

Bird Scientist



STEM • GET OUTSIDE!

There is always something new to be seen or heard when looking for birds. Going bird watching is like looking for clues to a mystery. Writing down your observations is a great way to help you learn different species of birds by their physical characteristics, their actions, and their sounds. Scientists use logs or charts to keep track of data while they are conducting research. By creating a bird log or chart of your own, you will be able to keep a record of what kinds of birds you have found, as well as where you found them! The more details you write down and/or draw of your bird watching adventure, the better.

Materials:

- A pencil or pen
- “My Bird Observation Chart”
- A natural setting



Optional Materials:

- Binoculars
- Clipboard
- A backpack or bag

Directions:

1. Gather all your materials and get ready to head outside!
2. Keep your eyes peeled, your ears open, and your mind wondering!
3. Go to the birds by taking a walk in a natural setting (your backyard, a local forest, a local park, a local beach) or let the birds come to you by finding a nice place to sit by a window or outside, and observe your natural surroundings.
4. Once you hear or see a bird, start recording your observations using the “My Bird Observation Chart.”
5. Have fun and record as many details as you can!

Helpful Tips:

- ★ **Be patient. Birds will come and go, but when, we may never know.**
- ★ **Bring seeds of native plants with you to attract birds to a certain spot. This will allow you to watch them eat and help to feed them. Remember to feed responsibly, and keep a good distance from the birds.**
- ★ **The more comfortable you are, the more time you will be able to watch for birds! Dress for the weather and wear layers.**
- ★ **You may also want to bring a snack and a water bottle along for yourself.**



My Bird Observation Chart

Use this chart to organize your data as you observe different bird species. You can compare your data and possibly find patterns of certain types of birds depending on the weather, the time of day, or a particular spot!

Date:	
Day of Week:	
Weather:	
Name of Bird Watcher(s):	
Name of Bird(s):	
Time Seen:	
Location Seen:	
Field Marks: (Description of Bird's Physical Characteristics)	
<u>Example:</u> <i>Has black feathers all over its body except the top of the head, which is white.</i>	
Description of Bird's Actions: (Be as descriptive /detailed as possible)	
<u>Examples:</u> <i>Eating seeds, Ruffling their feathers, Perching on a tree, Vocalizing/singing</i>	





My Bird Observation Chart

Use this chart to draw observations of different bird species. Then, use your drawings and your field mark data to conduct further research on the birds you find. Compare your drawings to images you find on the internet or in field guides in order to identify species, and learn more about them!

Draw Your Bird Observations Here:

A large, empty rectangular box with a blue border, intended for drawing bird observations. It occupies most of the page's central area.