

Backyard Observations



With Spring here, you might start to see more animals in your neighbourhood! Here is a cool way to keep track of how many individual animals you see and to measure if their numbers are increasing.

Here's how to make your own observations:

1. Make a table like this one.

Date: April 23, 2020	Time: 11:30-11:45 am	Location: river valley	Weather: sunny 15°C
Birds	Mammals	Insects	Other
Notes: 2 Canada geese 1 magpie (flying)	Notes: 1 black squirrel	Notes: 1 purple butterfly	Notes: I think it was a snake! (draw a diagram)
Total animals:			7

2. Choose a spot in nature to sit and observe. Try to sit in the same spot each day. This can be in your backyard, in a park, near the river, in the forest, etc.)
3. Spend at least 15 minutes each day counting the animals you observe. Try to make this the same time each day. You could also do this every second day or once a week.
4. Record the date, time, location and weather and then put a tick for each animal you see in each category.
5. Use the notes to identify the animals you know and write/draw details to help you figure out the ones you don't know!

Have the numbers increased after a week? A month? Two months?