

## Basic Birding

**Birding is one of the world's oldest and largest hobbies. Get involved just by getting out there! You don't need any skills or knowledge to enjoy watching and learning about bird. Take the binoculars and bird guides out on a walk.**

1. When you see a bird, stop to watch it. Use binoculars to see it more closely. Try to identify it—look for their colors, sizes, and how they move. Listen to their songs.
2. **Use the folding pocket guide to see if you can line up the bird's traits with one of the pictured birds.**
3. **Once you've identified the bird, look them up in the Sibley Guide to learn more about it.**

Try downloading the Merlin Birding App from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. It can help you identify birds by narrowing down **their traits; you'll answer a few questions about your bird, and it will produce a list of possible birds.**

















Here are some popular bird-watching activities:

- Keep a sketchbook: Draw the birds you see! Include any details that interest you. Some people enjoy making scientific **diagrams, which can be a great way to collect information. It's okay if you're more of an artistic type, too. This is your time!**
- Take photos: A camera can be your new best bird watching friend. Birds can be really challenging subjects since they move fast and can be really small, but it can also be a really great way to hone your skills, and photography can also make striking art you can be proud to show off.
- Keep a journal! You can include all kinds of information about how many birds you see, which species they are, and what they're doing. Keep track of the time of year and the time of day to see if you can find any patters, and make sure to get as much as you can about what they eat, which places they like to hang out, and watch for different species to do different things. As a bonus, you can always add sketches or specimens to your journal to make your observations more complete.
- Citizen Science: Recording what you see can help large research projects! Check out local conservation efforts to see if they are collecting data about birds—you may be able to participate by helping them count and catalogue what you see.
- Bird Bingo: Observe birds with the enclosed bingo activity. What cool things to you see birds doing?

BirdSleuth: Nature Detectives

**BIRD SPY BINGO**

















Find four in a row and you've got BINGO!

			
On a branch	Group of 3 or more	Bird with white	Flying
			
Colorful bird	Carrying something	Eating	Feather
			
Bird sound	With a short tail	Two birds together	Bird that is all or mostly black
			
Droppings	On the ground	On a wire or roof	With a long tail

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**BIRD SPY BINGO**

















Find four in a row and you've got BINGO!

			
Carrying something	Group of 3 or more	Bird that is all or mostly black	Flying
			
Colorful bird	On a branch	Eating	Feather
			
On a wire or roof	With a short tail	On the ground	Bird with white
			
Droppings	Two birds together	Bird sound	With a long tail

**BirdSleuth: Nature Detectives**

**BIRD SPY BINGO**





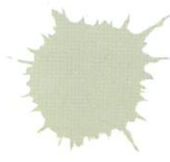











Find four in a row and you've got BINGO!

			
Carrying something	With a long tail	Bird that is all or mostly black	On a wire or roof
			
Bird with white	On a branch	Eating	Feather
			
Flying	With a short tail	Droppings	Colorful bird
			
On the ground	Two birds together	Bird sound	Group of 3 or more

**BirdSleuth: Nature Detectives**

**BIRD SPY BINGO**

Find four in a row and you've got BINGO!

			
Feather	With a long tail	Bird that is all or mostly black	On a wire or roof
			
Droppings	On a branch	Colorful bird	Carrying something
			
Flying	Group of 3 or more	Bird with white	Eating
			
On the ground	Two birds together	Bird sound	With a short tail