

# The Baltimore Bird



From the earliest days of European settlement the Baltimore Oriole has been associated with Maryland. First called the “Baltimore Bird” because its plumage reminded people of the gold and black in the Coat of Arms of Cecil Calvert, 2nd Baron Baltimore, or Lord Baltimore. The first Proprietor of the colony of Maryland. As early as the 1880’s a Baltimore baseball team was named the Orioles. Due to declining numbers the state even gave it protected status in 1882. Thirty-six years before congress passed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Finally, Maryland adopted the Baltimore Oriole as its state bird in 1947.

What bird would best represent your family?

Your Park Quest challenge is to visit either Fort Frederick State Park, The Western Maryland Rail Trail or Woodmont Natural Resources Management Area and spend a few hours observing the birds that live there. Take time to observe in several locations in the park because different birds live in different habitats. These parks offer a wide variety of habitats so you can wander a forest trail, explore woodlands, sit quietly in a meadow or field and patrol the banks of ponds, lakes and the Potomac River to see the largest variety of bird species. These common bird identification tips may help you decide on what bird best represents your family: size, color, markings, shape and size of beak, behavior, and song or call.

Once you have decided why a certain bird best represents your family (each family member could even have their own bird) tell us why - write the story, share pictures and drawings of your bird or even make up your own coat of arms and share it with us at [fortfrederick.statepark@maryland.gov](mailto:fortfrederick.statepark@maryland.gov). You can also post on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MDStateParks>.



Helpful Website:  
<https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/01glance/wildlife/birds/html/birds.html>



Coat of Arms of Cecil Calvert, 2nd Baron Baltimore  
 Motto: Manly deeds, womanly words

*Some helpful Leave No Trace hints to better birding:*



Learn about wildlife through quiet observation. Do not disturb wildlife or plants just for a “better look.” Observe wildlife from a distance so they are not scared or forced to flee. Large groups often cause more damage to the environment and can disturb wildlife so keep your group small. If you have a larger group, divide into smaller groups if possible to minimize your impacts.

Quick movements and loud noises are stressful to animals. Travel quietly and do not pursue, feed or force animals to flee. (One exception is in bear country where it is good to make a little noise so as not to startle the bears.) In hot or cold weather, disturbance can affect an animal’s ability to withstand the rigorous environment. Do not touch, get close to, feed or pick up wild animals. It is stressful to the animal, and it is possible that the animal may harbor rabies or other diseases.

Park Maps:



Fort Frederick State Park



Western Maryland Rail Trail



Woodmont Natural Resources Management Area