



Birds Activity

Family Activity

Birdwatching can be a lot of fun! Use the Tips for Bird Identification page in this packet to help identify the birds in your backyard! Where do they nest? What do they like to eat? What is their unique sound?

We've listed some facts below to use along with the Birds of North America poster. We hope you use this to learn about and recognize some of the most common birds of North America.

□ House Sparrow

One of the most common birds in North America is the house sparrow. Can you find it on the poster? What colors are on its wings? The house sparrow originated in the Middle East and is also one of the most common wild birds in the world! Experts think there are nearly 550 million house sparrows living around the globe right now. These small birds thrive around humans, which is why their population continues to grow.

□ Northern Cardinal

Northern cardinals are known for their beautiful songs and the male's striking red color, which is especially vibrant on a snowy day. The female cardinal has reddish highlights and can be found spending time near its partner. (Can you find the cardinal on your poster?) The Cardinal is the state bird for seven states and is a popular sports mascot too! They love the seeds many people put in their bird feeders, and cardinals are usually the first birds you will see in the morning grabbing a bite and the last to come grab a bedtime snack in the evening hours!

□ Woodpecker

Have you ever heard a tap, tap, tap sound as you walked outside? That may have been a woodpecker! A woodpecker uses its toes to brace itself on the side of trees, and its unusually long tongue to grab bugs! Woodpeckers have a special bone in their head (the hyoid) and extra cushioning which protects their head from their pecking. They peck to find food, communicate, and gather nest-building twigs and leaves. Also, they peck just because they can! Do you see the hairy woodpecker on your Birds of North America poster?

□ Trumpeter Swan

Can you find the largest bird on the poster? The trumpeter swan is one of the largest birds in North America. They can grow up to 5 feet long and have a wingspan of 7 feet across! They live in only a few regions of the continent, in the northern United States, western Canada, and Alaska. Have you ever seen one?

Which birds on the poster live near you? You can learn more about birds' habitats at audubon.org/bird-guide.

What is your favorite bird on the poster and why? What color is it? Do you know where it lives in North America?

Challenge: Draw a picture of your favorite bird! Then, email the picture along with the reason it's your favorite bird to marketing.goodandbeautiful@gmail.com for a chance to win a free book from The Good and the Beautiful Library collection!

Tips for Bird Identification

① Habitat

Where do you see the bird? What are its surroundings? What season is it?



② Size and Shape

What objects are similar in size? What does the bird outline look like? What is the shape of its wings, tail, beak, feet, or other distinguishing features?



③ Color and Pattern

Is the overall color dark or light? What colors do you see? Are there colorful details? Does the bird have any stripes or spots?



④ Voice/Call

What bird songs do you already know? Do you hear distinct words or sounds?



⑤ Behavior

How does the bird run, fly, sit, eat, swim, move, and flock?



BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA

