



Connecting Communities to Nature

TIPS FOR BIRDWATCHING



A QUIET TIME AND PLACE

Early morning can be ideal for birdwatching. Not only are birds bustling around looking for food, but most people aren't out and about yet. Noisy people and dogs can scare birds away, so try to avoid them.



FIND GOOD HABITAT

Birds need food, water, and shelter just like any other creature. Try to find a location that has all three: plants with seeds or berries, a source of clean water, and shrubs or trees to hide in. Parks, Nature Preserves, and Greenways are all great options.



WATCH FOR KEY FEATURES

To identify different birds, you'll want to pay attention to their size, color, shape, behavior, and habitat. All of these pieces of information will help form a picture of what kind of bird you're looking at.



USE THE TOOLS YOU HAVE

You don't need binoculars and a printed field guide, although they can be helpful. Use your eyes, ears, and phone apps like Merlin Bird ID to help locate and identify birds.



BE PATIENT

Wildlife watching takes patience! You may need to sit quietly for a while before the birds get comfortable with your presence. You may need to try a few different spots to find a good one. Enjoy the journey and don't give up if it's not immediately easy. Your persistence will pay off!