

Let's go Bird-watching

BNT OUTDOORS



Activity:

We made binoculars to see the birds and a bird feeder to attract the birds, now let's go outside and watch some birds!

Materials:

- A pair of binoculars. Real or tissue roll
- A field guide or bird app to identify birds
- A bird feeder to attract local birds. Real or plastic bottle feeder
- A bowl of water for bird bath

Instructions:

1. You do not have to leave your home to go bird-watching. You can bird-watch right in your backyard.
2. Birds need 3 things; Water, food and shelter. To attract birds, put a wide bowl of water in a sheltered area for a bird bath and hang your bird feeder with seeds on a nearby tree.
3. Watch and wait for birds to visit. Use your field guide or bird app to help you identify the birds that visit.

Please see next page for more helpful tips on how to successfully bird-watch



Helpful bird-watching tips for parents to assist kids



Placing bird feeders:

- **Place in a sheltered area:** It may take time for local birds to become acclimated to new feeders, so be patient. Place multiple feeders around the yard, but not in wide, open spaces. Instead select spots near the house, or in trees and bushes where birds will feel sheltered and safe.
- **Mix it up:** If possible, offer a variety of feeds and feeders to attract a wider array of birds. Consider adding a hummingbird feeder with nectar, along with a seed mix for various bird species. Birds who are impressed with your bird feed selection will most definitely come back.
- **Make space (if possible):** To ensure bird visitors get their fill, set up multiple feeders of the same type around your yard. This will give picky birds plenty of options and space.

Bird-watching apps:

You can download bird-watching apps on your smart phone. These apps often include bird sounds that are incredibly helpful to birding newcomers. Plus, a good app can replace bulky bird-watching books if you prefer to pack light.

1. **Merlin Bird ID by Cornell Labs:** This app is user-friendly and quick with its identifications. Simply answer a few questions and/or snap a photo of the bird in question, and the app will do its best to identify the creature. The best part? All of the information you record while birding is compiled for research at Cornell University.
2. **Audubon Bird Guide:** With no less than 808 species, this app is bound to help you identify virtually any bird you spot. List and log sightings, listen to bird-calls, and share your observations with others via the app. From backyard birders to serious bird enthusiasts, this easy-to-use app is ideal for any skill level.

Field Guide Recommendations:

1. Beautiful Bahama Birds by Wardle, Gape & Moore
2. Birds of the West Indies by Raffaele, Wiley and Garrido
3. Birds of The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands by Bruce Hallet

Helpful Tips:

- Birds tend to be more active early in the morning
- When looking for birds look for moving branches
- Be Quiet, birds are startled by loud. Noises and will fly away
- Avoid sudden movement
- Try to have the sun at your back
- Be Patient. If you can be still and quiet the bird you see flitting in the tree will eventually pop into the open so you can see it clearly.
- Keep a list of the birds you see adding the date and time of day.



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