# Bird Study Field Notebook

A free notebook for Scouts working on the Bird Study merit badge: 20 species entries, a song and call log, and a Christmas Bird Count worksheet.

Name: _____ Troop: _____

Counselor: _____ Started: _____

## Requirement tracker

Short reminders only. Your counselor works from the official requirements at scouting.org; read those first, since they change from time to time.

| Req. | What it covers (in brief) | Done |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Why bird study matters; birds as signs of a healthy environment | ☐ |
| 2 | Label the parts of a bird and the wing feathers | ☐ |
| 3 | Use and care for binoculars, a spotting scope or a monocular | ☐ |
| 4 | Read field-guide range maps for six kinds of birds | ☐ |
| 5 | Identify 20 wild bird species and keep a field notebook (pages 2 to 6) | ☐ |
| 6 | How beaks, bodies, feet and feathers fit a habitat | ☐ |
| 7 | Songs and calls: identify 5 of your 20 by sound (page 7) | ☐ |
| 8 | One of: a field trip, a Christmas Bird Count report (page 8) or a banding visit | ☐ |
| 9 | One of: build a feeder, bird bath, nest box or sanctuary, or plan a habitat | ☐ |
| 10 | Extinct, endangered and threatened; birds in decline | ☐ |
| 11 | A non-native bird and its effect on the ecosystem | ☐ |
| 12 | Leave No Trace and the Outdoor Code in bird study | ☐ |
| 13 | One of: a bird career or a birding hobby | ☐ |

**Status key for each entry:** *Year-round* = here all year. *Summer* = nests here, leaves in fall. *Winter* = arrives in fall, leaves in spring. *Migrant* = only passes through in spring or fall.

