

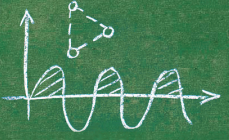


# Opening The Windows Of Curiosity

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## WORLD OF WONDER BIRDING

Exploring the realms of history, science, nature and technology

### Bluebird

These little birds prefer open grassland with scattered trees.



Bird-watching can be enjoyed from your backyard or a nearby park. Some people make special trips just to see an elusive species. Birding is a great way to get outside, explore and hone your observation skills. Birds are sometimes easier to hear than to see, so its important to use your eyes and your ears.

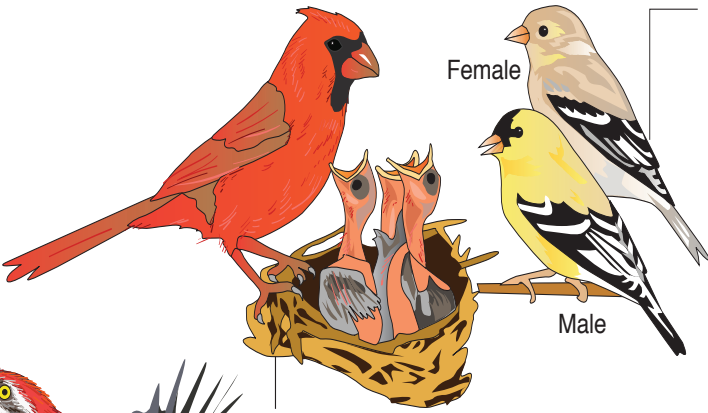
### Bald eagle

These raptors eat mainly fish, but they also hunt mammals, gulls and waterfowl. Look for bald eagles near lakes, rivers, marshes and coasts.



### Goldfinch

In spring and early summer, goldfinches are more brightly colored than in winter, when they are mostly an unstreaked brown with blackish wings.



Female

Male

### Northern cardinal

Northern cardinals live in inhabited areas such as backyards, parks, woodlots and shrubby forest edges.



### Barn owl

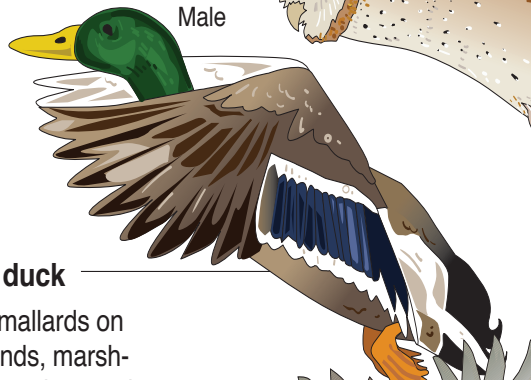
Because they are nocturnal, you will probably spot a barn owl only at night. When seen at night, they can appear all white.



Male

### Mallard duck

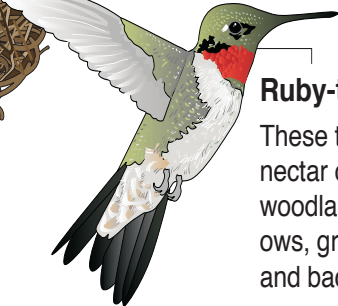
Look for mallards on lakes, ponds, marshes, rivers and coastal habitats, as well as city and suburban parks.



Female

### Ruby-throated hummingbird

These tiny birds feed on the nectar of flowers and live in open woodlands, forest edges, meadows, grasslands, parks, gardens and backyards.



### American robin

These birds are common across North America. Look for them in gardens, parks, fields, pastures and forests.



### Great blue heron

Look for these large birds in saltwater and freshwater habitats.



### Snowy egret

Snowy egrets wade in shallow water to spear fish and other small aquatic animals with their long, sharp bills.



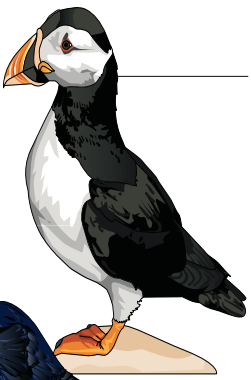
### Western meadowlark

In spring and summer, males can be spotted singing on fences and bushes.



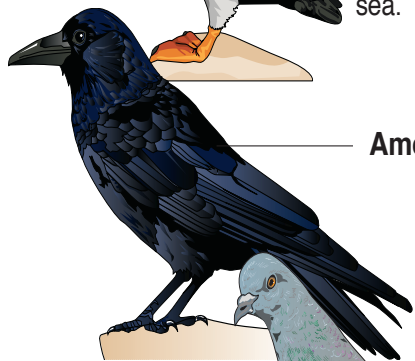
### Atlantic puffin

Atlantic puffins occur across the North Atlantic from Canada to Norway and south to Spain. They nest on rocky islands and spend the rest of the year at sea.



### American crow

These birds are quite large (almost twice the size of a blue jay). They can be spotted in cities, on farms and in forests.



### Rock pigeon

Rock pigeons are a common sight in cities around the world.



## What you need

A beginning birder can just peek out the window or take a walk to look for birds. If you want to take birding to the next level, you will need binoculars, a field guide book, some patience and a sense of adventure. Some people use cameras to record their sightings, while some use a notebook or computer log to keep track of the species they discover.

## Tips and tricks

**Silence is golden.** Birds are easily startled, so remember to whisper, not to shout when you spot that special species.

**Avoid bright clothing.** Wear neutral or dark colors that blend into the environment to help hide you from nervous birds.

**Patience is a virtue.** Sometimes if you wait quietly, the birds will come to you.

**Know the habitat.** Many birds have adapted to a particular habitat. Meadowlarks prefer large open fields; woodpeckers need trees; sparrows favor thickets.

**Get the sun behind you.** It is easier to see and identify birds when the sun is at your back.

**Try pishing.** Some birds are attracted to pishing sounds and will often pop into view to investigate. Here's how to pish: Clench your teeth, open your lips and whisper the word "pish."

SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; <https://act.audubon.org>; Cornell Lab of Ornithology; <https://www.allaboutbirds.org>; Birds of the World; [www.birdwatchersdigest.com](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com)

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