



# IDENTIFYING BIRDS

Join the Academy of Natural Sciences for the City Nature Challenge, April 30 to May 3.

## JOIN US FOR THE CITY NATURE CHALLENGE

The City Nature Challenge is a friendly competition where people from more than 300 cities compete to see who can record the most wildlife. You can join us by documenting the plants and animals you find. Ask a grown-up to help you upload your observations to iNaturalist and use the guide on the next page to help identify common birds.

If you want to find more birds, try calling them to your location! Gather the materials below and make your own bird call by following the instructions.

## MAKE A HOMEMADE BIRD CALL

Sometimes birds can be hard to spot. Scientists and researchers use bird calls to encourage birds to perch close enough to see. You can make your own bird call with three simple materials.

**Materials:** □ One clothespin □ One rubber band □ Electrical tape

### Instructions:

**Step 1** Carefully separate the two halves of the clothespin and safely discard the metal spring.

**Step 2** Take one half of the clothespin and wrap each end with four wraps of electrical tape.

**Step 3** Put the rubber band, lengthwise, around the outside of the same clothespin half. Make sure the rubber band has room to stretch and it is centered along the flat piece of the wood.

**Step 4** With the flat sides together, place the other clothespin half onto the half with the rubber band.

**Step 5** Tightly tape one end of the clothespins together.

**Step 6** Blow through the middle of the clothespin halves onto the stretched rubber band to make your bird call. It can be tricky to find the right spot, but keep trying. Once you get the hang of it, you can pinch the non-taped end together to adjust the pitch.



## BIRD IDENTIFICATION

As you spot birds, identify the species by using this page with some of Philadelphia's most common birds. You can find more species (more than 7,300!) on [vireo.ansp.org](http://vireo.ansp.org). Don't forget to ask a grown-up to help you upload your observations to iNaturalist — your bird sightings can help scientists!



American Robin



Blue Jay



Carolina Chickadee



Downy Woodpecker



European Starling



House Finch



Northern Cardinal



Tufted Titmouse



White-breasted Nuthatch



The Academy of  
Natural Sciences  
of DREXEL UNIVERSITY

**Museum Hours** (effective May 1)  
Thursday–Sunday: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Members-only Hour: 9–10 a.m.

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