

Outdoor Hour Challenge

Learning About Birds

Ebook Sample

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Printable Notebook Pages

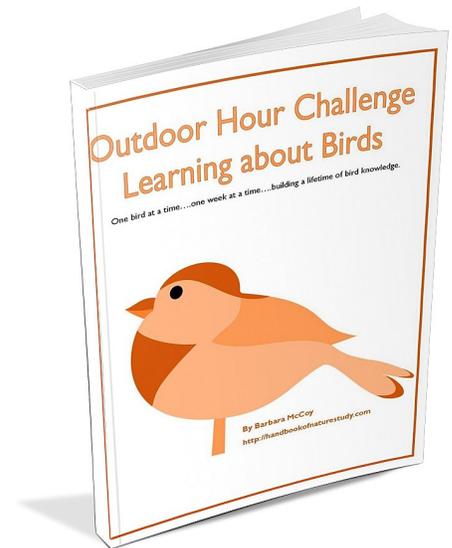
General Bird Notebook Page

Advanced Bird Notebook Page

Bird Observation Sheet

Bird Life List

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Handbook of Nature Study

<http://handbookofnaturestudy.com>

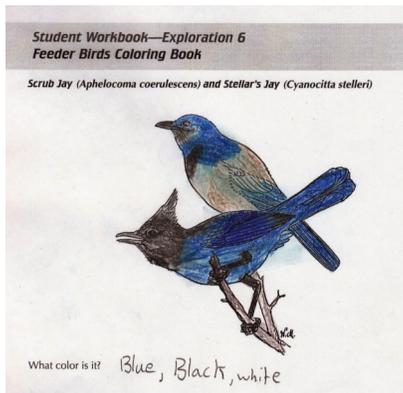
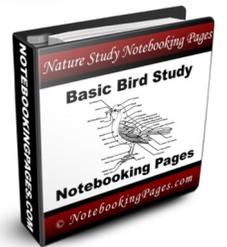
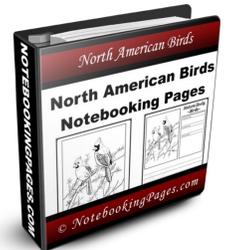
Resources

Here is my [Amazon Store link to the products recommended below](#): [Amazon Affiliate Store](#).

This ebook is designed to introduce you to many of the most common backyard and neighborhood birds you might encounter up close and in person with your family. There are three sources of information that you will need to have on hand to get the most out of each Outdoor Hour Challenge.

1. **Handbook of Nature Study** by Anna Botsford Comstock (ISBN 0801493846). Or you can use the online version of the [Handbook of Nature Study](#) (This version will have different page numbers from the version I use for the challenges but you can find the information in the book by looking up the lesson numbers given in the challenge.)
2. **Backyard Birds** by Karen Stray Nolting (ISBN 978-0395922767).
3. Local bird field guide .

In addition, I highly recommend purchasing both the [Basic Bird Study](#) and [North American Birds](#) sets of notebooking pages from NotebookingPages.com to use with this ebook. These pre-made pages are a perfect complement to the bird study we will be completing and since these are so well made I don't see any need to recreate them here in this ebook. Please note that I am an affiliate for NotebookingPages.com and the links shared in this ebook are affiliate links. I have used these products in my own family and loved them. If you already own a [Lifetime Membership](#), you have access to both these sets in your library.



Use the Cornell Backyard Bird Coloring Book to supplement your nature journal: [Coloring Book PDF](#).

I have included links to the coloring book as a supplementary or extra activity you can offer as part of your nature study follow-up time. Not all children enjoy coloring pages and if they would rather draw their own sketches in their nature journal, so by all means let them record their own drawings.

Supplies and Additional Resources for the Bird Challenges

Basic supplies for nature journals, notebook pages, and coloring pages:

- Pencils, colored pencils, crayons, or fine tip markers for nature journals and coloring pages.
- Notebook for a journal, sketchbook, or paper if you are making your own nature journal.
- 1" binder if you would like to gather your notebook and coloring pages in one spot.

