

Birds in My Backyard!

A Kids for Saving Earth Education Into Action Program



Birds are Magical!

They can fly, and they're beautiful to watch. No matter where you live—an apartment, house, or even a skyscraper—birds are right outside your door.

Kids for Saving Earth wants you to learn why birds are important and how to protect them.

You will understand more once you meet the birds in your neighborhood. When you print out this page, print both sides. The second side will provide you with directions to help you learn about your closest bird friends.

Birds are Earth's Helpers

- 1. They Help Plants Grow:** Some spread pollen, and other birds spread seeds when they poop—helping new plants grow.
- 2. They Eat Bugs:** Birds munch on mosquitoes and beetles and more, so fewer bugs bother you or your garden.
- 3. They Clean Up Nature:** Vultures eat dead animals, keeping nature clean and healthy.
- 4. They Poop Good Stuff:** Bird poop helps make soil strong so plants grow better.
- 5. They Teach Us:** Birds disappearing from their habitat, warns us that the environment is in trouble.



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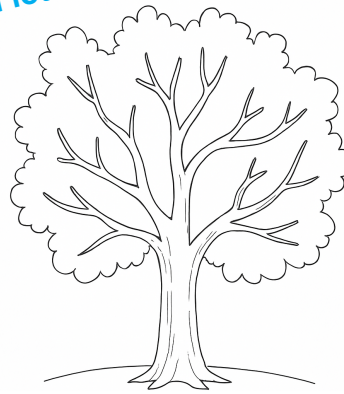
For the Instruction/Adult/Parent Volunteer with a cell phone:

You will need to work with your student or child using the [Merlin Bird ID phone app](#) on your cell phone. It's free and easy to use. Use this [YouTube link](#) to learn how to use the app. Once you have downloaded it, find a good spot outside with your students. Turn the Merlin Bird app on and wait a few minutes with your kids, listening to the nearby birds. It will show you the most recent bird and light up when that bird is sing-ing. You can call out the bird's name as it calls out. You can click on it and show a photo to the kids. When you return inside, try some of the following activities to help the group learn more about birds and understand what they can do to protect them.

Make a Bird Poster

Make a list of the birds you have heard with the Merlin Bird App. Draw a tree with the branches easy to see. Place your bird drawings on the branches. [Email a copy of your poster to KSE](#) so we can put them on our website. Then put your poster up in your classroom or at your home.

An example of a tree
with lots of branches.



Why Do Birds Need Help?

■ Bird habitat is disappearing. People cut down trees and build roads, so birds lose the places where they build nests and find food.

■ Pollution hurts them. Trash, oil spills, and dirty air or water can make birds sick or hurt their babies.

■ Windows and cars are dangerous. Birds sometimes fly into windows or get hit by cars because they can't see them.

■ Climate is changing. Weather is getting hotter, colder, or stranger in some places, and birds can't always find food or safe places to live.

Can I Help Birds in My Backyard?

● Plant flowers and bushes – Birds love plants with seeds, berries, and bugs. Native plants are best!

● Give them water – A shallow dish with clean water helps birds drink and bathe.

● Make a birdhouse – It gives birds a safe place to rest and raise chicks.

● Don't use chemicals – Pesticides and weed killers can poison birds or their food.

● Keep cats indoors – Cats are natural hunters and can hurt birds.

● Put out bird food – Use feeders with seeds, fruit, or suet. Clean them regularly.

● Watch and learn – Use your eyes or binoculars. Draw or write what you see!

Choose your favorite bird from your [Merlin Bird ID](#) list and make it your

Bird Buddies!! [Find out more about Bird Buddies here!](#)