



**Nesting birds of the world**  
**Grade 1 Teacher's guide**

*Prepared by the Animal Cognition Research Group*  
*Department of Psychology*  
*University of Alberta*

Contact information:  
Dr. Lauren Guillette  
Assistant Professor  
[animcog@ualberta.ca](mailto:animcog@ualberta.ca)  
780-492-5302  
<https://sites.psych.ualberta.ca/animal-cognition-ualberta/>  
[@LaurenGuillette](https://twitter.com/LaurenGuillette) (Twitter)

**ACRG**  
ANIMAL COGNITION  
RESEARCH GROUP

Slide 1

Link to material: <https://bit.ly/ACRGOutreach>

Outreach event name: Nesting Birds of the World

Proposed by: Animal Cognition Research Group (ACRG), Department of Psychology, University of Alberta, Principal investigator Dr. Lauren M. Guillette

Learning objectives: Just like humans and other animals, birds have a need for shelter, a place to lay their eggs and raise their young. The learning objective of this outreach event is to provide an understanding of nest building in birds by drawing parallels between bird nests and human homes. Our aim is to help students learn about why birds build nests, what materials birds use to build nests, where birds build nests, and how nest building is similar to/different from human engineering and constructions.

Target audience: Grade 1 aged students. Can be delivered in a class room or at home. This outreach program is designed to fit the Alberta science curriculum: Topics C: Building Things and Topic E: Needs of Plants & Animals <https://bit.ly/3IN9DRh>.

Background: Dr. Lauren Guillette, the leader of the ACRG, is the 2020 Science Fellow for the Telus World of Science in Edmonton (TWoSE), Alberta, Canada. The ACRG has created a program that can be delivered in classrooms (live or virtually) across Alberta, Canada (and the world).

In brief: The activity is ready to be delivered. The deliverables are hosted on Dr. Guillette's website and freely available to all and contains 6 deliverables (below) that can be used in the classroom or at home.

Deliverables:

- (1) Presentation (~10 min MS PowerPoint) introducing the topic of nest building in birds which describes why birds build nests, what materials birds use to build nests, where birds build nests, and how nest-building is similar to/different from human engineering.
- (2) 3 large posters to be displayed in each classroom that illustrates the 8 major forms nests can take, with examples of both local and global birds that build these nests and a world map showing where these nests are located.
- (3) 3 hands-on activities
  - a. colour in pictures of birds and nests and match the bird to the nest that it builds
  - b. construct a nest with the goal of holding a (chocolate or plastic) egg
  - c. BINGO game (nests and birds - reinforces what they learned in the Deliverable 1)
- (4) Lesson plans for teachers that include a script and facts for Deliverables 1-3
- (5) Padlet (<https://padlet.com/dashboard>) online pinboard so teachers and their classrooms can interact with each other and members of the ACRG can answer questions about our research (i.e., the process of science). Link to our padlet: <https://bit.ly/344BrgD>
- (6) Growing list of age appropriate books for the classroom: <https://bit.ly/3wAGz4w>

**Impact:** We expect the impact to be large scale, and the deliverables to be readily taken up by teachers in Alberta (and more broadly) because this program is explicitly designed to fit into the provincial science curriculum. This program will reach students in both rural and urban settings, and is designed to highlight birds and nests that these students can find close to their homes. By combining both local and global birds we aim to get students interested in their own environment and draw parallels to bird nests and their environments around the world.

**Budget & Support:** The ACRG is uniquely positioned to deliver this outreach program with maximum impact due to our current links and support from the Telus World of Science, Edmonton. With Dr. Lauren Guillette as a Science Fellow, we have access to expertise in developing, delivering, promoting, and supporting our outreach program. Our goal is to have 100 outreach packages that we can send to schools starting September 2022. These packages will be delivered to school based on need and want, paying attention to reach out to schools that serve a diversity demographic/socioeconomic backgrounds. The other deliverables are currently available freely online for download. The ABS outreach grant will help with the cost of printing the posters for Deliverable 2 and buying books for schools. Other support is provided by The Telus World of Science, Edmonton.

Examples from nest-building activity posted on our padlet:



Dr. Lauren M Guillette, Animal Cognition Research Group, University of Alberta  
ABS Outreach Grant Summary /3

ACRG contributing members: Dr. Ben Whittaker, Andrés Camacho Alpizar, Connor Lambert, Sara Blunk, Julia Self, Cailyn Poole, Liam Nolet-Mulholland, Jessica Hewitt, Gopika Balasubramanian, Tristan Eckersley, Kalie Keays, Shaunak Mistry, Christine McManus