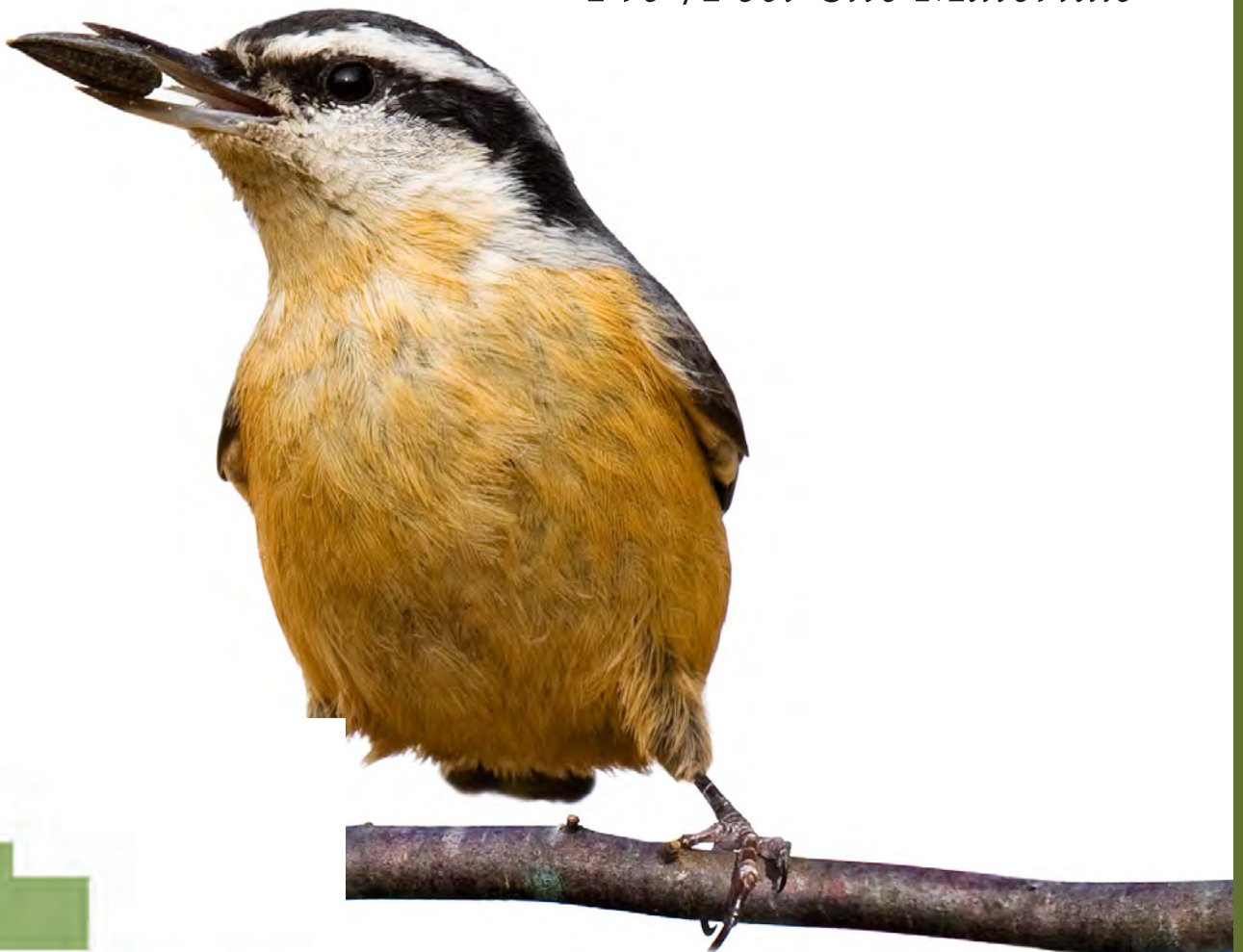


# Junior Winter Birdfeeder Challenge

*Pre-/Post-Site Materials*



**Forest Preserve District**  
OF WILL COUNTY

*Bringing People and Nature Together*

# Table of Contents

## In-School Program

### Recommended Websites.....2

Various Sources

### Meet a Bird Activity.....3

Forest Preserve District of Will County

### Pre-program Student Assessment

### Session.....3

Forest Preserve District of Will County

### BirdSleuth Explorer's

### Guidebook.....4-15

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology



## Correlated State Standards

Identified ELA, Math and Science Standards are detailed below specific to this education program.

