

Bird Study

Field Notebook

A notebook for twenty wild birds: when and where you saw each one, its field marks, what it eats, whether it stays all year, and five you know by ear.



NAME _____

TROOP, CREW OR CLUB _____

COUNSELOR OR LEADER _____

STARTED _____ FINISHED _____

HOW TO USE THIS NOTEBOOK

- 1 **In the field**, write down every bird on the field log (page 3): the date and time, the place and its habitat, its field marks (the colors, stripes and shapes that tell one bird from another) and what it was doing. Print that page as often as you need.
- 2 **Back home**, give each species its own entry (pages 4 to 13). Add where it finds its food, two foods it is likely to eat, and whether it is a migrant or a summer, winter or year-round resident where you live. A field guide or a bird app helps with these.
- 3 **Keep count** on My 20 species (page 2), and **learn 5 by ear**: fill in Songs and calls (page 14) for five of your birds you can name by sound alone.
- 4 **Bring the notebook** when you meet your counselor or leader.

WHAT'S INSIDE

2 **My 20 species**
your list, with the page of each entry

4–13 **Species entries**
twenty, two a page, each with a sketch box

15 **Field trip list**
a tally for a trip with a bird club

3 **Field log**
one line per bird, in the field

14 **Songs and calls**
five birds you know by ear

16 **Sketch and label**
a perched bird and a spread wing

Made to fit the Bird Study merit badge requirements 5 and 7 (Scouting America); pages 15 and 16 help with requirements 8a and 2. Also suits 4-H bird and wildlife projects that ask you to observe and record birds.

Birdfolio is not affiliated with or endorsed by Scouting America or 4-H. Requirements change, so check the current ones with your counselor. Free to print and copy for your troop, class or club.

My 20 species

One line for each new species, then give it its own entry. Tick the last box for the five you can name by song or call alone.

#	SPECIES	DATE	WHERE	PAGE	BY EAR
1				4	☐
2				4	☐
3				5	☐
4				5	☐
5				6	☐
6				6	☐
7				7	☐
8				7	☐
9				8	☐
10				8	☐
11				9	☐
12				9	☐
13				10	☐
14				10	☐
15				11	☐
16				11	☐
17				12	☐
18				12	☐
19				13	☐
20				13	☐

SPECIES IDENTIFIED _____ of 20

KNOWN BY EAR _____ of 5

The page column shows where each entry is: entry 1 and entry 2 share page 4, and so on. Seen more than 20? Keep going on the field log, and print a few more entry pages.

Field log

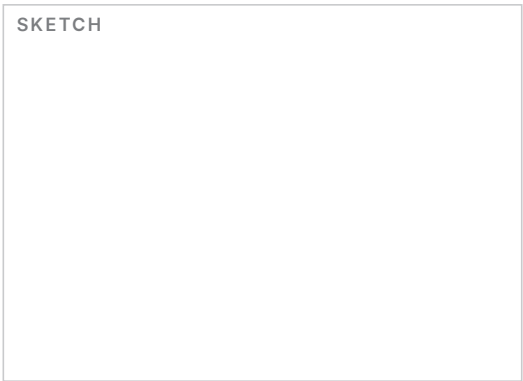
Quick notes in the field, one line for each bird. Print this page as often as you need.

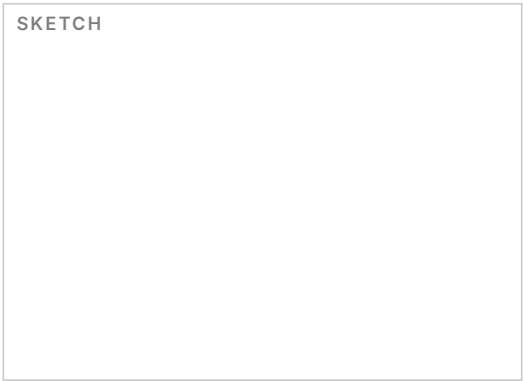
DATE AND TIME	PLACE AND HABITAT	SPECIES	FIELD MARKS	BEHAVIOR AND FOOD	HERE WHEN?
					M S W Y
					M S W Y
					M S W Y
					M S W Y
					M S W Y
					M S W Y
					M S W Y
					M S W Y
					M S W Y
					M S W Y
					M S W Y
					M S W Y
					M S W Y
					M S W Y
					M S W Y
					M S W Y
					M S W Y
					M S W Y
					M S W Y
					M S W Y
					M S W Y

Here when? Circle one: **M** migrant, just passing through · **S** summer resident · **W** winter resident · **Y** here all year. Not sure? Look it up later in a field guide and add it to the bird's entry.

