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Local Birds

Guiding Questions:

- Where do birds live?
- Are there any birds near where you live?
- What color are birds?
- How do birds make nests?
- Where do birds make nests?
- How can we find bird nests?
- What is usually inside of a bird nest?





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Look Closely



NH Virtual tour- Navigate to the Bird Hall on the ground floor. Can you find a red cardinal? A blue jay? A duck? Which bird is the biggest? Which one is the smallest?
https://naturalhistory2.si.edu/vt3/NMNH/z_tour-015.html

Attract Birds to your Yard or Windowsill - There are many bird feeders that can be crafted (see activities) or purchased for your yard or window. You can also put out shallow dishes of water or seeds on a windowsill. This site has many resources for attracting birds to a window:
<https://birdwatchinghq.com/window-bird-feeders/>



Binocular walk: Have your child take their binoculars (see activities) on an observation walk. How many birds can they find? Are the birds all the same or different? Can they find any nests?

Video: Bird Building a Nest: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n694LFHoET8>

Video: Bird Eating: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-xf0HXbtbM>



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Activities & Projects

Feather Painting - Use feathers instead of a brush! You can use store bought or found feathers but always sanitize found feathers before using!



Binocular Observation - Create binoculars for an observation walk using two cardboard tubes. Staple them together in the middle and add a yarn neck strap.



Make Bird Feeder - There are nearly infinite kinds of DIY bird feeders. The link below is ideal for a window sill bird feeder.

<https://teachbesideme.com/homemade-window-bird-feeder/>

Bird Beak Pick Up - This is a great activity to explore how and what birds eat as well as practice fine motor skills. Tongs, tweezers and more can be used to try to pick up pretend bird foods.

<http://www.pinkstripeysocks.com/2015/04/kid-science-studying-nature-bird-beaks.html>



Nest Art - Create a nest shape by scrunching down a paper bag and then use watered down glue to attach anything small you have lying around.





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Stories & Songs

5 Little Birds Fingerplay https://www.preschool-plan-it.com/birds.html	5 Little Ducks https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZw9veQ76fo	Little Robin Red Breast https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3EytqmwzN8&list=PLsoDKUwwLnMkwVabax3D4BQ84LVGC5gdP&index=12	Feathers for Lunch by Lois Ehler https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fmsD-LFQmA
2 Little Black Birds (with multiple verses!) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjv5Jwgsn7I	What is a Bird? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CI4MvIZ5I_s	Noisy Bird Sing Along https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=trI0_tWyii8	Mama Built a Little Nest https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TKNpyV-INZc

A Note on Bird Parenting

The vast majority of bird species co-parent and the roles taken on by the male or female bird can vary widely from species to species. There are many books and songs that talk about "Mommy" birds and "Daddy" birds that may not always be scientifically accurate since birds do not form families the way humans do. Sometimes you can tell from a bird's coloring if they are male or female but not all male or female birds are a "Mommy" or a "Daddy" and the bird building or sitting on a nest is not always a "mommy" bird. There is certainly nothing wrong with calling a bird a "daddy" bird or a "mommy" bird, this can help a child connect to the life of birds. There is also nothing wrong with simply calling them male and female birds or parent birds. Just like birds, we have caregivers who help us and our caregivers help us in unique ways.





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