

Day 1 Bird Species

With the arrival of spring, many birds are returning to Michigan. Go on a walk. See how many different birds you find. Stand still outside for 3-5 minutes. How many birds did you observe in that time? How many different species?



Day 2 Test the Nest

Many birds are making nests. Observe the different types of nests that are being built. Try designing your own nest to hold a toy egg or other round object. First, create a plan for your nest. Then, select natural materials. Finally, build your nest to hold your egg. Find a tree branch to place your nest and egg. Does it work? Can your nest stay in the tree and protect your egg?

Day 3 Eat like a Bird

Practice eating like a bird. Find a clothespin, pliers, tweezers, eyedropper or use your pointer and thumb fingers. Use these tools as beaks. Go outside and search for foods that birds would eat. Which tool worked to grasp the food? Look at different pictures of birds to see how their beaks are different. Compare their beak to the food they eat.

Day 4 Feather Hunt

Search for feathers on the ground. Can you find any? Birds have many different types of feathers. Is the feather you found soft and downy to help keep the bird warm? Is the feather stiff and helps the bird fly? Put the feather back where you found it.

Day 5 Bird Coloring

Birds are changing color from their camouflage winter feathers to bright, attractive colors in order to find a mate. Observe how different colors stand out in your environment. Collect 5-6 different colored objects (crayons, markers, pieces of paper or colorful toys will work). Set them in different places in your backyard. Which colors are easier to see? Which blend into the environment? Can you find birds that represent these colors?

Kindergarten

Where do birds live? Why do you think they live there?

1st Grade

Birds protect their young until they are big enough to care for themselves. Role play taking care of a baby bird. Use a plastic egg or egg you have made. Build a nest for your egg. Then, “sit” on the egg to incubate the egg. Scare away the predators by calling at anyone who comes too close. When the egg “hatches,” find food to bring to the baby bird.

2nd Grade

Visit another ecosystem this week. Observe how many different birds you found in that habitat. Compare it to the walk you went on earlier in the week. Why did you find birds in each habitat?

3rd Grade

Look up pictures of baby birds and their parents. Do they look the same? Do they have characteristics that are the same? What characteristics are different? Compare yourself to an adult in your family. What characteristics do you share?

4th Grade

Birds have different types of beaks adapted for the type of food they eat. Look at pictures of different birds and their beaks. How does their beak help them eat the food? Examine a hummingbird’s beak and how it relates to getting nectar from flowers. Compare a cardinal’s beak and how it eats seeds. Examine an owl, hawk or eagle and their beak. Notice how it is used to eat meat.

5th Grade

Birds eat to have energy. Different birds eat different foods. Birds that eat seeds are herbivores. Birds that eat meat are carnivores. Birds that eat insects are insectivores. Create a menu for each type of bird. Name a bird that would eat off each menu.