Species entries

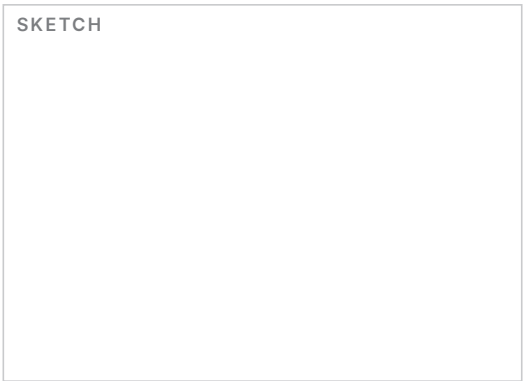
ENTRIES 1 AND 2

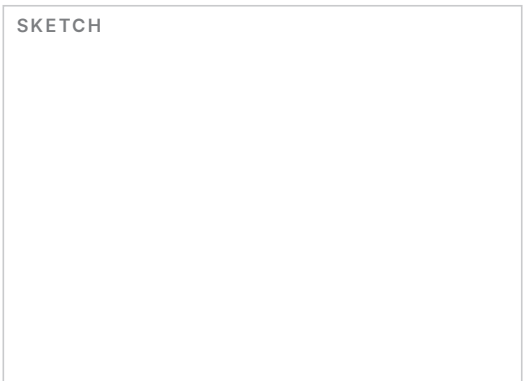
ENTRY 1		SPECIES _____
DATE _____	TIME _____	SKETCH 
LOCATION _____		
HABITAT woods, field, wetland, yard, shore... _____		
FIELD MARKS size, shape, colors, markings _____ _____		
WHAT IT WAS DOING _____		
MAIN FEEDING HABITAT where it finds its food _____		
TWO FOODS IT LIKELY EATS 1 _____ 2 _____		
HERE WHEN? ☐ Migrant ☐ Summer resident ☐ Winter resident ☐ Year-round resident		
FACTS FROM ☐ What I saw ☐ A field guide, app or other reference		
NOTES _____		

ENTRY 2		SPECIES _____
DATE _____	TIME _____	SKETCH 
LOCATION _____		
HABITAT woods, field, wetland, yard, shore... _____		
FIELD MARKS size, shape, colors, markings _____ _____		
WHAT IT WAS DOING _____		
MAIN FEEDING HABITAT where it finds its food _____		
TWO FOODS IT LIKELY EATS 1 _____ 2 _____		
HERE WHEN? ☐ Migrant ☐ Summer resident ☐ Winter resident ☐ Year-round resident		
FACTS FROM ☐ What I saw ☐ A field guide, app or other reference		
NOTES _____		

