NatureCity Explorations by Abby

Create Your Own Backyard Bird Journal

Description: Learn about birds in your local neighbourhood by creating our own Backyard Bird Journal.

Materials Needed:

- A journal (you may have this around your house already) or plain paper that can be folded length-wise into a book
- A writing utensil (such as pencil and eraser)
- Colouring pencils or markers
- Merlin Bird ID App
- Binoculars (optional)

Steps:

Step 1. (Optional)

Decorate your bird journal in any way you like. You can use markers, crayons, or any other craft materials you have at home. Or, you can simply write your name on the front.

Step 2. Organize the Pages

Each page should be divided up into sections to properly record your bird findings.

- Top of your page: Include a section to write down the date, time, location and weather for that day.
- Middle of your page: Leave blank space for drawing birds you find.
- Bottom of your page: Include a few lines to record findings such as where the bird was found, what it was eating or anything else related to its behaviour.
- You can make as many bird observation pages as you would like, but we recommend 5 to get you started.

Step 3. Download the Merlin Bird ID App

Before heading out, download the Merlin Bird ID app. The app allows you to easily identify birds in your area.

Step 4. Head Outside!

Grab your binoculars and get outside! You can go birdwatching from anywhere that is accessible to you, from your backyard, apartment balcony, or a city park.

- Use your Backyard Bird Journal to record your findings.
- Use the Merlin Bird ID app to accurately identify birds in your area.

Reflection Questions

After birding, ask your child some questions to help encourage further learning and discussion. Here are some questions to get you started:

1. Did you see any similar birds together, or birds all by themselves? Why do you think they were together or alone?
    a. If the birds were together, do you think they were communicating? How?
2. Why do you think the birds you saw today came to your house/nearby park? What drew them to the environment?
3. Was the bird eating? What do you think it was eating and why? How do you think the bird found its food?
4. What colour was the bird? Why do you think birds are different colours?
5. What did you feel when you saw the bird