

# Guide to Natural History Presentations

The goal of the natural history presentation is to:

- (1) Introduce students to selected species found in the eastern Ontario region in winter.
- (2) Provide an opportunity for each student to become intimately familiar with one local species.
- (3) Provide students with experience and feedback in oral presentations and answering questions.

Presentations should last about 10-15 minutes, with 3-5 minutes of questions per presentation. Powerpoint format is required, but may be supplemented with other material if you wish (not necessary). Below I provide a guide to what I am looking for in each presentation. You do not need to include references in your presentation.

- (1) Introduce your species. Geographic range, taxonomy, phylogeny. 1-2 slides.
- (2) Identification. How do we separate your species from other similar species in the region? 1-2 slides.
- (3) Age and Sex. Can we age and sex individuals that we see in the field (i.e., in February and March in our region)? 1-2 slides.
- (4) Winter Habitat. What habitat does your species use in the winter in eastern Ontario? 1 slide.
- (5) Winter Food. What does your species eat in winter in eastern Ontario? 1 slide.
- (6) Winter Mortality. What are the main sources of mortality for your species in the winter? 1 slide.
- (7) Adaptations to Winter. What adaptation(s) does your species have to deal with cold temperatures, deep snow, reduced food, or other winter conditions? 3 slides maximum.
- (8) In your opinion, what is the most interesting thing about your species? In other words, why is your species so incredibly fascinating? 1-2 slides.

Note: an excellent resource for the natural history of birds is *The Birds of the World*, found online at <https://birdsoftheworld.org/bow/home> (available through your university library).

Your natural history presentation will be worth 10% of your final mark. Please see the evaluation sheet/rubric for details on how you will be graded.

Focal species are assigned to each student – see website for details.