Species entries

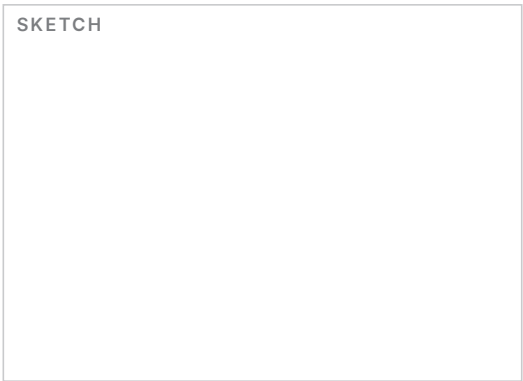
ENTRIES 3 AND 4

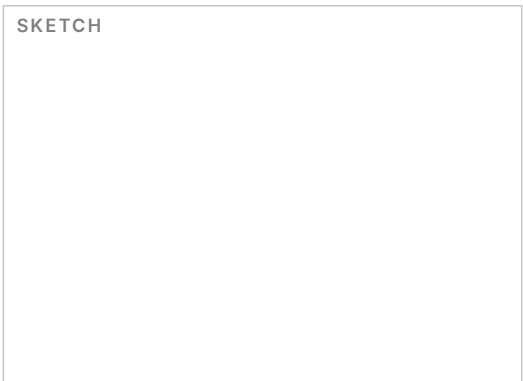
ENTRY 3		SPECIES _____
DATE _____	TIME _____	SKETCH 
LOCATION _____		
HABITAT woods, field, wetland, yard, shore... _____		
FIELD MARKS size, shape, colors, markings _____ _____		
WHAT IT WAS DOING _____		
MAIN FEEDING HABITAT where it finds its food _____		
TWO FOODS IT LIKELY EATS 1 _____ 2 _____		
HERE WHEN? ☐ Migrant ☐ Summer resident ☐ Winter resident ☐ Year-round resident		
FACTS FROM ☐ What I saw ☐ A field guide, app or other reference		
NOTES _____		

ENTRY 4		SPECIES _____
DATE _____	TIME _____	SKETCH 
LOCATION _____		
HABITAT woods, field, wetland, yard, shore... _____		
FIELD MARKS size, shape, colors, markings _____ _____		
WHAT IT WAS DOING _____		
MAIN FEEDING HABITAT where it finds its food _____		
TWO FOODS IT LIKELY EATS 1 _____ 2 _____		
HERE WHEN? ☐ Migrant ☐ Summer resident ☐ Winter resident ☐ Year-round resident		
FACTS FROM ☐ What I saw ☐ A field guide, app or other reference		
NOTES _____		

Species entries

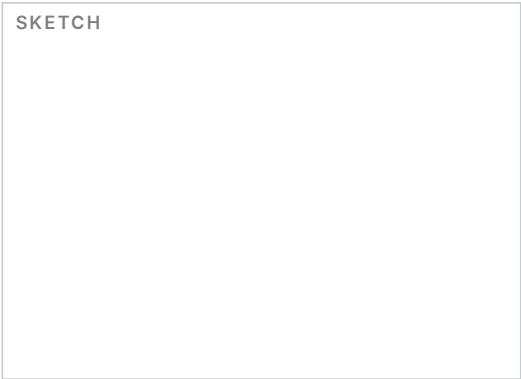
ENTRIES 5 AND 6

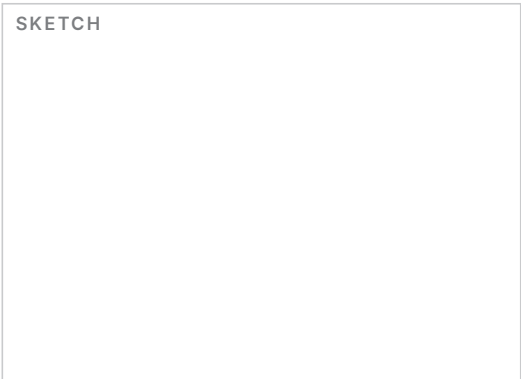
ENTRY 5		SPECIES _____
DATE _____	TIME _____	SKETCH 
LOCATION _____		
HABITAT woods, field, wetland, yard, shore... _____		
FIELD MARKS size, shape, colors, markings _____ _____		
WHAT IT WAS DOING _____		
MAIN FEEDING HABITAT where it finds its food _____		
TWO FOODS IT LIKELY EATS 1 _____ 2 _____		
HERE WHEN? ☐ Migrant ☐ Summer resident ☐ Winter resident ☐ Year-round resident		
FACTS FROM ☐ What I saw ☐ A field guide, app or other reference		
NOTES _____		

ENTRY 6		SPECIES _____
DATE _____	TIME _____	SKETCH 
LOCATION _____		
HABITAT woods, field, wetland, yard, shore... _____		
FIELD MARKS size, shape, colors, markings _____ _____		
WHAT IT WAS DOING _____		
MAIN FEEDING HABITAT where it finds its food _____		
TWO FOODS IT LIKELY EATS 1 _____ 2 _____		
HERE WHEN? ☐ Migrant ☐ Summer resident ☐ Winter resident ☐ Year-round resident		
FACTS FROM ☐ What I saw ☐ A field guide, app or other reference		
NOTES _____		