In Addition:

Challenge 1: Birdfeeder and seed of your choice.

Challenge 6: Digital camera for your child to use.

Blue Birds— Jays (Blue Jays, Steller's Jays and Scrub Jays) and Bluebirds (Eastern and Western)

Use the links above to view the information on AllAboutBirds.com

Inside Preparation Work

- ◆ Read the *Handbook of Nature Study* pages 39-40 about bird beaks. Try to think of two birds that you can observe in person to compare their beaks. Use the illustration on page 41 to show different beak shapes. Here is a link that may be useful: [Bird Beaks](#). Use the information on the next page of this ebook to help your child get started learning the names of the bird's body parts.
- ◆ Read in the *Handbook of Nature Study* pages 62-65 (Lesson 12) about the bluebird. You might like to mention that the bluebird is in the thrush family just like the robin and they bear a family resemblance.
- ◆ *Backyard Birds*: Read aloud with your child page 14 and 15 on jays. Jays are easy to spot because of their color and if you have opportunity to observe a jay, make note of the beak shape. Take notice of the field marks pointed out in the illustrations.
- ◆ *Field Guide of Your Choice*: Look up in the index the blue jay and the bluebird. Observe the illustrations carefully and read the narrative descriptions and explanations.



Outdoor Hour Time:

- ◆ Allow at least 10-15 minutes of outdoor time to explore your backyard, neighborhood, or a near-by park. This time you are going to try to focus on finding a bird in order to observe its beak. Every bird has a beak. If you put out a birdfeeder with the last challenge, take a few minutes to make sure it is filled up with seeds. Use the opportunity to observe any birds that visit the feeder during your Outdoor Hour Time. Work on your listening skills each time you go outdoors and try to hear the bird sounds in your neighborhood.

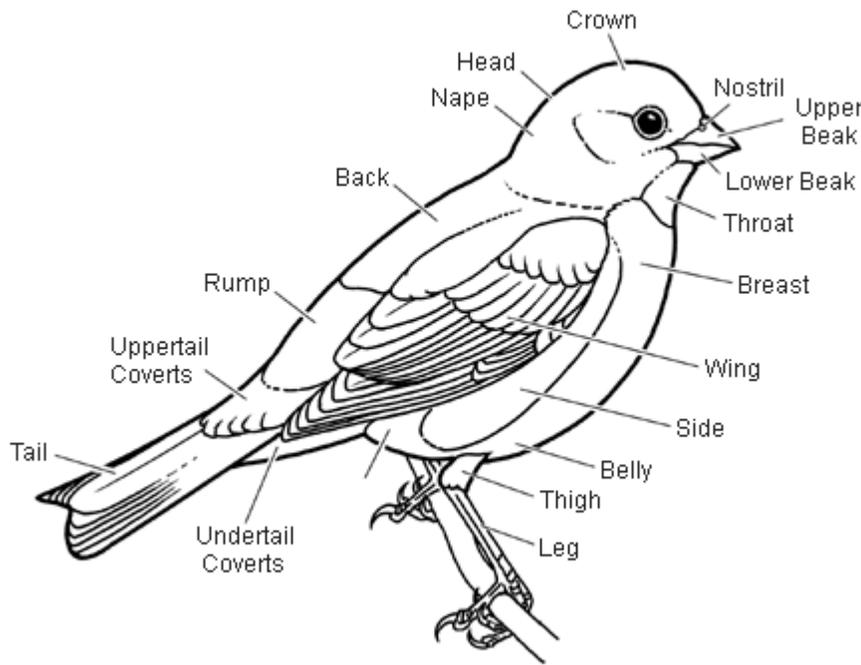
Help your child make careful observations of a bird's beak. Here are a few questions to get you started:

- ⇒ How is the bird using its beak? (eating, pecking, scooping, preening, fluffing, carrying)
- ⇒ Is the bird's beak longer than its head? Shorter than its head?

