



# Bird Detective

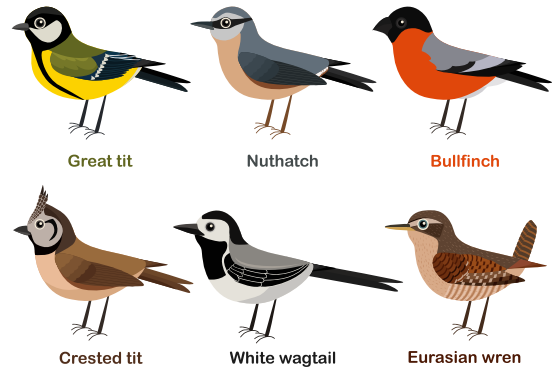
## Introduction

Knowing and understanding birds and bird behavior can help us detect when something is wrong in our ecosystems. Kids focus on bird identification by reviewing the characteristics of the birds that are in their area while they practice their questioning and thinking skills.

## Supplies

### BASICS

- Index cards
- Images of birds
- Scissors
- Glue
- Pen



## Get kids thinking ...

Ask why it is important to be able to identify birds. What are some of the important field marks to look for when identifying a bird?

## Let's get started!

**STEP 1:** Give each child an index card that includes a name of a bird that kids are familiar with or have seen on their Bird Walks. Every card should have a different bird. Help kids find an image of their bird that they can cut out and glue to their card. Tell kids to try not to let anyone else see which bird is on their card.



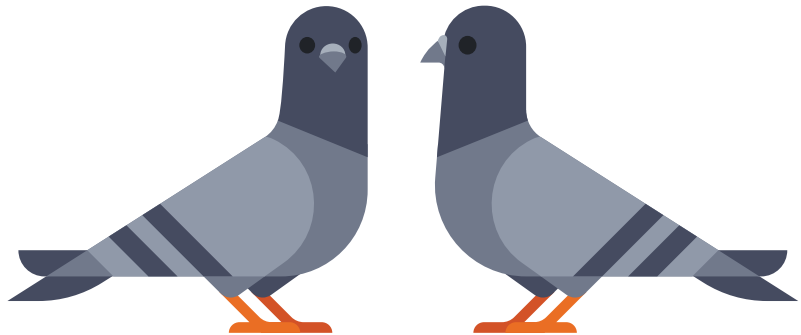


## Start with a Book: Bird Buddies Toolkit

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**STEP 2:** Next, give kids 10–20 minutes to review and jot down facts about their bird in their Bird Journal. They should focus on:

- Size
- Color
- Markings
- Type of beak
- Type of foot
- Food
- Habitat
- Behavior



As kids research and review, get them thinking too about how to ask questions about their bird that can be answered “yes” or “no.” For example in forming questions about the color of the bird, they should not ask “*What color is the bird?*” but “*Does it have any red color?*” Not, “*How large is the bird?*” but “*Is the bird larger than a pigeon?*”

**STEP 3:** When everyone has finished their review, stack the cards image-side down. Then **gather kids into a circle to play!**

### HOW TO PLAY:

The first player grabs a card from the top of the stack. Without looking at the front of the card, the player holds the card up on his or her forehead so that all the other players can see what bird is on the card, but the player cannot.

The player holding the card tries to figure out which bird is on the card by asking only yes/no questions to the other players. The idea is to gradually narrow down the potential options until the player with the card feels confident to name the bird. If the player can't guess the bird after asking 20 questions, others can offer clues to help make the identification.

Give everyone a chance to draw a card and ask questions! More bird games





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### More bird games

#### **PLAY JEOP-BIRDY**

[jeopardylabs.com/play/jeop-birdy-from-flying-wild](http://jeopardylabs.com/play/jeop-birdy-from-flying-wild)

#### **BIRD BINGO (THE CORNELL LAB)**

[birds.cornell.edu/k12/bird-bingo](http://birds.cornell.edu/k12/bird-bingo)

#### **CELEBRATE URBAN BIRDS (THE CORNELL LAB)**

[celebrateurbanbirds.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/CUBs-Kit-2016-Eng-1.pdf](http://celebrateurbanbirds.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/CUBs-Kit-2016-Eng-1.pdf)



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