Species entries

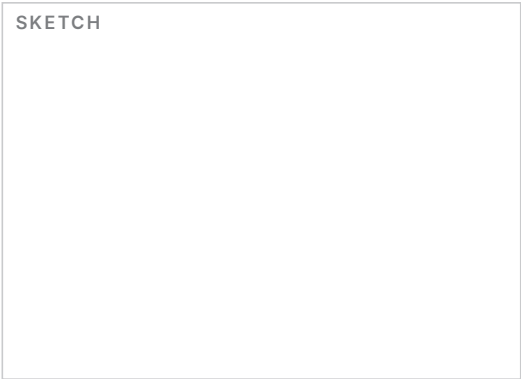
ENTRIES 7 AND 8

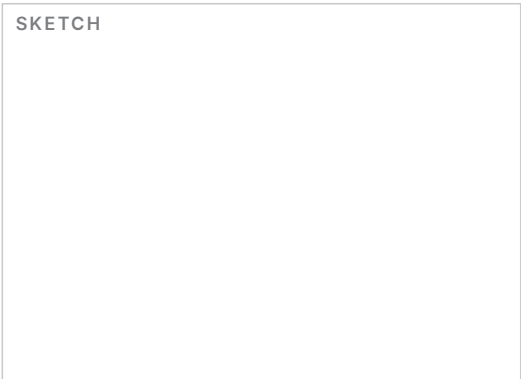
ENTRY 7		SPECIES _____
DATE _____	TIME _____	SKETCH 
LOCATION _____		
HABITAT woods, field, wetland, yard, shore... _____		
FIELD MARKS size, shape, colors, markings _____ _____		
WHAT IT WAS DOING _____		
MAIN FEEDING HABITAT where it finds its food _____		
TWO FOODS IT LIKELY EATS 1 _____ 2 _____		
HERE WHEN? ☐ Migrant ☐ Summer resident ☐ Winter resident ☐ Year-round resident		
FACTS FROM ☐ What I saw ☐ A field guide, app or other reference		
NOTES _____		

ENTRY 8		SPECIES _____
DATE _____	TIME _____	SKETCH 
LOCATION _____		
HABITAT woods, field, wetland, yard, shore... _____		
FIELD MARKS size, shape, colors, markings _____ _____		
WHAT IT WAS DOING _____		
MAIN FEEDING HABITAT where it finds its food _____		
TWO FOODS IT LIKELY EATS 1 _____ 2 _____		
HERE WHEN? ☐ Migrant ☐ Summer resident ☐ Winter resident ☐ Year-round resident		
FACTS FROM ☐ What I saw ☐ A field guide, app or other reference		
NOTES _____		

Species entries

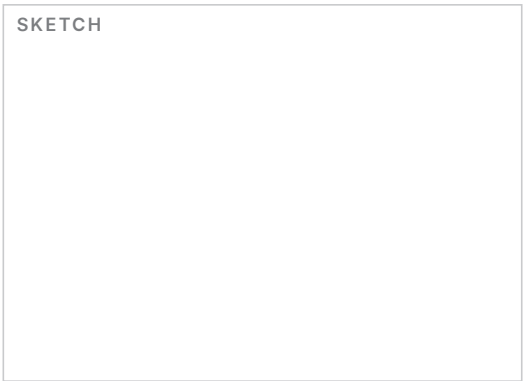
ENTRIES 9 AND 10

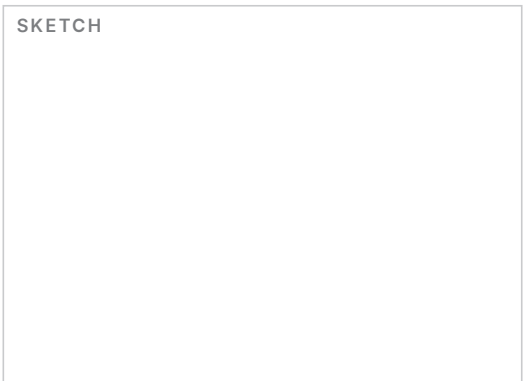
ENTRY 9		SPECIES _____
DATE _____	TIME _____	SKETCH 
LOCATION _____		
HABITAT woods, field, wetland, yard, shore... _____		
FIELD MARKS size, shape, colors, markings _____ _____		
WHAT IT WAS DOING _____		
MAIN FEEDING HABITAT where it finds its food _____		
TWO FOODS IT LIKELY EATS 1 _____ 2 _____		
HERE WHEN? ☐ Migrant ☐ Summer resident ☐ Winter resident ☐ Year-round resident		
FACTS FROM ☐ What I saw ☐ A field guide, app or other reference		
NOTES _____		

