



Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Birdwatching

An extension of "Lords of the air."

Birds are very interesting to watch. In fact, birdwatching is a hobby that can be lifelong. By recording and sharing your observations, you can even participate in efforts to help birds thrive happily in Singapore.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Form groups of three or four classmates or friends in your neighbourhood.
2. Plan birdwatching sessions at a nearby park or nature reserve. Visit the website of National Parks Board to select a park or nature reserve that is convenient for your group to go to ➤ <https://www.nparks.gov.sg/gardens-parks-and-nature/parks-and-nature-reserves>.

If your chosen park or nature reserve has its own website, visit the website. Note down the information you need – opening hours if any, directions to get there, whether there are free guided tours, and so on.

5. Arrange the date and time of visit, how you will get there, meeting point and time, and how long you plan to spend there. Before the visit, get permission from your parents or guardians.
6. Use a small sketch book as your **Birdwatching Log**. Every time you write and sketch in it, record the date and time.
7. Visit the site that your group chose. Station yourselves in a quiet spot for 15 minutes. Stay silent and still as you look out for birds. Then, move to another spot and do the same. Every time you spot a bird, quickly sketch it and jot down its size, colours, markings, beak shape, whether alone or in a group and any other details. With practice, you will be able to capture far more observations than when you first go birdwatching. You may wish to take pictures of the birds but avoid using the flash as it will startle them.
8. After the visit, identify the birds you saw by checking their pictures against bird databases like <http://singaporebirds.blogspot.sg/>. The Nature Society (Singapore) has a free mobile app, "Birds of Singapore", for both Android and iPhone.