Source: Forest Preserve District of Will County, the Council of Chief State School Officers (Common Core), and the National Research Council (Next Generation Science Standards)

### ELA Standards

Subject Codes	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Reading for Information (RI)	RI.3.3, RI.3.4, RI.3.7	RI.4.3, RI.4.4, RI.4.7	RI.5.3, RI.5.4, RI.5.7
Language (L)	L.3.1, L.3.3, L.3.6	L.4.1, L.4.3, L.4.6	L.5.1, L.5.3, L.5.6
Writing (W)	W.3.2b, W.3.7	W.4.2b, W.4.7	W.5.2b, W.5.7

### NGSS Standards

Disciplinary Idea	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Life Science 1, Structures and Process		4.LS1.1	
Life Science, Heredity	3.LS3.2		
Life Science, Evolution	3.LS4.3		



# References

## Recommended Websites

- Cornell Lab of Ornithology's online lesson called "All About Feathers" has great information and illustrations.  
**<http://bit.ly/2pjiJfa>**
- Utah Education Networks' "Bird Watching 101" teaches the basics of bird-watching, finding and interpreting bird clues, and attracting birds to a particular location or habitat.  
**<http://bit.ly/2tNPRP8>**
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Teacher's Guide to "Birds of a Feather" teaches students to distinguish the major classifications of birds and their characteristics.  
**<http://bit.ly/2IoYAua>**
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Teacher's Guide to "Be a Birder" allows students to demonstrate the ability to locate and identify birds.  
**<http://bit.ly/2FAeg0b>**
- Project Learning Tree's Flying Wild student-led activity, "The Birding Beat," lets participants test their skills at identifying birds as they take a stroll along Birding Lane.  
**<http://bit.ly/2tGlf28>**
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources' complete bird list includes scientific and common names of all the bird species of Illinois.  
**<http://bit.ly/2HtdU83>**
- Enchanted Learning's resource provides craft ideas, printable sheets and activities on all things bird-related.  
**<http://bit.ly/2GpD1Jo>**
- The United States Geological Survey offers a bird population studies collections, including large scale surveys on bird monitoring, research and other information about birds.  
**<https://on.doi.gov/2pwn1yn>**



# Activities

## Meet a Bird

### Overview:

Increase your students' knowledge of common birds by creating bird posters. Researching common birds can help enhance students' learning and experience with the Junior Winter Birdfeeder Challenge Program.

### Instructions:

1. After some research through a bird book, the Internet or a magazine, students choose a common bird of Illinois.
2. Students will research and find the name, voice, color, range and other interesting information about their bird.
3. Students will then create a poster with the information they have found.
4. Students will stand in front of the class and introduce their bird through the poster.



## Pre-program Student Assessment Session

### Pre-assessment Program:

Conduct a pre-assessment and discover your students' current knowledge of the common birds that might be seen at their bird feeders.

### Overview:

Establish your students' current knowledge of common birds by creating an open dialogue. Discussing common birds can help enhance student learning and experience with the upcoming Junior Winter Birdfeeder Challenge Program.

### Instructions:

Ask your students the following questions:

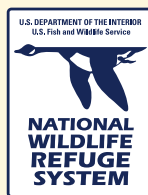
1. What makes a bird a bird? Is it feathers, hard eggs, hollow bones, a beak?
2. What are some common birds in our area? List them on the board.
3. What are some similarities among birds? How about some differences?
4. Does anyone in the class bird-watch or know of a bird-watcher?
5. Does anyone own a bird feeder?
6. Does anyone have a bird story they would like to share?
7. Why do you like birds?
8. What is your favorite bird?

# BirdSleuth Explorer's Guidebook



## BECOME AN EXPERT OBSERVER!

Follow this step-by-step guide and use your senses to discover the birds  
in this national wildlife refuge.



# Welcome, BirdSleuth Explorer!

## Scientists are explorers.

They search for new discoveries and ideas. You can be a scientist, too. Science starts with curiosity and observation. Keep your ears and eyes open and record what you notice. Using these science skills is a great way to explore this national wildlife refuge.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Refuge Name \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



Scientists and explorers make lots of observations and ask tons of questions. If you think of a question that you can't answer, don't worry. Just turn to page 11 of your **BirdSleuth Explorer's Guidebook** and write it there. You can find the answer later.

# Wake Up Your Ears

Use your sense of hearing to start exploring the world around you!

Find a quiet spot. Sit and listen for five minutes. Use this space to make a map of what you hear, like the girl in the picture. The **X** on the page marks the spot where you are. Use your own symbols to map the sounds around you (like cars, running water, and birds).

