



## JOIN THE BIG BACKYARD BIOBLITZ

If you want to stay connected to nature during the shutdown, have a go at the Nelson Nature Big Backyard Bioblitz on the web app iNaturalist. We've set this project up to record what nature you can find in your backyard!

A bioblitz is an exploration to find and record all the different types of living things in an area in a short period of time. It's something people of all ages will enjoy and you can do it alone or with other members of your bubble in your garden.

Go to [inaturalist.nz/projects/big-backyard-bioblitz](https://inaturalist.nz/projects/big-backyard-bioblitz) or on the app, go to 'more' then 'projects' and search for big backyard bioblitz, and click the join button to take part.

iNaturalist is a citizen science app that lets you record observations of different plants and animals. You can download the app onto your mobile phone, or log into the website. Once you have created an account you can join the bioblitz and record observations with a photo of your plant or creature. Experts online can help identify things for you, and you can find out more about your specimens from other people's observations.

### HOW TO GET STARTED

Once you have downloaded the app, get outside and start investigating. You might be surprised at what you find when you really start looking! Don't forget to check sneaky hiding places like the woodpile, under the wheelie bin or behind a shed. If your garden is really big then you might want to split up the garden into different sections and look at them on different days.

Keep a tally sheet of the number of different types of biodiversity in your garden.



BIRDS



BUGS



PLANTS



ANIMALS



FISH



REPTILES

### SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT ARE:

1. Is this specimen a native?
2. Is it a pest species that we don't want?
3. Was it planted by someone or did it grow here on its own?
4. Can you eat it?
5. Does it live here permanently or is it just passing through?

### SOME THINGS TO DO:

1. Draw a picture of your favourite thing living in your garden.
2. Make a map of your garden showing where all the plants and animals live.
3. Press and dry flowers and use them to make cards for people.
4. Take a cutting or seeds from a plant and try to grow a new one.
5. Make a weta house, bird feeder, or a lizard garden to encourage more critters to call your garden home – the DOC website has great instructions for these activities.

[doc.govt.nz](https://doc.govt.nz)



## HAVE A GO AT A 5-MINUTE BIRD SURVEY

The Department of Conservation (DOC) has great resources to help you discover more about the birds in your area. Go to [doc.govt.nz/get-involved/training/online-courses](https://doc.govt.nz/get-involved/training/online-courses) to learn more.

There are also nature focussed online courses to keep you busy during the lockdown, such as

the bird identification online course: [doc.govt.nz/get-involved/training/online-courses/bird-identification-online-course](https://doc.govt.nz/get-involved/training/online-courses/bird-identification-online-course).

This is an online course that will help you to identify the 10 birds most commonly heard during a 5-minute bird survey.

Record your bird observations on iNaturalist or the NZ Bird Atlas on eBird.



## HOW TO IDENTIFY BIRDS

Whilst you are at home or out on a walk, it can be fun to keep an eye out for birds in your area and share your observations with the eBird NZ Bird Atlas – a national project to map the distribution of New Zealand birds.

By adding your backyard observations you'll be helping grow our understanding of bird populations where people live. The app will even use your location to give you a list of the birds you are most likely to encounter in your garden.

Find out more at [ebird.org/atlasnz/news/discover-the-birds-in-your-yard-or-garden](https://ebird.org/atlasnz/news/discover-the-birds-in-your-yard-or-garden).

Also, the NZ Bird Atlas team are running live webinars at [ebird.org/atlasnz/news/stay-home](https://ebird.org/atlasnz/news/stay-home).

### NEW ZEALAND BIRDS ONLINE

If you need help identifying a bird, New Zealand Birds Online is the best place to start. This fantastic resource on New Zealand birds has detailed information on all 467 of New Zealand's living, extinct, fossil, vagrant and introduced birds.

The database is searchable by name, conservation status, and geographical distribution. It even has a tool to help users identify birds based on where it was seen and what it looked like.

[nzbirdsonline.org.nz](https://nzbirdsonline.org.nz)

[ebird.org/atlasnz/news](https://ebird.org/atlasnz/news)