



BIRD STUDY

Merit Badge Requirements

- 1) Explain the need for bird study and why birds are useful indicators of the quality of the environment.
- 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) Explain what the specification numbers on the binoculars mean.
 - 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.
- 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*
*(*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) 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.
- 7) Do ONE of the following:
 - 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 your counselor what makes the area you visited good for finding birds.
 - B) By using a public library or contacting the National Audubon Society, find the name and location of the Christmas Bird count nearest your home and obtain the results of a recent count.
 - 1) Explain what kinds of information are collected during the annual event.
 - 2) Tell your counselor which species are most common, and explain why these birds are abundant.
 - 3) Tell your counselor which species are uncommon, and explain why these were present in small numbers. If the number of birds of these species is decreasing, explain why, and what, if anything, could be done to reverse their decline.
- 8) Do ONE of the following. For the option you choose, describe what birds you hope to attract any why.
 - A) Build a bird feeder and put it in an appropriate place in your yard or another location.
 - B) Build a birdbath and put it in an appropriate place.
 - C) Build a backyard sanctuary for birds by planting trees and shrubs for food and cover.

Requirement 1

Explain the need for bird study: _____

Why are birds useful indicators of the quality of the environment? _____

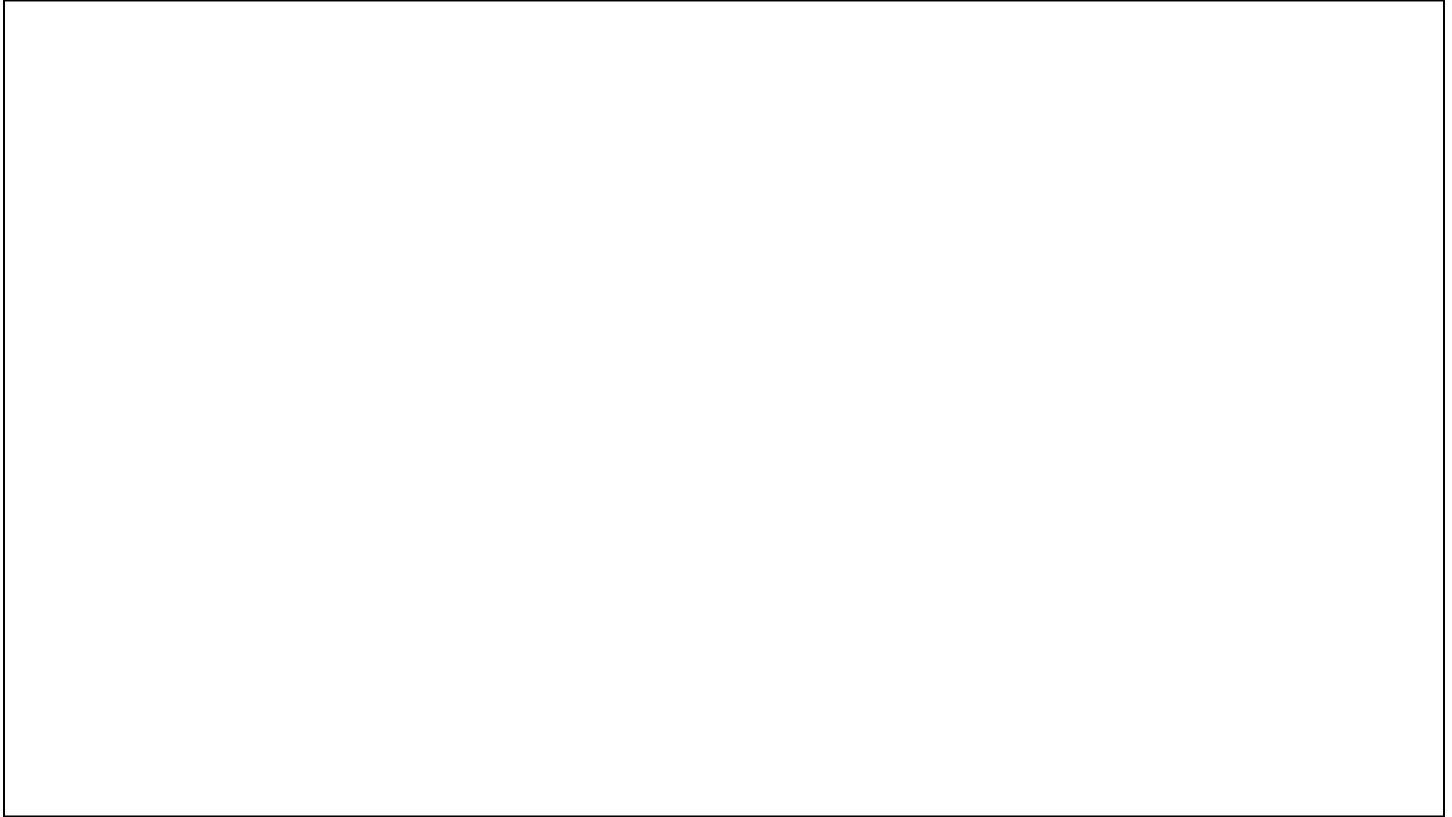
Requirement 2

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.



Scout Name: _____ Unit #: _____ Date: _____

Sketch or trace an extended wing and label the types of wing feathers:



Requirement 3

Describe the proper use and care for binoculars: _____

Tell what the specification numbers on the binoculars mean? _____

___ Demonstrate for your counselor the correct way to adjust the eyepiece and how to focus binoculars for proper viewing.

Describe how to properly care and clean the lenses of binoculars: _____

Scout Name: _____ Unit #: _____ Date: _____

Requirement 4

Demonstrate that you know how to use a bird field guide. Give a brief description and a few tips on using the 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. Name the species. Place a check next to each range name after you have properly identified each range on your map.

