

FEATHERED FRIENDS

# HOME CONNECTIONS

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Families—Your child has been learning about citizen science and birds. This sheet offers information and activities so the whole family can enjoy birds too.

## BE A CITIZEN SCIENTIST

### Participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)

Citizen science is a partnership between the public and professional scientists designed to help answer questions scientists alone couldn't answer. Citizen scientists help with research tasks such as gathering data about the kinds, numbers, and behaviors of birds. This data help scientists better understand and conserve birds.

The Great Backyard  
Bird Count



Art by Charley Harper

Citizen science isn't just something that happens in schools. You can participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count at home. Visit [Birdcount.org](http://Birdcount.org) for information on how you can collect data in your neighborhood. Have the whole family make some predictions about which birds, and how many of each, you might see.

### Protect Birds at Home



Birds cannot easily see glass. Up to one billion birds die every year in the United States after flying into windows. But there are many ways to prevent it. One of the easiest ways is to hang objects in the window or attach them directly to the glass. With the help of an adult, make and cut out raptor shapes from black paper and stick them to your large windows.



The Cornell Lab of Ornithology

# COOL FACT

Citizen Science

Citizen Science makes a difference for bird conservation—and you can take part. During the GBBC in 2015, volunteers, including some beginning birders, reported more than 9.5 million bird observations across the world. Scientists could never have been able to collect all that data without the help of citizen scientists. If you want to be a citizen scientist, it's easy to get started. Visit [birds.cornell.edu](http://birds.cornell.edu) to learn more about our projects.

## Birds of the Month

### HOUSE FINCH (TOP) AND PURPLE FINCH (BOTTOM)

Both of these birds are found on the eastern and western coasts of the United States, however the House Finch was not always found on the East coast. In 1940 House Finches were introduced to New York. Since then their population has grown, but Purple Finches seem to be declining. Since the introduction of the House Finches to eastern North America, Purple Finches are losing feeding opportunities at feeders more than 95 percent of the time when the two birds encounter each other.



## Hands-On Activity

### DRAWING LIKE A SCIENTIST

There is room for art and science in the same nest, so to speak. Scientists need images of birds that are accurate to share with the world. Watch your feeder or find some photos of birds you'd like to draw. Really pay attention to the details that you see. You can draw the whole bird or just focus on one part such as the beak, wings, tail, eye, or a tuft of feathers. Maybe you're inspired to draw the same kind of bird in different positions. If you're still looking for inspiration you may want to read *The Boy Who Drew Birds: The Story of John James Audubon*, by Jaqueline Davis, illustrated by Melissa Sweet.