

Backyard Birding

Description

We don't have to go far to find birds! In fact, they are often all around us and we just need to slow down and listen to be able to find them. Birding with kids is a great way to get them to listen and observe the nature that is all around us, even in our backyards! Here you will find several activities to help your children get started!

Ages

4+ years old

Materials

- [Nature Journal](#)
- [Binoculars](#)
- Pencil/ pencil crayons
- Bird Scavenger Hunt
- Bird Feeder Craft
 - Toilet paper rolls
 - Peanut Butter
 - String
 - Bird Seed
 - Hole punch
 - Plate



Activity 1 – Make your Own Bird Feeder

You might already notice some birds around your home, however, setting up a bird feeder is a great way to attract more! It also allows for better observation since they will be stopping to eat for a moment, instead of flying by or hiding in a tree. Follow these instructions to craft your own bird feeder to set up in the yard.

1. There are two ways you can hang the bird feeder. One, you can simply slide the toilet roll onto a nearby branch. Two, you can choose to hang it by a string off a branch or near your window. If you are going to use string, then you want to start by punching a hole in each side of one end of the toilet paper roll.
2. Spread an even layer of peanut butter over the toilet roll, smooth and not too thick.



[Source: playfromscratch](#)

3. Spread some bird seed onto the plate and roll the peanut butter covered toilet paper roll across it so that the bird seed sticks to the peanut butter. The toilet paper roll should now be completely covered in birdseed.

4. If you had made holes in the toilet paper roll at the start, now you can put the string through the holes and tie it together, creating a loop for hanging.

5. Now go outside and hang your new bird feeder!

Activity 2 - Observation

If you have been following along with the ABNC activities, you will have already made a [Nature Journal](#) and your own pair of [Binoculars](#)! These will come in handy for our Backyard Birding. If not, you can make your own now.

Find a quiet area in your yard that you can sit and spend some time looking for birds. If you have already made and hung your Bird Feeder, you will want to be somewhere that you can see this well. When birding you have to make sure to stay very still and quiet. Loud noises or movements will scare the birds away.

As you sit, listen very carefully to what you hear around you, watch the sky above you, your bird feeder and any trees that are around you.

Can you hear any birds? Can you see any birds?

If so, do you know what kind of birds you are seeing? Use your nature journal to draw the birds that you see. Make sure to include how big they were, what colours they were and what they were doing.

You can also use our Observation Log to record the birds that you are seeing.

Bird Observation Log

Date: _____

Time: _____

Weather: _____

1. Where did you see the bird?

Flying On the ground In a tree Other: _____

2. How many of this same bird did you see? _____

3. What colours were the bird? _____

4. How big was the bird? Small Medium Large

5. What was the bird doing? _____

6. Have you seen this bird before?

7. Did the bird make a sound? _____

8. Other Notes:

9. Include a drawing of the bird.



Activity 3 – Bird Scavenger Hunt

Try our [Bird Scavenger Hunt](#) in your backyard or neighbourhood! This scavenger hunt looks for birds and evidence of birds around your home, as well as bird habitat, food sources and possible predators. Cross off each one as you find it.

Bird Scavenger Hunt

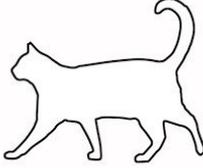
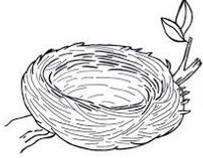
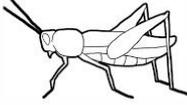
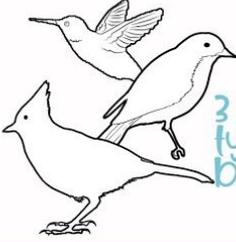
Try your best to find each of the items listed below! Each one has to do with birds and what they need to survive.

 Colour your items as you find them!





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 Tree	 Bird Shelter	 Predator
 Crow	 Hear a Bird	 Nest
 Feather	 Flying Bird	 Insect
 Water	 Nest Materials (twigs)	 3 different types of birds