



Canadian Avian Society

Calgary, Alberta

www.canadianaviansociety.ca

info@canadianaviansociety.ca

Monitoring & Survey Protocol

1. Purpose

This protocol provides simple, accessible steps for community members to observe, document, and report bird activity in their area. Monitoring helps identify population trends, habitat changes, and welfare concerns.

2. Preparing for Observation

- Choose a quiet location with good visibility.
- Bring a notebook or digital device for recording observations.
- Use binoculars if available.
- Avoid disturbing birds or entering restricted areas.

3. What to Record

- Species observed (or best guess)
- Number of individuals
- Behaviour (feeding, flying, nesting, resting)
- Habitat type (trees, wetlands, grasslands, urban areas)
- Weather conditions
- Any signs of distress or injury

4. Ethical Observation

- Keep a respectful distance from all birds.
- Never disturb nests or feeding parents.
- Avoid playback calls that may stress wildlife.
- Follow local regulations and protected habitat guidelines.

5. Photographing Birds

- Use zoom instead of approaching closely.
- Do not use flash around sensitive species.
- Photos can help with species identification but should never compromise bird safety.

6. Submitting Data

Observations may be submitted to CAS or participating community science platforms. Include:

- Date and time
- Location (general area is enough)
- Species list
- Notes on behaviour or habitat

7. When to Report Concerns

Notify CAS or wildlife authorities if you observe:

- Birds showing illness or injury
- Nest destruction or habitat damage
- Large numbers of dead or distressed birds

8. Contribution to Conservation

Community monitoring supports education, welfare programs, and long-term conservation planning. Every observation helps build a clearer picture of bird health across Canada.

Contact

Questions or data submissions: info@canadianaviansociety.ca