



Five-minute bird counts

Before you start, you will need:

- ❖ Pen or pencil
- ❖ A notebook or record sheet
- ❖ Smartphone with a stopwatch/alarm
- ❖ Pair of binoculars

Instruction

1. Find a comfortable spot in the middle of your chosen area.
2. Imagine a circle around your spot, usually from 10 to 50 meters in diameter.
3. Set your alarm for 5 minutes or start your stopwatch.
4. Stay quiet and record how many different birds you see and hear within your imaginary circle.
5. Don't record the same birds, which moved within your circle. Only record new ones.
6. Finish in 5 minutes.
7. Submit your results to the eBird free app.

Tips and tricks:

If there are too many birds to count, make an estimate (e.g. 20 or 100).

If you can't see a bird, use your binoculars.

If you don't know a bird or its call, write down how they look, take a picture or record it to identify later.

Keep your pets and infants away as they may distract the birds or you. It's only 5 minutes!

Useful Links

Download the eBird app:

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=edu.cornell.birds.ebird&hl=en_NZ&gl=US

Download the Merlin app to identify birds:

<https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/download/>

Read more about New Zealand birds:

<https://www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz/>