

Winter Wildlife Series:

Week Five: *Birds*

Vocabulary:

Beak: A birds hooked projection form their jaw, used for eating and defense.

Feather: A hollow boney shaft on a bird's body with soft plumage, used for warmth and flying.

DIY Bird Feeder:

Materials:

Base: big stick, cardboard tube, or pinecone; Coating: shortening or a nut butter; bird seed; string (for tying your bird feeder to a branch).

Directions:

1. Tie your string to your base. If you are using a cardboard tube, punch a hole in the side and tie it through that, otherwise tie your string around your base tightly and securely.
2. Cover your base in your coating.
3. Roll your base in bird seed.
4. Tie your bird feeder to a branch. You will get better results by tying your feeding close to the branch, so that the bird has something to perch on while they eat.
5. Keep track of the birds that visit your feeder, but watch out! Sometimes squirrels like to eat from these feeders too. Who visits the feeder first? A bird or a squirrel?

Native or Non-Native? (PreK-2):

Materials:

Colored pencils, worksheet.

Directions:

1. On the worksheet are two bird species, a chickadee and a parakeet. One of these birds lives in your hometown (native) and one is from the jungle (non-native) but can be found at the Forsyth Nature Center. Circle either native or non-native and hometown or jungle for each bird.
2. Draw the bird in its habitat. For the native bird, draw your home, school, or park in the background. For the non-native bird, draw the jungle.

Hummingbird Detective (3-5):

Materials:

Pencil, colored pencils

Directions:

1. Think critically about what might have happened to the European hummingbirds and write your hypothesis in the space provided.
2. Decorate your hummingbird.

Get Outside!

Wintertime is a great time to go bird-watching! Head outside to see how many birds you can spot. Check out online bird identification resources to try to identify your flying friends. For a reliable bird identification website try: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org> and click “Try Merlin” at the bottom center of the page. Merlin is a bird identification site run through Cornell University.