

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Project: Feed the Birds

**Purpose:** To identify the birds which live in, or visit, your habitat.

Many habitats are visited by a wide variety of different bird species. In this project, we will use different sources of bird food to try and attract birds to our habitat. We will try and identify all the birds we sight visiting our habitat, and determine which food source each species prefers. It will help to know something about the different feeding habits of native bird species before we start this project.



### Materials Needed:

1. **Library books** or other resources with information on bird species native to your habitat.
2. Habitat Tracker© **Worksheets**
  - a. Habitat Reference
  - b. Wildlife Identification
  - c. Wildlife Sighting
3. Different types of **bird seed**
4. Structures to function as '**bird feeders**'

### Project:

1. **Do some research** in order to learn about the different bird species that you might find visiting your habitat.
  - i. Using a book or other type of **reference media**, research bird species you would be likely to find in your habitat type and geographic location.
  - ii. Complete a **Habitat Reference Worksheet** for each of the different resource materials utilized.
  - iii. Complete a **Wildlife Identification Worksheet** for each specie of bird you might find in, or attract to, your habitat. Be sure to **note the feeding habits** of each specie, such as food source in a natural environment (not bird seed placed in a feeder by man).
2. **Enter the data** you have collected during your research into Habitat Tracker©.
  - i. Using your **Wildlife Identification Worksheets**, set up a record for each different bird specie into Habitat Tracker© (if not already set up).
  - ii. Enter the information recorded on the **Habitat Reference Worksheet** into Habitat Tracker©.
    - i. Set up a record for each resource utilized into Habitat Tracker©.

- ii. **Create** one or more **Note records** to track different pieces of information learned from each resource.
    - iii. **Associate the Note record** to the bird specie(s) to which it may refer. (See instructions that follow on how to associate the Note).
  3. Using the knowledge you have acquired in your research, **attract birds** to your habitat.
    - i. **Acquire different types of bird foods** that you have identified through your research as being foods that would mimic natural food sources for the different bird species in your region. (These foods might include different types of seeds, dried flower heads, suet, fresh fruit, dried fruit, insects, etc)
    - ii. **Place these foods in your habitat** in a manner in which they might naturally be found by birds in the wild. For instance, foods that would normally be found at ground level should be placed close to the ground. Foods for species that normally feed higher up, should be placed at elevated levels.
      - i. Note that both height and shelter/protection will be factors in attracting birds to the food you are attempting to offer.
      - ii. Place small amounts of food at a time, then replenish as needed. (**Extra Credit:** Use a **Habitat Diagram Worksheet** to map where you are placing each type of food in your Habitat.)
      - iii. Position the foods in places that will make it easy for you to observe the birds that come to feed on your offerings.
  4. **Make your observations:**
    - i. Print out some **Wildlife Sighting Worksheets**.
    - ii. Each day, spend some time observing your habitat and recording the different birds that **visit your habitat** and feed from the food you have offered.
    - iii. **Record a Wildlife Sighting** for each bird you notice visiting your Habitat each day.
      - i. Be sure to record Sighting Date and Time of day for each Wildlife Sighting.
      - ii. If you can tell that 2 or 3 (or more) individual birds of a particular specie are all visiting your habitat, create a separate sighting for each animal.
      - iii. If a bird has particular markings, so that you can identify that individual in the specie, you can set up a Wildlife Individual Record in Habitat Tracker® and record each time you sight that particular bird.
      - iv. In the Comment section of the Wildlife Sighting Worksheet, note the type of food, and the food placement, that each specie is feeding on.
  5. **Enter your observations** into Habitat Tracker®.  
(Follow the instructions throughout the Habitat Tracker® Workbook for entering data into Habitat Tracker®.)
    - i. **Enter the Wildlife Sighting Data**
    - ii. If not done so already, try and **designate** each bird specie in terms of **Consumer Type and Food Chain Level**

(This data is entered through the Wildlife record for that specie. Go to the Habitat Info tab.)

- iii. For any Bird Species that you identified while observing your habitat that were not already entered into Habitat Tracker®, **set up** those **new records** now.
- iv. Information in the Comment section of the Wildlife Sighting Worksheet that does not fit directly into a Wildlife Sighting or Wildlife Specie record should be entered as a **Note** in Habitat Tracker®, and then associated to the Sighting and Specie(s) records.

#### 6. Analyze your Wildlife Sighting Data

Using some of the different Analysis Reports in Habitat Tracker®, learn some facts about the birds that have visited your Habitat:

- i. **List** the different **Bird Species** that have visited your Habitat.
- ii. For each Bird Specie Sighted, **List** each Sighting.
- iii. **List all** of the **Wildlife Sightings** you made during this project.
- iv. During the time that you were working on this project,
  - i. How many Bird Species did you sight visiting your habitat?
  - ii. How many Birds did you sight?
- v. What was the **percentage of each Bird Specie** sighted relative to all the Wildlife Sightings made during this project?
- vi. Create a **List** of all the birds that have visited your Habitat, **grouped by Consumer Group**.
- vii. Create a List of all the birds that have visited your Habitat, **grouped by Food Chain Level**.
- viii. If your observations were made at different times of day, were there any species that were **sighted more often at certain times during the day?** (Morning verses afternoon, for instance)
- ix. **Extra Credit: Create a bar chart** graph of your bird sightings.  
(This Bar Chart can be created by hand, or by using a spreadsheet application like Microsoft Excel)
  - i. X Axis displays each bird specie
  - ii. Y Axis is number of sightings