students at maximum and 15 – 20 at maximum for students under the age of 6, if possible.
- Please note that we do require the teachers/camp leaders to be present in the room.
- If you need to cancel, please do so at least 1 week prior in order to receive a refund. After that date no refunds can be made.



**Above all else,
the well being of *every* bird
is the top priority at *all* times!**