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**1** Species: _____

Date & time: _____ Location & habitat: _____

Main feeding habitat: _____

Two foods it likely eats: _____

Status here: ☐ Year-round ☐ Summer ☐ Winter ☐ Migrant Source: _____

**2** Species: _____

Date & time: _____ Location & habitat: _____

Main feeding habitat: _____

Two foods it likely eats: _____

Status here: ☐ Year-round ☐ Summer ☐ Winter ☐ Migrant Source: _____

**3** Species: _____

Date & time: _____ Location & habitat: _____

Main feeding habitat: _____

Two foods it likely eats: _____

Status here: ☐ Year-round ☐ Summer ☐ Winter ☐ Migrant Source: _____

**4** Species: _____

Date & time: _____ Location & habitat: _____

Main feeding habitat: _____

Two foods it likely eats: _____

Status here: ☐ Year-round ☐ Summer ☐ Winter ☐ Migrant Source: _____

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**5** Species: _____

Date & time: _____ Location & habitat: _____

Main feeding habitat: _____

Two foods it likely eats: _____

Status here: ☐ Year-round ☐ Summer ☐ Winter ☐ Migrant Source: _____

**6** Species: _____

Date & time: _____ Location & habitat: _____

Main feeding habitat: _____

Two foods it likely eats: _____

Status here: ☐ Year-round ☐ Summer ☐ Winter ☐ Migrant Source: _____

**7** Species: _____

Date & time: _____ Location & habitat: _____

Main feeding habitat: _____

Two foods it likely eats: _____

Status here: ☐ Year-round ☐ Summer ☐ Winter ☐ Migrant Source: _____

**8** Species: _____

Date & time: _____ Location & habitat: _____

Main feeding habitat: _____

Two foods it likely eats: _____

Status here: ☐ Year-round ☐ Summer ☐ Winter ☐ Migrant Source: _____

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**9** Species: _____

Date & time: _____ Location & habitat: _____

Main feeding habitat: _____

Two foods it likely eats: _____

Status here: ☐ Year-round ☐ Summer ☐ Winter ☐ Migrant Source: _____

**10** Species: _____

Date & time: _____ Location & habitat: _____

Main feeding habitat: _____

Two foods it likely eats: _____

Status here: ☐ Year-round ☐ Summer ☐ Winter ☐ Migrant Source: _____

**11** Species: _____

Date & time: _____ Location & habitat: _____

Main feeding habitat: _____

Two foods it likely eats: _____

Status here: ☐ Year-round ☐ Summer ☐ Winter ☐ Migrant Source: _____

**12** Species: _____

Date & time: _____ Location & habitat: _____

Main feeding habitat: _____

Two foods it likely eats: _____

Status here: ☐ Year-round ☐ Summer ☐ Winter ☐ Migrant Source: _____

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**13** Species: _____

Date & time: _____ Location & habitat: _____

Main feeding habitat: _____

Two foods it likely eats: _____

Status here: ☐ Year-round ☐ Summer ☐ Winter ☐ Migrant Source: _____

**14** Species: _____

Date & time: _____ Location & habitat: _____

Main feeding habitat: _____

Two foods it likely eats: _____

Status here: ☐ Year-round ☐ Summer ☐ Winter ☐ Migrant Source: _____

**15** Species: _____

Date & time: _____ Location & habitat: _____

Main feeding habitat: _____

Two foods it likely eats: _____

Status here: ☐ Year-round ☐ Summer ☐ Winter ☐ Migrant Source: _____

**16** Species: _____

Date & time: _____ Location & habitat: _____

Main feeding habitat: _____

Two foods it likely eats: _____

Status here: ☐ Year-round ☐ Summer ☐ Winter ☐ Migrant Source: _____

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**17** Species: _____

Date & time: _____ Location & habitat: _____

Main feeding habitat: _____

Two foods it likely eats: _____

Status here: ☐ Year-round ☐ Summer ☐ Winter ☐ Migrant Source: _____

**18** Species: _____

Date & time: _____ Location & habitat: _____

Main feeding habitat: _____

Two foods it likely eats: _____

Status here: ☐ Year-round ☐ Summer ☐ Winter ☐ Migrant Source: _____

**19** Species: _____

Date & time: _____ Location & habitat: _____

Main feeding habitat: _____

Two foods it likely eats: _____

Status here: ☐ Year-round ☐ Summer ☐ Winter ☐ Migrant Source: _____

**20** Species: _____

Date & time: _____ Location & habitat: _____

Main feeding habitat: _____

Two foods it likely eats: _____

Status here: ☐ Year-round ☐ Summer ☐ Winter ☐ Migrant Source: _____

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# Song and Call Log: 5 Species by Ear

A **song** is usually longer and more musical, mostly sung by males in spring to claim territory or attract a mate. A **call** is short and used all year: alarms, contact calls, begging. Describe the sound in your own words (for example, "fee-bee, two clear whistles, second one lower").

**1** Species (from my 20): _____ ☐ Song ☐ Call

What it sounded like: _____

What the bird was doing: _____

Why I think it was singing or calling: _____

**2** Species (from my 20): _____ ☐ Song ☐ Call

What it sounded like: _____

What the bird was doing: _____

Why I think it was singing or calling: _____

**3** Species (from my 20): _____ ☐ Song ☐ Call

What it sounded like: _____

What the bird was doing: _____

Why I think it was singing or calling: _____

**4** Species (from my 20): _____ ☐ Song ☐ Call

What it sounded like: _____

What the bird was doing: _____

Why I think it was singing or calling: _____

**5** Species (from my 20): _____ ☐ Song ☐ Call

What it sounded like: _____

What the bird was doing: _____

Why I think it was singing or calling: _____

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# Christmas Bird Count Worksheet

For the option that has you look up the count nearest your home and study its results. Audubon's Christmas Bird Count runs every year from December 14 to January 5; find counts and past results on audubon.org.

Count name: _____ Count code: _____

Count date and year of results: _____ Distance from home: _____

## What information is collected?

_____

_____

_____

## Most common species

| Species | Number | Why so many? |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

## Uncommon species

| Species | Number | Why so few? Declining? What could help? |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

## Notes for my counselor

_____

_____

_____

_____

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