Seabird Species: _____ Wintering Range Breeding Range Year-round Range

Plover Species: _____ Wintering Range Breeding Range Year-round Range

Falcon or Hawk Species: _____ Wintering Range Breeding Range Year-round Range

Warbler or Vireo Species: _____ Wintering Range Breeding Range Year-round Range

Heron or Egret Species: _____ Wintering Range Breeding Range Year-round Range

Sparrow Species: _____ Wintering Range Breeding Range Year-round Range

Nonnative Species: _____ Wintering Range Breeding Range Year-round Range

Requirement 5

For this requirement you are asked to observe and be able to identify at least 20 species of wild birds. You need to prepare a field notebook and make an entry for each bird you identify. You may use the following layout as your field notebook or you may choose to create a notebook on your own. Record all the information specified for this requirement.

Bird Name: _____ **Date:** _____ **Time:** _____

Location: _____

Habitat: _____

Birds Main Feeding Habitat: _____

Two Types Of Food The Bird Is Likely To Eat: Food: _____ Food: _____

Bird is (circle one): *Migrant Resident* - *Summer Resident* - *Winter Resident* - *Year-round Resident* to your area.

Bird Name: _____ **Date:** _____ **Time:** _____

Location: _____

Habitat: _____

Birds Main Feeding Habitat: _____

Two Types Of Food The Bird Is Likely To Eat: Food: _____ Food: _____

Bird is (circle one): *Migrant Resident* - *Summer Resident* - *Winter Resident* - *Year-round Resident* to your area.

Scout Name: _____ Unit #: _____ Date: _____

Bird Name: _____ **Date:** _____ **Time:** _____

Location: _____

Habitat: _____

Birds Main Feeding Habitat: _____

Two Types Of Food The Bird Is Likely To Eat: Food: _____ Food: _____

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Location: _____

Habitat: _____

Birds Main Feeding Habitat: _____

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Bird Name: _____ **Date:** _____ **Time:** _____

Location: _____

Habitat: _____

Birds Main Feeding Habitat: _____

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Location: _____

Habitat: _____

Birds Main Feeding Habitat: _____

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Birds Main Feeding Habitat: _____

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Habitat: _____

Birds Main Feeding Habitat: _____

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Location: _____

Habitat: _____

Birds Main Feeding Habitat: _____

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Bird Name: _____ **Date:** _____ **Time:** _____

Location: _____

Habitat: _____

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Scout Name: _____ Unit #: _____ Date: _____

Bird Name: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Location: _____

Habitat: _____

Birds Main Feeding Habitat: _____

Two Types Of Food The Bird Is Likely To Eat: Food: _____ Food: _____

Bird is (circle one): *Migrant Resident* - *Summer Resident* - *Winter Resident* - *Year-round Resident* to your area.

Bird Name: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

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Bird Name: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Location: _____

Habitat: _____

Birds Main Feeding Habitat: _____

Two Types of Food the Bird Is Likely To Eat: Food: _____ Food: _____

Bird is (circle one): *Migrant Resident* - *Summer Resident* - *Winter Resident* - *Year-round Resident* to your area.

Requirement 6

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.

Bird Name: _____

Description of Song or Call: _____

Behavior of Bird Making the Sound: _____

Why do you think this bird was making the call or sound you heard? _____

Bird Name: _____

Description of Song or Call: _____

Behavior of Bird Making the Sound: _____

Why do you think this bird was making the call or sound you heard? _____

Bird Name: _____

Description of Song or Call: _____

Behavior of Bird Making the Sound: _____

Why do you think this bird was making the call or sound you heard? _____

Scout Name: _____ Unit #: _____ Date: _____

Bird Name: _____

Description of Song or Call: _____

Behavior of Bird Making the Sound: _____

Why do you think this bird was making the call or sound you heard? _____

Bird Name: _____

Description of Song or Call: _____

Behavior of Bird Making the Sound: _____

Why do you think this bird was making the call or sound you heard? _____

Requirement 7

You have been given two options for this requirement. Select and complete one of them

If you selected *Option A*:

Go on a field trip with a local club or with others who are knowledgeable about birds in your area:

Date of field trip: _____ Location: _____

Make a list of all the birds your group observed during the field trip:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Scout Name: _____ Unit #: _____ Date: _____

Explain why some of the species you saw were common: _____

Explain why some of the species you saw were present in small numbers: _____

Describe the area you visited on your field trip and tell why this area is good for finding birds: _____

If you selected **Option B**:

By using a public library or contacting the National Audubon Society, find the name and location of the Christmas Bird Count nearest your home.

What were the results of the most recent count? _____

What kinds of information are collected during the annual event? _____

Which species are most common? _____

Why are these birds abundant? _____

Scout Name: _____ Unit #: _____ Date: _____

Which species are uncommon? _____

Why are these birds present in small numbers? _____

If the number of birds of this species is decreasing, explain why? _____

What, if anything, can be done to reverse their decline? _____

Requirement 8

You have been given three options for this requirement. Select and complete one of them.

If you selected *Option A*:

Build a bird feeder and put it in an appropriate place in your yard or another location. Describe the bird feeder and the location you selected: _____

What kinds of birds do you hope to attract with your bird feeder: _____

Why? _____

If you selected *Option B*:

Build a birdbath and put it in an appropriate place. Describe the birdbath you built and the location you selected for it: _____

What kinds of birds do you hope to attract with your birdbath? _____

Why? _____

Scout Name: _____ Unit #: _____ Date: _____

If you selected *Option C*:

Build a backyard sanctuary for birds by planting trees and shrubs for food and cover. Give a brief description of the sanctuary you built: _____

What kinds of birds do you hope to attract with your backyard sanctuary? _____

Why? _____
