



Watching Birds with Nature Cat

Tally Ho!

Nature Cat loves to watch the birds in his neighborhood - and so can you! Here are a few tips to help you become an expert bird watcher.

What You'll Need:

- Get your binoculars ready! They will help you see birds that are far away or high up in the trees.
- Keep a field guide handy! Field guides are books with pictures and information about many different kinds of birds. Can you match the pictures to the birds you see? If you find a match, congratulations! You just figured out what kind of bird it is.



Goal of the Activity:

Encourage children to observe nature and become aware of the animals that live all around us.

Things to Look For:

To help you identify the birds you see, try to answer these questions:

- 1) What size and shape is the bird? Is it big? Small? Long? Round?
- 2) What color is it? Does it have any special markings on its wings, belly, or head?
- 3) What shape is its beak? Birds with short beaks generally eat seeds. Birds with long, thin beaks usually eat bugs.
- 4) What is it doing? Does it perch high up, or search for food on the ground? Does it swim in the water like a swan, or flap its wings very quickly like a hummingbird?
- 5) Don't forget to listen while you look! Is the bird making any sounds? If so, what do they sound like? Hearing a bird song can give you a clue that it's time to pull out your binoculars and start looking around. And, since different kinds of birds make different sounds, bird songs can help you identify the birds you find, too!