

Campbell Creek Science Center

Eye Spy: Bird Behavior

I spy with my little eye... a bird diving into the water! When you become familiar with how a bird acts, it becomes easier to identify that species in the future. This activity helps you learn to identify bird species by observing their behavior.

Directions

1. Head outside to look for birds. Bring binoculars if you have them.
2. When you see a bird, try to watch it for at least 30 seconds. What is the bird doing? Is it communicating with other birds? How is it flying? Is it looking for food? How can you tell?
3. Record your observations on the bird behavior chart (page 2).
4. Continue your walk and look for more birds. How many different behaviors can you spy?
5. Observe two birds from the same species. What are they doing that is the same? Noticing common behaviors can help you identify species.

Materials

- Bird Behavior Chart
- Pencil or Pen
- Binoculars (optional)

Questions

- How many different behaviors do you observe?
- How do these behaviors help birds survive?

Here are some common bird behaviors. What do you spy birds doing?

Flying



Jeremy Matlock, BLM

Singing



Bob Wick, BLM

Nesting



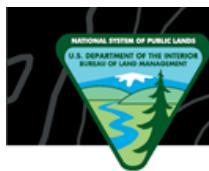
Bob Wick, BLM

Raising Chicks



Bob Wick, BLM





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Bird Behavior Chart

Use this chart to record your observations of bird behaviors. For example, for “Flying,” you might write: *Large bird with legs out behind it flying towards the mudflats at Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage, AK.*

Bird Behavior	Description and Location of Bird Observed
Flying	
Floating on the Water	
Building a Nest	
Giving an Alarm Call	
(Foraging (feeding or searching for food)	
Flock/Group of Birds	
Hiding	
(Preening (cleaning their feathers)	
Singing	
Diving Under Water	

