

POCKET Nature Journal

Spring Birding

Become an ornithologist
(someone who studies birds)
in your own area

Spring Birding

Birds come in all colors of the rainbow and all shapes and sizes.

Here are some helpful tips for birding and 3 species you can try to identify this spring.

To birdwatch, you have to move through the yard or forest stealthily.

- How quiet can you be?
- Try making a "sit spot" or make a bird blind (see activity page for instructions)
- Notice colors
- Use binoculars if you have them

- In your Pocket Guide, record the weather, habitat, and draw a picture of the bird

Tufted Titmouse

Baeolophus bicolor

Traits: Small and stocky, crested head; big dark eye; gray above, white below, with peachy sides

Size: 5 inches

Habitat: forest; backyard feeders

Song: Peter, Peter, Peter



Red-winged Blackbird

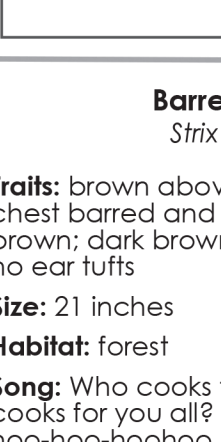
Agelaius phoeniceus

Traits: male—glossy black with red & yellow shoulder patch; conical bill; female—streaky brown, buffy eyebrow, conical bill

Size: 8.5 inches

Habitat: marshes; wet meadows

Song: Conk-la-ree



BIRD NOTES

Barred Owl

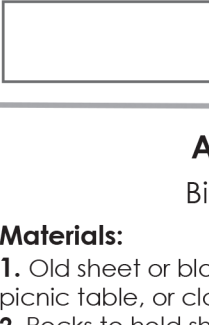
Strix varia

Traits: brown above, whitish below, chest barred and belly streaked with brown; dark brown eyes; yellow bill; no ear tufts

Size: 21 inches

Habitat: forest

Song: Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all? or hoo-hoo-hoohoo



BIRD NOTES

Activity

Bird Blind

Materials:

1. Old sheet or blanket, a lawn chair, picnic table, or clothesline to drape it over
 2. Rocks to hold sheet or blanket in place
- OR
1. Large, empty appliance box

Instructions:

1. Place your blind near where the birds usually eat
2. Cut a hole about 6 inches from the top of the blind; the hole should be about 2 inches by 6 inches so you can look through it
3. Set the blind up, but wait a few days to use it so the birds get used to it as they eat
4. When ready, quietly crawl into your blind and wait patiently (Early morning and early afternoon are the best times)
5. Bring your Pocket Nature Guide and set what you see or jot down notes

Nature Quote:

J. Drew Lanham, Ph.D Wildlife

Biologist/Ornithologist

I'm here to tell you that skin color still matters in 2011. Birding is among the "whitest" things a person can do. I just happen to be one of the few that adds a different hue to the mix. It's critical that along with biodiversity we think about the human component as something just as important.

Linking humans of all hues to nature—through birds or otherwise, means that more will be engaged in trying to save it. Air, water, birds, trees—we all need them. That word has to get out.

The activities in this journal can be done on almost any quiet patch of earth in our area.



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