ENTRY 10		SPECIES _____
DATE _____	TIME _____	SKETCH 
LOCATION _____		
HABITAT woods, field, wetland, yard, shore... _____		
FIELD MARKS size, shape, colors, markings _____ _____		
WHAT IT WAS DOING _____		
MAIN FEEDING HABITAT where it finds its food _____		
TWO FOODS IT LIKELY EATS 1 _____ 2 _____		
HERE WHEN? ☐ Migrant ☐ Summer resident ☐ Winter resident ☐ Year-round resident		
FACTS FROM ☐ What I saw ☐ A field guide, app or other reference		
NOTES _____		

Species entries

ENTRIES 11 AND 12

ENTRY 11		SPECIES _____
DATE _____	TIME _____	SKETCH 
LOCATION _____		
HABITAT woods, field, wetland, yard, shore... _____		
FIELD MARKS size, shape, colors, markings _____ _____		
WHAT IT WAS DOING _____		
MAIN FEEDING HABITAT where it finds its food _____		
TWO FOODS IT LIKELY EATS 1 _____ 2 _____		
HERE WHEN? ☐ Migrant ☐ Summer resident ☐ Winter resident ☐ Year-round resident		
FACTS FROM ☐ What I saw ☐ A field guide, app or other reference		
NOTES _____		

ENTRY 12		SPECIES _____
DATE _____	TIME _____	SKETCH 
LOCATION _____		
HABITAT woods, field, wetland, yard, shore... _____		
FIELD MARKS size, shape, colors, markings _____ _____		
WHAT IT WAS DOING _____		
MAIN FEEDING HABITAT where it finds its food _____		
TWO FOODS IT LIKELY EATS 1 _____ 2 _____		
HERE WHEN? ☐ Migrant ☐ Summer resident ☐ Winter resident ☐ Year-round resident		
FACTS FROM ☐ What I saw ☐ A field guide, app or other reference		
NOTES _____		

ENTRY

13

SPECIES _____

DATE _____

TIME _____

LOCATION _____

HABITAT woods, field, wetland, yard, shore... _____

FIELD MARKS size, shape, colors, markings _____

WHAT IT WAS DOING _____

MAIN FEEDING HABITAT where it finds its food _____

TWO FOODS IT LIKELY EATS 1 _____ 2 _____

HERE WHEN? ☐ Migrant ☐ Summer resident ☐ Winter resident ☐ Year-round resident

FACTS FROM ☐ What I saw ☐ A field guide, app or other reference

NOTES _____

SKETCH

ENTRY

14

SPECIES _____

DATE _____

TIME _____

LOCATION _____

HABITAT woods, field, wetland, yard, shore... _____

FIELD MARKS size, shape, colors, markings _____

WHAT IT WAS DOING _____

MAIN FEEDING HABITAT where it finds its food _____

TWO FOODS IT LIKELY EATS 1 _____ 2 _____

HERE WHEN? ☐ Migrant ☐ Summer resident ☐ Winter resident ☐ Year-round resident

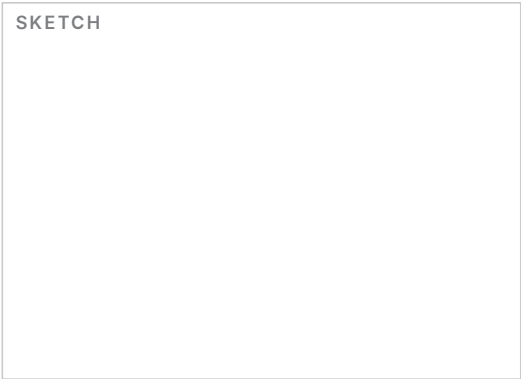
FACTS FROM ☐ What I saw ☐ A field guide, app or other reference