Where are the sounds?



You are here

# What's a Habitat?

Great job! Now that your ears are listening, look for the four parts of a habitat.

A good habitat has everything a bird needs to survive. There are four parts to a habitat. Put a check next to each part you see: food, water, cover, and space.



**FOOD:** Just like you, birds need a healthy diet. Different birds eat different foods, for example seeds, insects, and fruit.



**WATER:** From a puddle to a pond, or a ripple to a river, birds need clean water for drinking and bathing.



**COVER:** Birds need safe places to sleep and raise young, and shelter from bad weather and predators. Birds find cover in trees, bushes, and structures made by people.



**SPACE:** Birds need room to grow and live. They need to be able to find enough food, water, and cover in the place they call "home."

# Habitat Scavenger Hunt

Now you've got the hang of it! How many parts of a habitat can you discover?

This national wildlife refuge might have more than one kind of habitat (such as forests, wetlands, grasslands, and deserts). Observe the habitat around you closely.

How many things can you find on the list?



- ☐ insect
- ☐ spider
- ☐ spider web
- ☐ place where a bird can hide
- ☐ plant that is as tall as you
- ☐ mammal
- ☐ leaf bigger than your hand
- ☐ animal making noise
- ☐ something a bird can eat
- ☐ animal track
- ☐ hole in a tree
- ☐ rock bigger than a baseball
- ☐ bird nesting material
- ☐ water for animals

What was the most colorful thing you found? \_\_\_\_\_

What was your favorite thing you observed? \_\_\_\_\_

What would you name the habitat you are in? \_\_\_\_\_

# Bird Search

Now that you've explored this habitat, let's see if you can find any birds.

You can find out if birds are here by using your eyes and ears.  
How many items can you check off the list below?



## Bird evidence

- ☐ feather
- ☐ droppings
- ☐ nest

## Birds using habitat— look for them:

- ☐ on a branch
- ☐ on a wire or roof
- ☐ flying or soaring
- ☐ on the ground
- ☐ swimming
- ☐ eating
- ☐ drinking

## Variety of birds

- ☐ group of three or more birds
- ☐ two birds together
- ☐ colorful bird
- ☐ bird that is mostly black
- ☐ bird with white on its body
- ☐ bird with a long tail
- ☐ bird with a short tail



Bird illustrations on this page by Evan Barbour, Bartels Science Illustration Intern

Do not take anything that you find in a national wildlife refuge home with you.  
Leave everything where you find it so the next explorer can see it, too.  
Scientists take notes or photos to remember what they see.

# Bird Groups

You're really becoming a great observer and explorer!  
Now that we know that birds are all around us, let's start trying to identify them.

There are many different types of birds. They can be grouped by their shape.  
Species in each group have similar shapes. Here are just a few bird groups  
you might see as you explore.



**Songbirds**



**Crows**



**Doves**



**Swallows**



**Hummingbirds**



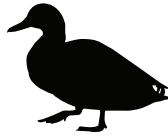
**Woodpeckers**



**Hérons**



**Geese**



**Ducks**



**Gulls**



**Hawks**



**Owls**

Can you find a bird from any of these groups?  
Record the group and where in the habitat you saw it.

<b>Group Name</b> (such as owl)	<b>Where You Saw It</b> (such as in a tree)

# Identification Clues

Now that you can use shape to determine a bird's group,  
let's add more details to help identify a bird by species.

Bird watchers use many clues to identify birds. Knowing the shape, size, and color pattern of a bird, and where and when you saw it, can help you identify the birds you see.

Focus on one bird and gather information about it!

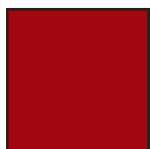
**Your Habitat:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Where was it?** (circle one):      At a feeder      In the water      On the ground  
In trees or bushes      On a fence or wire      Soaring or flying

**What size was the bird?** Put a star on the line closest to the size of the bird you saw.



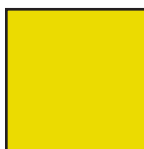
**Circle up to three main colors you saw.**



