

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Families—Your child has been learning about the diversity of wild birds. This sheet offers information and activities so the whole family can enjoy birds too.

WHO'S THAT UP IN THE SKY?

Birding in Your Neighborhood

Your child has become familiar with eight groups of birds. Go for a walk and mark the types of birds you see using the checklist below. You can even try to identify species by using the free Merlin Bird ID app (merlin.allaboutbirds.org). Want to share your sightings? Go to eBird.org to create a family account and enter observations at home!

CHECK IF YOU SAW THIS BIRD TYPE



HUMMINGBIRD



FINCH



OWL



GULL



DUCK



DOVE



RAPTOR



WOODPECKER

COOL FACT

Sexual Dimorphism

Sexual dimorphism is when the male and female of a species look different from one another. *Di* means “two” and *morph* means “form,” so there are “two forms.” In birds, usually the male is more colorful than the female because the female needs to be camouflaged while sitting on the nest. Also, females usually choose their mate. A brighter male can indicate that he is healthy, good at getting food, or good at evading predators.

Bird of the Month

HOUSE SPARROW

This is such a common bird that you might not notice it. Sometimes you’ll see this small bird inside stores, hopping around outdoor restaurants, or flocking in cities. The House Sparrow takes frequent dust baths. It throws soil and dust over its feathers, just as if it were bathing with water, to help maintain oil on its feathers.



House Sparrows by Evan Barbour

Hands-On Activity

BUILDING BIRDHOUSES

Want to attract more birds to your home? Build a birdhouse! A birdhouse is another option for birds that nest in tree holes or other natural cavities, and can attract nesting birds to your yard. Visit NestWatch.org and check out the “Right Bird, Right House” interactive tool to get plans for building your own birdhouse.



Pennington® Cedar House

DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO BUILD A BIRDHOUSE?

You can also help your feathered friends by installing a Pennington® Cedar House.

