



Birds are less elusive than many other kinds of wildlife and provide valuable lessons in ecology – the interaction between animals and their environment. Kids enjoy watching birds at any age. Consider the activities below to help your children become excited about birds.

Materials:

- Binoculars
- Field guide (available at local libraries or check with local Audubon chapter)
- Journal and colored pencils
- Camera (optional)

Instructions:

1. Choose a habitat. You can find birds in a variety of places, from your backyard to your favorite state park. You will have the best luck at dusk or dawn and in places with bodies of water.
2. Sketch and color the birds you see in your journal. Include some details on the location where you saw the bird. You may also take a photo of the bird to print and include in the journal later.
3. Observe the bird and study its silhouette. Note the shape of its body, beak, tail, wings and legs. Are its legs short or long? Are the wings rounded or pointed? Is the beak short or long, thin or wide?
4. Listen to the sounds the birds make and try to mimic them. This can help you learn to identify birds without seeing them.
5. Determine the category of the bird using your field guide and observations. Birds generally belong in one of eight categories.

Additional Activity:

Build a birdhouse with your children to attract more birds to your yard. [Click here](#) for suggested instructions.

This activity is adapted from the National Forest Foundation: <http://www.nationalforests.org/blog/birding#>