Red



Orange



Yellow



Green



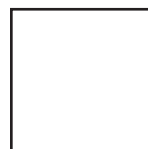
Blue



Black



Gray



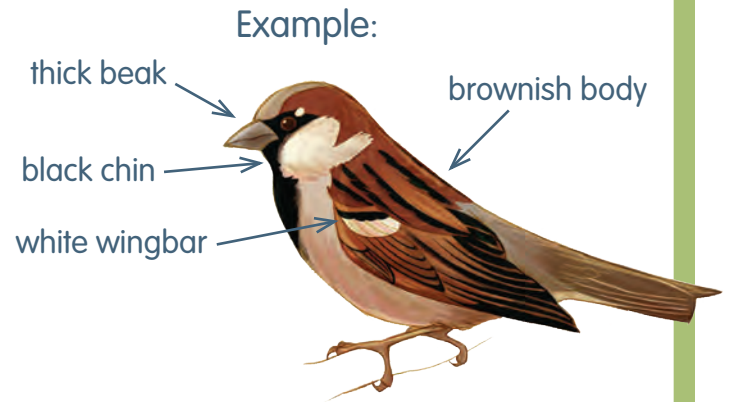
White



Brown

Did you notice any interesting patterns on the bird? Were there stripes on the head or wings?  
Sketch or make notes about any patterns you observed.

## Sketch and Notes



I think my bird is: \_\_\_\_\_  
It's okay if you don't know the species. What type of bird do you think it is?

With this information, you have a good chance of identifying your bird. You can use a field guide or app to help you. If you have a smartphone or tablet, the Merlin Bird ID app can give you a list of birds you might have seen. [merlin.allaboutbirds.org](https://www.merlin.allaboutbirds.org)

# Bird Count

You've learned a lot about habitat and the birds around you.  
Use your new skills to count birds and become a citizen scientist!

Find a good spot to look for birds and carefully collect data during a  
5- to 10-minute bird count. If you don't know the name of a bird,  
make notes or a sketch and look it up later.

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Start time: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ How long was your count: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one:

Stationary  
(Did you stay in one place?)

Traveling  
(Did you move from one place to another?)



Species	Number seen

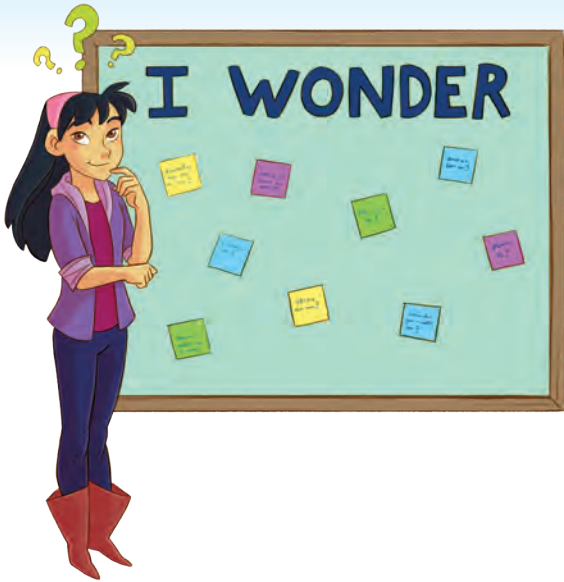
Become a citizen scientist! With the help of an adult, enter your data at  
**ebird.org** to help scientists learn about the birds you saw!

What is citizen science? Scientists around the world depend on people like you to help  
collect information, called data. There are lots of different citizen-science projects for  
studying birds, butterflies, frogs, and more. When you collect data for these projects,  
you are a citizen scientist!

# I Wonder

You've done a great job exploring the national wildlife refuge!  
Did you discover anything that you want to learn more about?

Exploring nature can leave you with lots of questions. It's OK if you don't know the answers!  
Write down your questions so you can explore these topics later.



The **Cornell** Lab  of Ornithology  
**BirdSleuth K-12**



## THANKS FOR EXPLORING NATURE WITH BIRDSLEUTH!

Download your **BirdSleuth Explorer's Certificate** at [birdsleuth.org/explorer](https://birdsleuth.org/explorer).

You may also want to explore these Cornell Lab of Ornithology sites:

- ☐ Visit **allaboutbirds.org** to look up the birds you saw today and learn cool facts about them.
- ☐ You can be a citizen scientist by entering counts for any location into eBird, including your backyard or neighborhood! **ebird.org**
- ☐ Download the Merlin Bird ID app or use the photo identification tool online at **merlin.allaboutbirds.org**.

The National Wildlife Refuge System protects a national network of lands and waters that benefits birds and other wildlife for enjoyment by the American public. National wildlife refuges are home to more than 700 species of birds. For information about visitor programs and bird-viewing opportunities, please visit **[fws.gov/refuges/birding/](https://fws.gov/refuges/birding/)**.



# Forest Preserve District

## OF WILL COUNTY

*Bringing People and Nature Together*

*[ReconnectWithNature.org](http://ReconnectWithNature.org)*