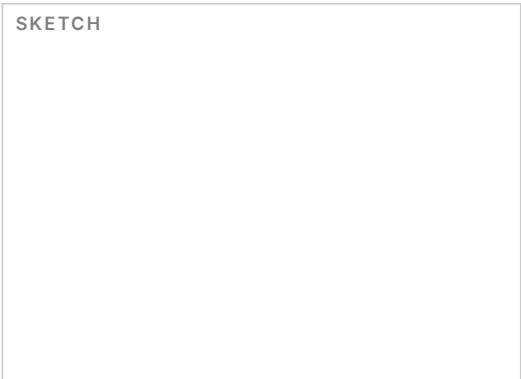
NOTES _____

SKETCH

Species entries

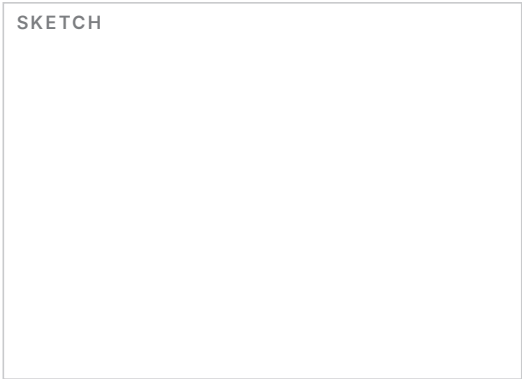
ENTRIES 15 AND 16

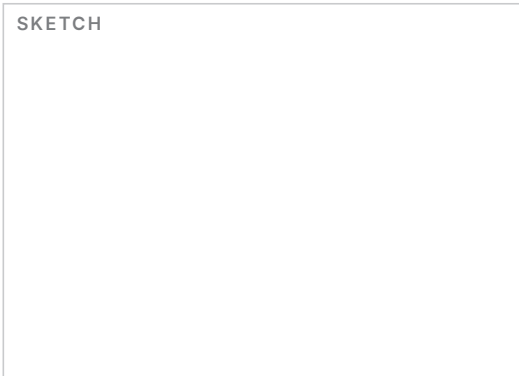
ENTRY 15		SPECIES _____
DATE _____	TIME _____	SKETCH 
LOCATION _____		
HABITAT woods, field, wetland, yard, shore... _____		
FIELD MARKS size, shape, colors, markings _____ _____		
WHAT IT WAS DOING _____		
MAIN FEEDING HABITAT where it finds its food _____		
TWO FOODS IT LIKELY EATS 1 _____ 2 _____		
HERE WHEN? ☐ Migrant ☐ Summer resident ☐ Winter resident ☐ Year-round resident		
FACTS FROM ☐ What I saw ☐ A field guide, app or other reference		
NOTES _____		

ENTRY 16		SPECIES _____
DATE _____	TIME _____	SKETCH 
LOCATION _____		
HABITAT woods, field, wetland, yard, shore... _____		
FIELD MARKS size, shape, colors, markings _____ _____		
WHAT IT WAS DOING _____		
MAIN FEEDING HABITAT where it finds its food _____		
TWO FOODS IT LIKELY EATS 1 _____ 2 _____		
HERE WHEN? ☐ Migrant ☐ Summer resident ☐ Winter resident ☐ Year-round resident		
FACTS FROM ☐ What I saw ☐ A field guide, app or other reference		
NOTES _____		

Species entries

ENTRIES 17 AND 18

ENTRY 17	SPECIES _____	SKETCH 
DATE _____	TIME _____	
LOCATION _____		
HABITAT woods, field, wetland, yard, shore... _____		
FIELD MARKS size, shape, colors, markings _____ _____		
WHAT IT WAS DOING _____		
MAIN FEEDING HABITAT where it finds its food _____		
TWO FOODS IT LIKELY EATS 1 _____ 2 _____		
HERE WHEN? ☐ Migrant ☐ Summer resident ☐ Winter resident ☐ Year-round resident		
FACTS FROM ☐ What I saw ☐ A field guide, app or other reference		
NOTES _____		

