



# Bird Study

## Merit Badge Workbook

This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet (book). No one can add or subtract from the Boy Scout Requirements #33215. Merit Badge Workbooks and much more are below: [Online Resources](#).

Send comments to: [craig@craiglincoln.com](mailto:craig@craiglincoln.com). Requirements revised: 2006, Workbook updated: February 2008.

Scout's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Counselor's Ph #: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Explain the need for bird study** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**and why birds are useful indicators of the quality of the environment.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**2. Show that you are familiar with the terms used to describe birds by sketching or tracing a perched bird and then labeling 15 different parts of the bird.**

**Sketch or trace an extended wing and label types of wing feathers.**

**3. Demonstrate that you know how to properly use and care for binoculars.**

a. Explain what the specification numbers on the binoculars mean. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. Show how to adjust the eyepiece and how to focus for proper viewing. \_\_\_\_\_

c. Show how to properly care for and clean the lenses. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Demonstrate that you know how to use a bird field guide. \_\_\_\_\_

Show your counselor that you are able to understand a range map by locating in the book and pointing out the wintering range, the breeding range, and/or the year-round range of one species of each of the following types of birds:

Type	Species Chosen	Winter Range	Breeding Range	Year-Round Range
a. Petrel	_____	_____	_____	_____
b. Plover	_____	_____	_____	_____
c. Falcon or hawk	_____	_____	_____	_____
d. Warbler or vireo	_____	_____	_____	_____
e. Heron or egret	_____	_____	_____	_____
f. Sparrow	_____	_____	_____	_____
g. non-native bird	_____	_____	_____	_____

(introduced to North America from a foreign country since 1800)

**5. Observe and be able to identify at least 20 species of wild birds. Prepare a field notebook, making a separate entry for each species, and record the following information from your field observations and other references.**

**Species 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

a. Note the date and time. \_\_\_\_\_

b. Note the location and habitat. \_\_\_\_\_

c. Describe the bird's main feeding habitat and list two types of food that the bird is likely to eat. \_\_\_\_\_

d. Note whether the bird is a  migrant or a  summer,  winter, or  year-round resident of your area.

**Species 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

a. Note the date and time. \_\_\_\_\_

b. Note the location and habitat. \_\_\_\_\_

c. Describe the bird's main feeding habitat and list two types of food that the bird is likely to eat. \_\_\_\_\_

d. Note whether the bird is a  migrant or a  summer,  winter, or  year-round resident of your area.

**Species 3:** \_\_\_\_\_

a. Note the date and time. \_\_\_\_\_

b. Note the location and habitat. \_\_\_\_\_

c. Describe the bird's main feeding habitat and list two types of food that the bird is likely to eat. \_\_\_\_\_

d. Note whether the bird is a  migrant or a  summer,  winter, or  year-round resident of your area.

**Species 4:** \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Note the date and time. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Note the location and habitat. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Describe the bird's main feeding habitat and list two types of food that the bird is likely to eat. \_\_\_\_\_

d. Note whether the bird is a  migrant or a  summer,  winter, or  year-round resident of your area.

**Species 5:** \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Note the date and time. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Note the location and habitat. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Describe the bird's main feeding habitat and list two types of food that the bird is likely to eat. \_\_\_\_\_

d. Note whether the bird is a  migrant or a  summer,  winter, or  year-round resident of your area.

**Species 6:** \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Note the date and time. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Note the location and habitat. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Describe the bird's main feeding habitat and list two types of food that the bird is likely to eat. \_\_\_\_\_

d. Note whether the bird is a  migrant or a  summer,  winter, or  year-round resident of your area.

**Species 7:** \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Note the date and time. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Note the location and habitat. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Describe the bird's main feeding habitat and list two types of food that the bird is likely to eat. \_\_\_\_\_

d. Note whether the bird is a  migrant or a  summer,  winter, or  year-round resident of your area.

**Species 8:** \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Note the date and time. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Note the location and habitat. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Describe the bird's main feeding habitat and list two types of food that the bird is likely to eat. \_\_\_\_\_

d. Note whether the bird is a  migrant or a  summer,  winter, or  year-round resident of your area.

**Species 9:** \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Note the date and time. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Note the location and habitat. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Describe the bird's main feeding habitat and list two types of food that the bird is likely to eat. \_\_\_\_\_

d. Note whether the bird is a  migrant or a  summer,  winter, or  year-round resident of your area.

**Species 10:** \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Note the date and time. \_\_\_\_\_

- b. Note the location and habitat. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Describe the bird's main feeding habitat and list two types of food that the bird is likely to eat. \_\_\_\_\_
- 
- d. Note whether the bird is a  migrant or a  summer,  winter, or  year-round resident of your area.

**Species 11:** \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Note the date and time. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Note the location and habitat. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Describe the bird's main feeding habitat and list two types of food that the bird is likely to eat. \_\_\_\_\_
- 
- d. Note whether the bird is a  migrant or a  summer,  winter, or  year-round resident of your area.

**Species 12:** \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Note the date and time. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Note the location and habitat. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Describe the bird's main feeding habitat and list two types of food that the bird is likely to eat. \_\_\_\_\_
- 
- d. Note whether the bird is a  migrant or a  summer,  winter, or  year-round resident of your area.

**Species 13:** \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Note the date and time. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Note the location and habitat. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Describe the bird's main feeding habitat and list two types of food that the bird is likely to eat. \_\_\_\_\_
- 
- d. Note whether the bird is a  migrant or a  summer,  winter, or  year-round resident of your area.

