Activities

Summer is a great time to listen and watch for birds that can be found in your backyard. Learn more about them with the activities below.

**Activity 1:** Unscramble the names of birds that can be found in your backyard. Use the pictures to help if you get stuck!

**Activity 2:** Make your own bird feeder to attract birds into your yard.

**Activity 3:** Compete in the Bird Olympics! Do you have what it takes?

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**Activity 1: Bird Scramble**

1) ELUB AYJ  

2) DCRALNAI  

3) BORNI  

4) ODOPEKEWRC  

5) FODGCNHLI  

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Answer Key: 1) Blue Jay  2) Cardinal  3) Robin  4) Woodpecker  5) Goldfinch

All photos taken by [USFWS Midwest Region](https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwsmidwest/) on [Flickr](https://www.flickr.com)
Activity 2: Make a Bird Feeder

Making a bird feeder is an excellent way to attract birds to your backyard!

Materials Needed: Pinecone, twine, Crisco or peanut butter, popsicle stick, plate with bird seed, scissors

Step 1: Cut a piece of twine and wrap it around one end of the pinecone. Tie it tightly so it won’t fall off the tree branch. Tie up the other end to create a loop.

Step 2: Take a popsicle stick and smear Crisco or peanut butter all over the pinecone. The more generous with this part, the better.
Activity 2: Make a Bird Feeder

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Step 3: Roll your pinecone in bird seed or sprinkle the bird seed over the pinecone until the pinecone is completely covered in birdseed.

Step 4: Take your pinecone outside and hang it from a branch or tall object.

Step 5: Wait patiently for the birds to find your feeder and enjoy watching them come and go!
Activity 3: Bird Olympics!

Birds have amazing adaptations that allow them to survive in nature! Do you think your skills can measure up to a bird’s adaptation? Follow the instructions below for the different challenges and see how you measure up!

**CHALLENGE #1**

Large birds such as Bald Eagles have a vast wingspan that is between 6-7 feet.

◊ Stretch your arms as wide as you can and have someone take a measuring tape and measure from fingertip to fingertip to find out what your wingspan is! Record your measurement here

_________feet ________ inches

**CHALLENGE #2**

Cormorants are a type of bird that has to dive underwater to catch fish to eat. The cormorant can stay underwater for up to 70 seconds!

◊ Have your timer or stopwatch ready. When you are ready, take a big breath and see how long you can hold it before taking your next breath. Record how long you held your breath here

___________ seconds.

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**Activity 3: Bird Olympics (continued)**

**CHALLENGE #3:**
Most birds rely on their wings to fly so they can travel all around. Some birds, like the hummingbird, can flap their wings very quickly. They can make between 500-800 wing beats in 10 seconds!

◊ Have a friend time you, when they start the timer, flap your arms like a bird and see how many flaps you can get in 10 seconds! Record your wing beats here

____________ wingbeats in 10 seconds.

**CHALLENGE #4**
Most birds of prey have excellent eye sight, but none measure up to the eyesight of an owl. Because they are nocturnal (active at night), they have excellent vision to help them hunt at night. To help them focus their eyes, they will usually stare for hours before blinking.

◊ Start your timer and time how long you can stare before blinking your eyes. Record your time here

__________ seconds