BIRD WATCH QUEST

AGES
Children 5–8

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
This program is an in-library bird scavenger hunt for budding twitchers! Hang photos of individual birds throughout the library, each with a QR code that links to the sound that bird makes. Children receive small birding journals in which they identify the birds they find. This program can be passive or require engagement throughout the summer (i.e., you can “release” a new bird every week). Children will love learning about the birds they see in their own neighborhood. Suggested runtime: Passive.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION
Materials:
- Printed birding journals (1 per participant)
- Printed photos of birds (to hang)
- Generated QR codes for bird sounds, added to each bird
- Clipboards (optional)
- Crayons or colored pencils (optional)
- Prizes

Preparation, if making your own booklet:
- Research birds and choose a few that are local to your area.
- Create and print birding journals with a checkbox for each bird.
- Decide whether to “release” one bird per week or all at once.
- Create a QR code that links to the sound of each bird.
- Print photographs of the birds you want to use for your quest (with QR codes).
- Hang them up on your chosen schedule.
- When ready, invite patrons to join your library’s Bird Watch Quest. Give fun hints.
- Give rewards to those who finish the quest by identifying all the birds.

RESOURCES
Web

TIP:
Provide rewards for those who complete the quest! Think bird whistles, bird stickers, binoculars, etc.

ADAPTATION:
For tweens, omit the bird IDs from the birding journals, and set out bird books for them to ID the birds on their own.

TIP:
Create a display of bird field guides and bird-themed books that participants can use for further exploration.

Books

Picture Books
Emperor Penguin (Young Zoologist) (2022) by Dr. Michelle LaRue and illustrated by Pham Quang Phuc
A Peek at Beaks: Tools Birds Use (2021) by Sara Levine and illustrated by Kate Slater
Feathers Together (2022) by Caron Levis and illustrated by Charles Santoso
A Garden to Save the Birds (2021) by Wendy McClure and illustrated by Beatriz Mayumi
Harriet’s Ruffled Feathers: The Woman Who Saved Millions of Birds (2022) by Joy McCullough and illustrated by Romina Galotta
A Warbler’s Journey (2022) by Scott Weidensaul and illustrated by Nancy Lane

Early Readers and Middle Grade
The Extraordinary World of Birds (2022) by David Lindo and illustrated by Clair McElfatrick (early reader)
How to Feed Backyard Birds (2022) by Chris Earley (middle grade)
The Puffin Keeper (2022) by Michael Morpurgo and illustrated by Benji Davies (middle grade)

Printables

Birding Journal (in English and Spanish)

Birding Journal Booklet Printing Instructions:
1. Print pages 3-6 of this pdf in color if you want both the English and Spanish versions. If you want the English version only, print pages 3-4. If you want the Spanish version only, print pages 5-6.
2. Make sure your printer settings are correct:
   a. Select color for easiest bird identification
   b. Print the pages double-sided
   c. Select “flip on the long edge”
3. Once you have all the pages printed, cut each page on the dotted lines and arrange with the Birding Journal graphic as the first page and last page (a cover for the booklet).
4. Then, fold the individual pages in half vertically to create the booklet
5. Staple the edge to keep it together

They’re ready to hand out to customers for a fun activity around the library as passive programming or part of a fun adventure program!
Listen! American Robin

Listen! Northern Mockingbird
2. Listen!

American Goldfinch

4. Listen!

Blue Jay

6. Listen!

Mourning Dove
2. ¡escucha!

Jilguero americano

4. ¡escucha!

Arrendajo azul

6. ¡escucha!

Paloma de luto