

# Biodiversity and Birds

Biodiversity is the unique mix of living things found in a particular place, including birds. Like many animals, birds are in trouble. Our changing climate is making it harder for them to find food and shelter. Use your senses to learn about our feathered friends and give them a helping hand.



## 1 Bird Words

Take a seat or lie down outside and close your eyes. How many different birds can you hear chirping, quacking, singing or hooting? Can you copy the sounds? What words does it sound like they are saying?



Bring along your nature journal and write down the bird words you hear. Try this activity in the morning and in the evening; are the sounds the same or different?

## 2 I Spy In the Sky

Visit your favorite nature spot or cozy up at a window to watch birds! Use binoculars if you have them—or make a pair from paper tubes and tape. Be still and quiet—and patient! Write the date and time in your nature journal, and how many birds you see. What do they look like? Where do you see them?



Research birds that live near you. Which ones have you seen? Which do you want to spot?

## 3 Gettin' Beaky With It

Some birds have long beaks to dig critters out of the dirt and sand. Others have thick, strong beaks to crack nuts and seeds. Look up photos or observe the beaks of birds around you. What do you think each bird eats, based on the shape and size of their beak?



Gather your "beaks": tweezers, toothpicks, a small strainer, chopsticks and a spoon. Can you pick up nuts, noodles, cereal, gummy worms or small pieces of fruit with each "beak"?

This activity has been adapted from our friends at [USGS](https://www.usgs.gov/).

## 4 Treats for Tweets

Punch four holes around the edge of a sturdy paper plate or the lid of a yogurt tub. Tie and knot a length of string through each hole, gather the strings, and knot them together at the top. Leave enough string to hang your feeder from a spot you can see from a window, and sprinkle on birdseed.



Observe what happens at your feeder. How might you redesign it to work better? Try spreading sunbutter on the surface and sprinkle on seeds. What other materials could you repurpose? Try a soda bottle, pine cone or a toilet tissue roll!

## 5 Help Birds Watch Out!

Have you ever run into a glass door? That happens a lot to birds—they get confused when they see the reflection of trees and sky. Birds can get really hurt if they fly into a window, but you can help! Early spring and fall are good times to make your windows easier to see; that's when birds are migrating to find food and raise their young.



Draw designs on the outsides of your windows with just a bar of soap! For windows you can't reach outside, stick your awesome artwork on the inside. And turn off the light when you are not in a room at night and keep the curtains closed to help nocturnal species.

