

Bird Activities

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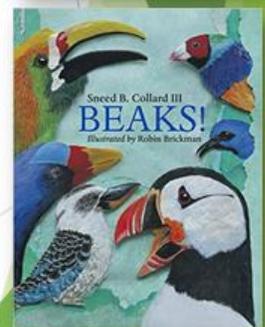
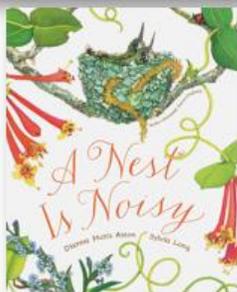
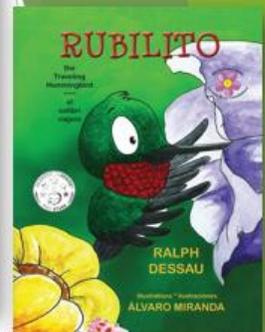
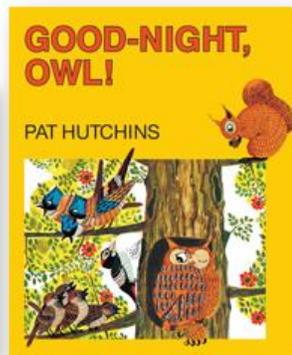
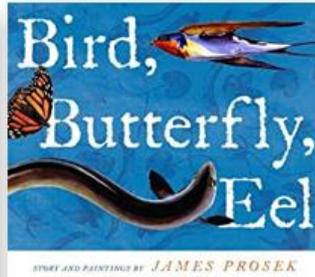
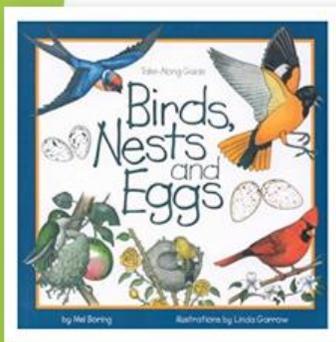
Spring is here, and birds are out and about singing and raising their young. No matter where you are, there are always birds around. You can find a list of Maryland's birds [here](#). Check out the Maryland Ornithological Society's Young Birds page [here](#) for information on getting started birding as well as youth birding resources. Want to check out some birds? Look at Cornell's Nest cams [here](#). For bird videos, check out Cornell's YouTube channel [here](#).



Early Learners (preK-2nd grade)

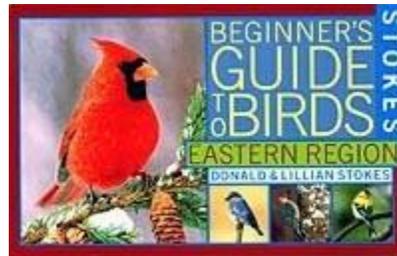
1. What makes a bird a bird? Use [this lesson](#) to learn about birds and compare them to other animals like mammals.
2. Head outside and look for birds using our [Bird Behavior Hike](#) or [Bird Bingo](#).
3. Many birds build nests to support their young. Check out our [Build the Best Nest activity](#) for background information. Gather up natural materials and try to build your own nest. For a worksheet to test materials, [click here](#).
4. [Listen](#) to the calls of different owls. Use a paper bag to make an owl puppet from Growing Up WILD [here](#). Go on a night hike to see if you can hear any local owls.
5. Show pictures of different bird beaks and talk about what types of food each bird eats. Set up stations for kids to test out different “beaks” to see what food it is adapted to grab and match the “beak” to local birds using the [Growing Up WILD Bird Beak Buffet sheet](#).

Children's Books



Upper Elementary (3rd-5th)

1. Go on a hike and see what birds you can find. Use the [seasonal bingo cards](#) to find birds and materials that support birds.
2. Go outside and listen for local birds. What do you hear? Sometimes, we make up mnemonics to help remember certain bird song. For example, a mnemonic for a barred owl call might be “Who cooks for you?!”. Check out the [Audubon Name that Tune](#) page for more ideas.
3. Learn about bird feathers by checking out the [following page](#) and watching the video.
4. [Build-a-bird](#) and see how well it may survive.
5. Use the [BeastBox](#) to make your own animal remix.
6. See if you can match the nest to the bird that makes it using our [nest matching cards](#).
7. Many birds build nests to support their young. Check out our [Build the Best Nest activity](#) for background information. Gather up natural materials and try to build your own nest. For a worksheet to test materials, [click here](#)
8. Owls create pellets from indigestible materials. These pellets help give us clues about what owls ate. Learn about Maryland’s owls [here](#). Watch a video on the great-horned owl [here](#). Dissect an owl pellet or try to [dissect one virtually](#).
9. [Audubon for Kids](#) has a wealth of resources to teach about local birds.
10. Check out Cornell’s activities for cooped up kids [here](#).
11. Design a bird feeder and/or test out different types of bird seed. What types of birds are attracted to the different feeders/seeds? Use our [Common Feeder Bird sheet](#).



Middle School and High School (6th-12th)

1. What makes a bird, a bird? Learn about bird anatomy with this interactive flash lesson [here](#).
2. Did you know that different wing shapes help birds fly in different ways? Read more about wing adaptations and shapes [here](#). Use that knowledge to [design the best paper "bird" airplane](#). See what will help you fly the furthest.
3. Download the free [Audubon Bird Guide app](#) or [Merlin](#) and head outside. Try to find local birds and identify them using the apps.
4. Look up birds that are local to your area, and try to [draw them](#). Pay attention to colors and patterns.
5. Learn about our local Wild Turkeys and make your own [turkey call](#).

6. Do you know about how bird song works? Check out the [All About Bird Song videos](#) to learn the science of bird sound. Learn a little more about bird research by completing the [Message in a Song lesson](#). Learn about local bird songs and see if you are a [Bird Song Hero](#).
7. Find out which birds use nest boxes (also called bird houses) where you live using the [Right Bird, Right House Guide](#) from the Cornell's citizen-science project, NestWatch.
8. Help local birds by making your home and school more bird friendly. Check out [Lights, Out Baltimore](#) to learn about ways to create bird friendly buildings by making windows more visible to birds.
9. Do you like looking for birds? If so, consider joining the [MD-DC Breeding Bird Atlas](#) to document local breeding birds.



Gardening for Birds

1. Make goals for yourself and start small to see what works for your site.
2. Use the [Chesapeake Bay Native Plant Center](#) to find the right plants for your site.
 - a. Check out our article on [Native Birds Need Native Plants](#) for some planting ideas.
 - b. [Patterson Park Audubon](#) has great info including downloadable sheets on bird-friendly communities.
3. Check out our [Schoolyard Wildlife Habitat](#) pages including the new [Simple School Wildlife Garden Guide](#).
4. Use the [Maryland Native Plant Society Native Plant Source guide](#) to find local nurseries and native plant sellers.
5. Check out the [Wild Acres page](#) for additional information on how to make your habitat wildlife friendly.