**Species 14:** \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Note the date and time. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Note the location and habitat. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Describe the bird's main feeding habitat and list two types of food that the bird is likely to eat. \_\_\_\_\_
- 
- d. Note whether the bird is a  migrant or a  summer,  winter, or  year-round resident of your area.

**Species 15:** \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Note the date and time. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Note the location and habitat. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Describe the bird's main feeding habitat and list two types of food that the bird is likely to eat. \_\_\_\_\_
- 
- d. Note whether the bird is a  migrant or a  summer,  winter, or  year-round resident of your area.

**Species 16:** \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Note the date and time. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Note the location and habitat. \_\_\_\_\_

- c. Describe the bird's main feeding habitat and list two types of food that the bird is likely to eat. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d. Note whether the bird is a  migrant or a  summer,  winter, or  year-round resident of your area.

**Species 17:** \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Note the date and time. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Note the location and habitat. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Describe the bird's main feeding habitat and list two types of food that the bird is likely to eat. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d. Note whether the bird is a  migrant or a  summer,  winter, or  year-round resident of your area.

**Species 18:** \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Note the date and time. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Note the location and habitat. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Describe the bird's main feeding habitat and list two types of food that the bird is likely to eat. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d. Note whether the bird is a  migrant or a  summer,  winter, or  year-round resident of your area.

**Species 19:** \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Note the date and time. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Note the location and habitat. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Describe the bird's main feeding habitat and list two types of food that the bird is likely to eat. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d. Note whether the bird is a  migrant or a  summer,  winter, or  year-round resident of your area.

**Species 20:** \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Note the date and time. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Note the location and habitat. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Describe the bird's main feeding habitat and list two types of food that the bird is likely to eat. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d. Note whether the bird is a  migrant or a  summer,  winter, or  year-round resident of your area.

**6. Explain the function of a bird's song. Be able to identify five of the 20 species in your field notebook by song or call alone. For each of these five species enter a description of the song or call, and note the behavior of the bird making the sound. Note why you think the bird was making the call or song that you heard.**

**Species 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Behavior: \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

**Species 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Behavior: \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

**Species 3:** \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Behavior: \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

**Species 4:** \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Behavior: \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

**Species 5:** \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Behavior: \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Do ONE of the following:**

a. Go on a field trip with a local club or with others who are knowledgeable about birds in your area.

1. Keep a list or fill out a checklist of all the birds your group observed during the field trip.

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

2. Tell your counselor which birds your group saw and why some species were common and some were present in small numbers. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Tell your counselor what makes the area you visited good for finding birds. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**-OR-**  b. By using a public library or contacting the National Audubon Society, find the name and location of the Christmas Bird Count nearest your home and obtain the results of a recent count.

1. Explain what kinds of information are collected during the annual event. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Tell your counselor which species are most common, and explain why these birds are abundant.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Tell your counselor which species are uncommon, and explain why these were present in small numbers. If the number of birds of these species is decreasing, explain why, and what, if anything, could be done to reverse their decline.

**Uncommon Species:** \_\_\_\_\_ Decreasing?

If decreasing, why? \_\_\_\_\_

What could be done? \_\_\_\_\_

**Uncommon Species:** \_\_\_\_\_ Decreasing?

If decreasing, why? \_\_\_\_\_

What could be done? \_\_\_\_\_

**Uncommon Species:** \_\_\_\_\_ Decreasing?

If decreasing, why? \_\_\_\_\_

What could be done? \_\_\_\_\_

**Uncommon Species:** \_\_\_\_\_ Decreasing?

If decreasing, why? \_\_\_\_\_

What could be done? \_\_\_\_\_

**Uncommon Species:** \_\_\_\_\_ Decreasing?

If decreasing, why? \_\_\_\_\_

What could be done? \_\_\_\_\_

**8. Do ONE of the following. For the option you choose, describe what birds you hope to attract, and why.**

a. Build a bird feeder and put it in an appropriate place in your yard or another location. \_\_\_\_\_

**-OR-**  b. Build a birdbath and put it in an appropriate place. \_\_\_\_\_

**-OR-**  c. Build a backyard sanctuary for birds by planting trees and shrubs for food and cover. \_\_\_\_\_

**Online Resources** (Use any Internet resource with caution and only with your parent's or guardian's permission.)

**Merit Badge Workbooks:** [usscouts.org](http://usscouts.org) -or- [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org)

► **Merit Badge Books:** [www.scoutstuff.org](http://www.scoutstuff.org)

Boy Scouts of America: <http://www.scouting.org/> ► [Requirements](#) ► [Intro to Merit Badges](#) ► [Guide to Safe Scouting](#)

[ExpertVillage.com Lesson Videos:](#)

📺 [Bird Watching](#)

📺 [Bird Songs](#)

📺 [Bird Identification](#)

📺 [Build a Birdhouse](#)

Amer. Bird Conservancy: <http://www.abcbirds.org>

Amer. Birding Association: <http://www.americanbirding.org>

BirdSource: <http://www.birdsource.org>

Cornell Ornithology: <http://www.birds.cornell.edu>

National Audubon Society: <http://www.audubon.org>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: <http://www.fws.gov>

◀ Bird Song Recordings and Bird Photo Album: <http://www.learnbirdsongs.com/>