



## Some Typical Winter Birds

Lots of different citizen science projects relate to birds, and many can make great classroom projects or can be done at home, with a scout group, et cetera. Some of these are described below.

## Project FeederWatch



Project FeederWatch, run by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, is a winter-long survey of birds that visit feeding stations or bird feeders. Over time, it can provide scientists with information about bird populations and where they can be found during the winter. Project FeederWatch is also used to track changes in locations and even bird diseases. The survey runs from mid-November through mid-April, and there is a small registration fee. Participants receive posters of common feeder birds and information about what to do and how to submit data. It only requires a minimum of two consecutive days of observation/recording per week, although even one day is fine; all data submitted is important! Learn more and register at <http://feederwatch.org>.



courtesy of Celebrate Urban Birds

## NestWatch



Laurie Dirxx

Another valuable citizen science project also run by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology is called NestWatch. For more than a decade, people have been keeping track of which birds use nest boxes or just nests on their property, and how many chicks leave the nest box or nest. This information helps scientists who study bird populations and has even helped increase the population of certain birds like the eastern bluebird, the state bird of New York! The website for the project, <http://nestwatch.org>, contains information about birds and their nests and a variety of nest box plans that you can download and build for the birds in your area. With your school's permission, bird boxes could be put on school grounds so you and your class can observe them and provide information about the birds using them.

Even though it's winter, it's not too early to start thinking about the nesting season! If you're tracking a bird species on either eBird or Journey North, you'll see that some are beginning to head back north already. You can use that information to help determine when nesting might begin in your area. If you already have nest boxes at home or on your school grounds, now is a good time to clean them out, make any repairs needed and ensure they're ready to welcome the birds when they begin to arrive in the spring.



tree swallow

## Celebrate Urban Birds

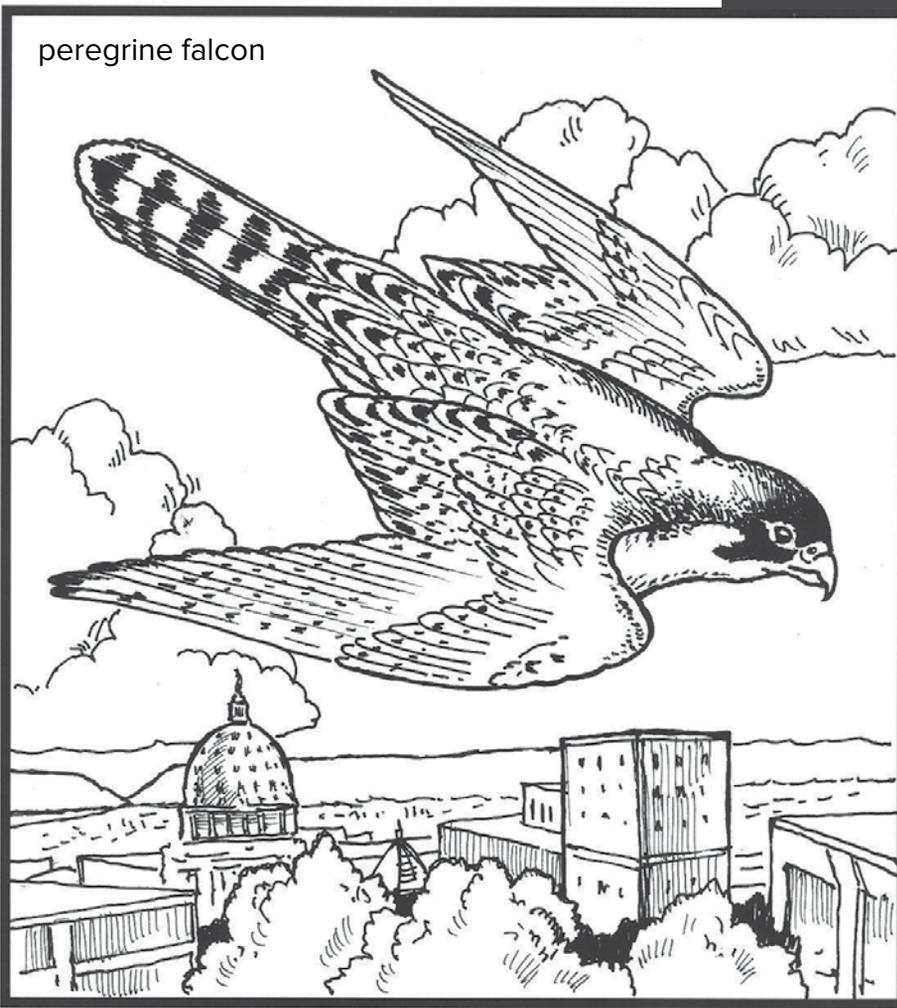
Even if you don't have a lot of bird habitat at your school or where you live, you can still help scientists study birds! The Cornell Lab also runs a program called Celebrate Urban Birds, which focuses on the birds found in cities. This year-round program concentrates on 16 different species, including the American crow, American robin, rock pigeon, European starling, and house sparrow. People observe these species and report what they see. There are also art contests, seasonal challenges, and information about activities like creating bird-friendly gardens. Learn more about this program at <http://celebrateurbanbirds.org>.



red-tailed hawks

Gerrick Johnson

color me!



peregrine falcon



rock pigeons



European starling



house sparrow



Cooper's hawk