



Please contact the Learning Center Coordinator and let us know you are interested in the Scout Ranger Program at Flight 93 National Memorial. We will answer questions and provide further information to help you work toward the patch or certificate.

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## Bird Study



### Requirements:

1. Explain the need for bird study and why birds are useful indicators of the quality of the environment. Describe how birds are part of the ecosystem.
2. Show that you are familiar with the terms used to describe birds by sketching or tracing a perched bird and then labeling 15 different parts of the bird. Sketch or trace an extended wing and label six types of wing feathers.
3. Demonstrate that you know how to properly use and care for binoculars, a spotting scope, or monocular.
  - a. Explain what the specification numbers mean on binoculars, a spotting scope, or monocular.
  - b. Show how to adjust the eyepiece and how to focus for proper viewing.
  - c. Show how to properly care for and clean the lenses.
  - d. Describe when and where each type of viewing device would be most effective.
4. Demonstrate that you know how to use a bird field guide. Show your counselor that you are able to understand a range map by locating in the book and pointing out the wintering range, the breeding range, and/or the year-round range of one species of each of the following types of birds:
  - a. Seabird
  - b. Plover
  - c. Falcon or hawk

- d. Warbler or vireo
  - e. Heron or egret
  - f. Sparrow
  - g. Nonnative bird (introduced to North America from a foreign country since 1800)
5. Observe and be able to identify at least 20 species of wild birds. Prepare a field notebook, making a separate entry for each species, and record the following information from your field observations and other references.
- a. Note the date and time.
  - b. Note the location and habitat.
  - c. Describe the bird's main feeding habitat and list two types of food that the bird is likely to eat.
  - d. Note whether the bird is a migrant or a summer, winter, or year-round resident of your area.
6. Describe to your counselor how certain orders of birds are uniquely adapted to a specific habitat. In your description, include characteristics such as the size and shape of the following:
- a. Beak
  - b. Body
  - c. Leg and foot
  - d. Feathers/plumage
7. Explain the function of a bird's song. Be able to identify five of the 20 species in your field notebook by song or call alone. For each of these five species, enter a description of the song or call, and note the behavior of the bird making the sound. Note why you think the bird was making the call or song that you heard
- 8.a. Go on a field trip with a local club or with others who are knowledgeable about birds in your area.
- (1) Keep a list or fill out a checklist of all the birds your group observed during the field trip.
  - (2) Tell your counselor which birds your group saw and why some species were common, and some were present in small numbers.
  - (3) Tell you counselor what makes the area you visited good for finding birds.
- 9.a. Build a bird feeder and put it in an appropriate place in your yard or other location. Describe what birds you hope to attract and why.
10. Do the following:
- a. Explain the difference between *extinct*, *endangered*, and *threatened*.
  - b. Identify a bird species that is on the endangered or threatened list. Explain what caused their decline. Discuss with your counselor what can be done to reverse this trend and what can be done to help remove the species from the endangered or threatened list.