

DECORATION/DISPLAY | GAME/ACTIVITY | LOW COST
PASSIVE | SOLO-LIBRARIAN FRIENDLY

ADULT STORYTIME: THE GENIUS OF BIRDS

AGES

Adults

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Storytime is for everyone! Invite adults to the library for a bird-themed read-aloud. While you read excerpts from popular bird nonfiction (see Resources for suggestions), participants have the option to color bird coloring sheets. For bonus birding atmosphere, livestream a bird video. Pass out the Bird-Watching 101 handout and create a birding book display to inspire adults to keep learning. Program can be adapted to any age group by varying resource choices. Suggested runtime: 60 minutes

For a display component, create a bird-watching bulletin board. Cover the display with a large map of your city/town/region, and provide templates for patrons to identify and post pictures of birds they spot over the summer. Make it a contest to see who can identify the most species. Consider an end-of-summer event/Q&A session for patrons to share their sightings and share information.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

For storytime coloring:

- Bird coloring sheets
- Coloring supplies
- Bird-watching handouts

Bookmark excerpts to read from your chosen books, print coloring sheets, and gather coloring supplies.

For the bulletin board display:

- Cover the display with a large map of your city or region
- Provide bird-sighting slips
- Provide push-pins and string to link bird sightings with map locations

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

Partnership opportunity with your local chapter of the National Audubon Society.

You will need enough table space for coloring.

TIP:

For adults, try hosting over lunch hour and invite them to bring sack lunches.

TIP:

Consider making this program part of a birding series. You could read excerpts from multiple books, invite presenters from a local bird-watching group or Audubon chapter, or make a game of identifying bird songs. Some Audubon chapters offer free bird song walks or bird-watching trips as well.

TIP:

Check Citizen Science, <https://www.citizenscience.gov/>, for crowdsourced bird data collection projects.

TIP:

See Chapter 04: Backyard Habitats for bird feeder ideas.

TIP:

The Let Me Hear Again app for Android is great option for deaf patrons if you do not have anyone on staff who is able to sign.

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RESOURCES

App Recommendations

iBird Pro Guide to Birds contains as much information as 14 field guides.

Audubon Bird Guide: North America allows users to share sightings.

Merlin Bird ID shows amazing migration patterns.

Song Sleuth generates matches for users' uploaded bird songs.

Web

The Cornell Lab's Bird Guide: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/>

Bird activities from the Audubon Society: <https://bit.ly/3fLZvph>

Bird-friendly plants from the Audubon Society: <https://bit.ly/2zzu3Kg>

Bird drawing tips from the Audubon Society: <https://bit.ly/2T0rvf7>

Project FeederWatch: <https://feederwatch.org/>

Field Guides

Feed the Birds: Attract and Identify 196 Common North American Birds (2019) by Chris Earley

National Audubon Society Field Guide to Birds, 1994.

National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America, 7th ed (2017) by John L. Dunn.

Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America, 2nd ed. (2020) by Roger Tory Peterson

The Stokes Field Guide to the Birds of North America, 2nd ed. (2010) by Donald Stokes and Lillian Stokes

Adult Nonfiction

Alex & Me (2008) by Irene M. Pepperberg

Belonging on an Island: Birds, Extinction, and Evolution in Hawai'i (2018) by Daniel Lewis

Bird Brains: The Intelligence of Crows, Ravens, Magpies, and Jays (2018) by Candace Savage

Bird Therapy (2019) by Joe Harkness

The Birds at My Table: Why We Feed Wild Birds and Why It Matters (2018) by Darryl N. Jones

The Bird Way: A New Look at How Birds Talk, Work, Play, Parent, and Think (2020) by Jennifer Ackerman

Birds by the Shore (2019) by Jennifer Ackerman

TIP:

Although Cornell's Project FeederWatch is a winter activity, the tips and STEM principles could be altered for a summer program. Alternatively, continue summer bird programming all year round by installing a birdfeeder and camera at the library. Patrons of all ages can check in on the types of birds that visit the feeder.

TIP:

Remember field guides to your specific geographic region!

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City of Ravens: The Extraordinary History of London, Its Tower, and Its Famous Ravens (2012) by Boria Sax

The Genius of Birds (2017) by Jennifer Ackerman

H is for Hawk (2016) by Helen Macdonald

The Falcon Thief: A True Tale of Adventure, Treachery, and the Hunt for the Perfect Bird (2020) by Joshua Hammer

Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard (2020) by Douglas W. Tallamy

North on the Wing: Travels with the Songbird Migration of Spring (2018) by Bruce M. Beehler

Peregrine Spring: A Master Falconer's Extraordinary Life with Birds of Prey (2016) by Nancy Cowan

The Thing with Feathers: The Surprising Lives of Birds and What They Reveal about Being Human (2015) by Noah Stryker

Urban Aviary: A Modern Guide to City Birds (2019) by Stephen Moss and Marc Martin

White Feathers: The Nesting Lives of Tree Swallows (2020) by Bernd Heinrich

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Owl Coloring Sheet



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Crow Coloring Sheet



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Hummingbird Coloring Sheet



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BIRD-WATCHING 101

SIX BIRD-WATCHING TIPS

1. Be still, quiet, and patient.
2. For better viewing, put your back to the sun.
3. Wear dark colors or earth tones to blend into the background.
4. Following single birds can lead to you larger flocks.
5. Study habitats for different species (e.g., fields, thickets, or trees)
6. Remember your binoculars!

APPS

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Audubon Bird Guide is extensive and allows users to share sightings.

Merlin Bird ID shows amazing migration patterns.

Song Sleuth generates matches for uploaded bird songs.

Remember field guides to your specific geographic region!

HELPFUL WEBSITES

The Cornell Lab's All About Birds: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org>

The Cornell Lab's Project FeederWatch: <https://feederwatch.org>

The Audubon Society: <https://www.audubon.org/birding/>

Tips for Drawing birds: <https://bit.ly/2T0rvf7>



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 summer library program™