Name: _____ Date: _____

How to Watch Birds in Your Yard

Circle group

You can see wild birds close to home. A yard, a park, or a window is a good place to start. Here is how to watch birds.

First, find a good spot. Pick a place where you can sit quietly. A bench or a window seat works well. Birds fly away from loud noises and fast moves. So sit still.

Second, bring a few things. You need a small notebook and a pencil. Binoculars help you see birds far away.

Third, help the birds come. Put out a bowl of fresh water. Birds like to drink and splash. A feeder with seeds helps, too. Ask a grown-up to help you set up.

Fourth, watch and write. Look at the bird's size, colors, and beak. Write what it does. It may hop, eat, or sing. You can draw a quick picture.

Soon you will know the birds in your yard. Keep your notes. See how they change with the seasons.

Questions

1. Where can a person start bird watching?

_____

_____

2. What do you need besides a good spot?

_____

_____

3. What can you put out for birds to drink and splash in?

_____

_____

4. What should you look at when you see a bird?

_____

_____

5. Why should a bird watcher sit still?

_____

_____

6. Why might you keep your notes?

_____

_____

Words to know

binoculars: a tool with two lenses that makes faraway things look close
feeder: a container that holds food for birds
beak: the hard, pointed mouth of a bird
notebook: a small book for writing notes
seasons: the four parts of the year, such as winter and summer

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How to Watch Birds in Your Yard

Triangle group

You do not need to go far to see wild birds. A yard, a park, or even a window can be a good place to start. Here is how to become a bird watcher.

First, find a good spot. Pick a place where you can sit quietly, such as a bench or a window seat. Birds fly away from loud noises and fast moves, so sit still.

Second, bring a few things. A small notebook and a pencil are all you need. If you have binoculars, they help you see birds that are far away.

Third, give the birds a reason to visit. You can put out a bowl of fresh water. Birds like to drink and splash in it. A feeder with seeds can also bring them in. Ask a grown-up to help you set these up.

Fourth, watch and write. Look at the bird's size, its colors, and its beak. Write down what it does, such as hopping, eating, or singing. You can draw a quick picture, too.

Soon you will know your yard birds by sight. Keep your notes and see how they change with the seasons.

Questions

1. Where can a person start bird watching?

_____

_____

2. What do you need besides a good spot?

_____

_____

3. What can you put out for birds to drink and splash in?

_____

_____

4. What should you look at when you see a bird?

_____

_____

5. Why should a bird watcher sit still?

_____

_____

6. Why might you keep your notes for a long time?

_____

_____

Words to know

binoculars: a tool with two lenses that makes faraway things look close
feeder: a container that holds food for birds
beak: the hard, pointed mouth of a bird
notebook: a small book for writing notes
seasons: the four parts of the year, such as winter and summer

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How to Watch Birds in Your Yard

Square group

You do not have to travel far to observe wild birds. A yard, a park, or even a window can be an excellent place to begin. Here is how you can become a bird watcher.

First, choose a good location. Select a place where you can sit quietly, such as a bench or a window seat. Because birds tend to fly away from loud noises and sudden movements, you should stay as still as you can.

Second, gather a few supplies. A small notebook and a pencil are all that you really need, although a pair of binoculars will help you see birds that are far away.

Third, give the birds a reason to visit. You can set out a bowl of fresh water, since birds enjoy drinking and splashing in it. A feeder filled with seeds can also attract them, but you should ask a grown-up to help you set these up.

Fourth, watch carefully and write down what you notice. Pay attention to the bird's size, its colors, and its beak, and record what it does, such as hopping, eating, or singing. You might also sketch a quick picture.

Before long, you will recognize the birds in your yard by sight. Save your notes and see how they change with the seasons.

Questions

1. Where can a person begin to watch birds?

_____

_____

2. Which supplies do you really need besides a good location?

_____

_____

3. What can you set out for birds to drink and splash in?

_____

_____

4. What should you pay attention to when you see a bird?

_____

_____

5. Why should a bird watcher stay as still as possible?

_____

_____

6. Why might it be useful to save your notes?

_____

_____

Words to know

binoculars: a tool with two lenses that makes faraway things look close
feeder: a container that holds food for birds
beak: the hard, pointed mouth of a bird
notebook: a small book for writing notes
seasons: the four parts of the year, such as winter and summer

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: How to Watch Birds in Your Yard

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: How to Watch Birds in Your Yard

Easier · 160 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.2

1. In a yard, a park, or at a window.
2. A small notebook and a pencil.
3. A bowl of fresh water.
4. Its size, colors, and beak.
5. Birds fly away from loud noises and fast moves.
6. You can see how the birds change with the seasons.

Triangle: How to Watch Birds in Your Yard

This passage · 191 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.7

1. In a yard, a park, or at a window.
2. A small notebook and a pencil.
3. A bowl of fresh water.
4. Its size, its colors, and its beak.
5. Birds fly away from loud noises and fast moves.
6. You can see how the birds change with the seasons.

Square: How to Watch Birds in Your Yard

Harder · 215 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.7

1. In a yard, a park, or at a window.
2. A small notebook and a pencil.
3. A bowl of fresh water.
4. Its size, its colors, and its beak.
5. Birds tend to fly away from loud noises and sudden movements.
6. You can see how the birds change with the seasons.