Follow-Up Activity:

- ◆ There are blank bird notebook pages at the end of this book for you to use with each bird we study.
- ◆ Two of the jays from this challenge are included in Cornell's bird coloring book. <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/NetCommunity/bbimages/PDFs/ColoringBook.pdf> You can use these as the basis of your nature journal or you can use the simple line drawings as a pattern for your bird sketch.
- ◆ If you have the [NotebookingPages.com North American Bird sets](#), you have multiple pages to choose from including the Eastern and Mountain Bluebirds and the Blue Jay. You can also complete a notebook page on beaks included in the [Basic Bird Set from NotebookingPages.com](#). Try to sketch a few shapes of beaks and then explain how they are used by the bird.
- ◆ I also found this link to the National Bluebird Society a great help in our bluebird study and it includes coloring pages for all three bluebirds. <http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org/PDF/educational%20packet.pdf> (see pages 21-23 for the coloring pages).

Learning Bird Part Names

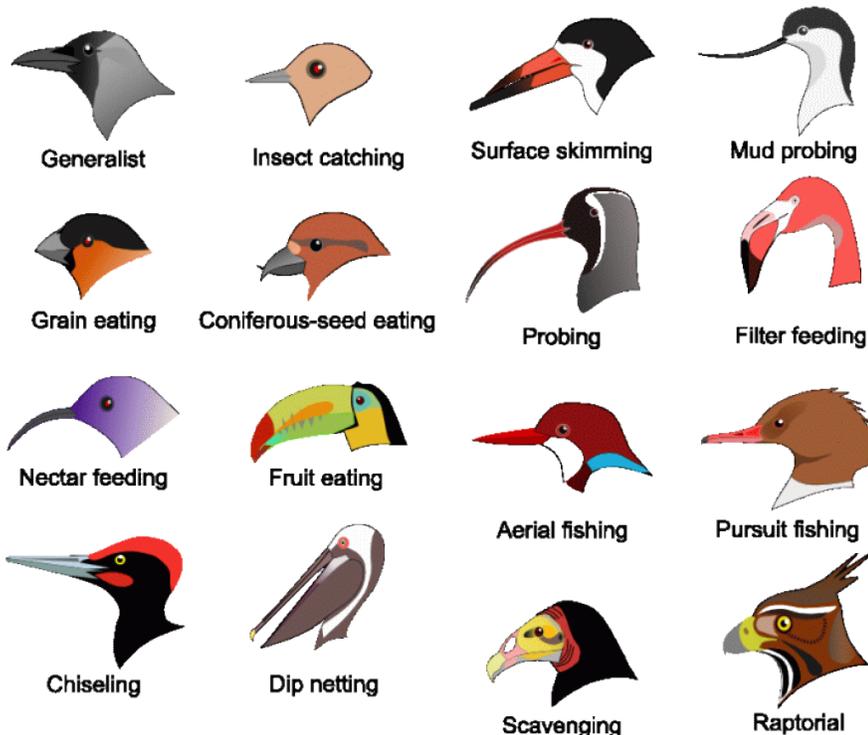


In order to start learning more about birds, it is helpful to know the proper names for the bird's parts. We will start off with the basics: beak (or bill), head, back, wings, tail, and legs.

The best way to get started with learning the bird's body parts is to have your child draw a basic bird

shape in their journal and then label it. Here is an simple example to give you an idea of how to encourage your child to draw the bird in their own journal. If you have Notebooking.com's nature study-Basic Bird set, you can complete one of the pages on bird parts. (pages 5-9)

Starting with the beak, we will begin to see how different birds have different shapes of beaks for a purpose.



“Each kind of bird has a beak especially adapted for getting its food. The beak and feet of a bird are its chief weapons and implements.”

Handbook of Nature Study, page 40

As you begin to observe more and more birds, try to draw attention to the size and shape of the beak, perhaps comparing them to other birds you have observed such as the duck, robin, or hummingbird.

The diversity of bird beaks and their functions.

Image from L. Shyamal on Wikimedia



Blue Jay

Cyanocitta cristata