



Today's Featured Activity: Birding!

Who doesn't love birds? As the weather warms, maybe you've been spending a more time watching and listening to the birds around your house. Now is a great time to start a list of all the birds you are seeing! Sometimes it's tough to spot birds or identify them when they're flitting and flying around, but with these activities, you can become a better birder in no time!

Think of birding like a scavenger hunt! Start a list of how many new birds you see every day, even if you can't identify them all. Make observations of features like size, shape, color, patterns, songs, calls, behaviors and habitats. All these observations can help you identify what bird it is if you don't already know.

If you still need some help figuring it out, the free [Merlin App](#) can help you. When you answer the questions above, the app will help you narrow down the choices to help you find the answer.

Wondering if you should put a feeder to attract birds? This time of year, with bears waking up and moving around, you may not want to have traditional feeders out. However, there are other ways you can more safely attract birds to your yard (well, you might get squirrels too!).

- Make a [fruit wreath](#) feeder to provide a healthy snack for birds as they're

coming back from migration.

- If you want something even easier, take your apple core or an orange peel and spread nut butter on it and sprinkle it with bird seed. Then place it somewhere you've seen birds already and watch as they tell all their friends!

If watching the birds has you wanting to learn more, The Audubon Society has great [online activities](#) for teaching kids (and adults!) about birds, including printable activity sheets and sketching tutorials. With schools in New York officially closed for the rest of the academic year, we hope these activities can help with your child's science learning. One way to tie it all together is by participating in [Global Big Day](#), this Saturday May 9, is the annual celebration of the birds around you and around the world! Put your new bird skills to the test and contribute to scientific research by becoming a citizen scientist! Any birds you see on this day will be added to the global tally.

Using the [e-bird app](#) you can easily start keeping track of the birds you identify wherever you are.

Did you do this activity? Post a photo on Instagram and tag @clctrust or use #clctrust.

Have suggestions for activities you'd like to see? [Send us an email!](#)

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