

HOME CONNECTIONS

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

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

WHAT'S IN A HABITAT?

Create a Map

With your child, choose a nearby outdoor space to map (a yard, garden, local park, etc.) First, spend time just observing what is there. Are there trees, gardens, structures, or water? Are there flowering plants, shrubs, lawn, bird feeders? Can you or your kids identify any of the plants? (If not, that's ok!) After an initial survey of the yard, draw and label a map of the space. If you want to go further, visit *Habitat.Network* to add your map to an online citizen-science project.



A large rectangular area enclosed by a dotted purple border, intended for drawing a map of an outdoor space.

COOL FACT

Vegetarian Birds

Though we think of many feeder birds as seed-eating birds, most of will eat plenty of insects. Insects are especially important for young chicks as they are developing. However American Goldfinches are among the strictest vegetarians in the bird world, selecting an all-vegetable diet and only inadvertently swallowing an occasional insect.

Bird of the Month

AMERICAN ROBIN

Though commonly thought of as a sign of spring, American Robins are actually found throughout the United States year round. If you don't see these birds in the winter, where might they be hiding in your local habitat?



Hands-On Activity

MAKING A HABITAT MODEL

Scientists often use drawings and models to help make sense of the things they observe and to share information with others. Use materials you find at home, such as plastic bottles, cardboard, old buttons, small metal pieces, natural objects, or blocks and toys to make a 3-D model of the habitat you mapped earlier or another habitat of your choice.

The habitat we chose is: _____

Some birds that live there are: _____