

Nature Quote:
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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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POCKET Nature Journal
 Spring Birding

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

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 blank et 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

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

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-hoo-hoo

BIRD NOTES



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

BIRD NOTES



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