ENTRY 18		SPECIES _____
DATE _____	TIME _____	SKETCH 
LOCATION _____		
HABITAT woods, field, wetland, yard, shore... _____		
FIELD MARKS size, shape, colors, markings _____		

WHAT IT WAS DOING _____		
MAIN FEEDING HABITAT where it finds its food _____		
TWO FOODS IT LIKELY EATS 1 _____ 2 _____		
HERE WHEN? ☐ Migrant ☐ Summer resident ☐ Winter resident ☐ Year-round resident		
FACTS FROM ☐ What I saw ☐ A field guide, app or other reference		
NOTES _____		

ENTRY

19

SPECIES _____

DATE _____ TIME _____

LOCATION _____

HABITAT woods, field, wetland, yard, shore... _____

FIELD MARKS size, shape, colors, markings _____

WHAT IT WAS DOING _____

MAIN FEEDING HABITAT where it finds its food _____

TWO FOODS IT LIKELY EATS 1 _____ 2 _____

HERE WHEN? ☐ Migrant ☐ Summer resident ☐ Winter resident ☐ Year-round resident

FACTS FROM ☐ What I saw ☐ A field guide, app or other reference

NOTES _____

SKETCH

ENTRY

20

SPECIES _____

DATE _____ TIME _____

LOCATION _____

HABITAT woods, field, wetland, yard, shore... _____

FIELD MARKS size, shape, colors, markings _____

WHAT IT WAS DOING _____

MAIN FEEDING HABITAT where it finds its food _____

TWO FOODS IT LIKELY EATS 1 _____ 2 _____

HERE WHEN? ☐ Migrant ☐ Summer resident ☐ Winter resident ☐ Year-round resident

FACTS FROM ☐ What I saw ☐ A field guide, app or other reference

NOTES _____

SKETCH

Songs and calls

Five birds from your notebook that you can name by sound alone.

Song or call? Songs are usually longer and more musical, often sung to claim a territory or attract a mate. Calls are short notes: an alarm, a contact note between birds of a pair or flock, or a young bird begging. Write the sound in words or syllables; a chickadee's call, for example, sounds like "chick-a-dee-dee-dee."

1 SPECIES _____ ENTRY NO. _____ ☐ Song ☐ Call

WHAT IT SOUNDED LIKE in words or syllables _____

WHAT THE BIRD WAS DOING _____

WHY I THINK IT SANG OR CALLED _____

2 SPECIES _____ ENTRY NO. _____ ☐ Song ☐ Call

WHAT IT SOUNDED LIKE in words or syllables _____

WHAT THE BIRD WAS DOING _____

WHY I THINK IT SANG OR CALLED _____

3 SPECIES _____ ENTRY NO. _____ ☐ Song ☐ Call

WHAT IT SOUNDED LIKE in words or syllables _____

WHAT THE BIRD WAS DOING _____

WHY I THINK IT SANG OR CALLED _____

4 SPECIES _____ ENTRY NO. _____ ☐ Song ☐ Call

WHAT IT SOUNDED LIKE in words or syllables _____

WHAT THE BIRD WAS DOING _____

WHY I THINK IT SANG OR CALLED _____

5 SPECIES _____ ENTRY NO. _____ ☐ Song ☐ Call

WHAT IT SOUNDED LIKE in words or syllables _____

WHAT THE BIRD WAS DOING _____

WHY I THINK IT SANG OR CALLED _____

Field trip list

Every bird your group finds on a trip with a bird club or other birders. Make a tally mark for each bird you count.

DATE _____

PLACE _____

LED BY _____

TIME from – to _____

[illegible][illegible]

WHICH BIRDS WERE COMMON, WHICH WERE FEW, AND WHY? _____

WHAT MAKES THIS PLACE GOOD FOR FINDING BIRDS? _____

Sketch and label

Draw or trace a bird sitting on a perch and name 15 of its parts. Then draw a spread wing and name six kinds of wing feathers. The drawing of a bird's parts at the front of most field guides will help.

A PERCHED BIRD



- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____
- 9 _____
- 10 _____
- 11 _____
- 12 _____
- 13 _____
- 14 _____
- 15 _____

A SPREAD WING



- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____