

# Mini 4-H Wildlife

## All Divisions



**Draft developed by:  
Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service  
Area VII 4-H Youth Development Educators**

**(Blackford, Delaware, Fayette, Franklin, Henry, Jay, Madison, Randolph, Rush, Union, & Wayne Counties)**

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### **Resources and References**

Delaware County Mini Arts and Crafts Manual  
Franklin County Mini Crafts Manual  
Kids 'Squish Book by Loris Theovin Bree and Marlin Bree

**February 1998**



# Mini 4-H Parent's Page



Welcome to the Mini 4-H Program! Mini 4-H is designed for youth to explore a variety of project areas.

Your child received this project manual when enrolling in Mini 4-H. This manual will provide fun, age-appropriate learning activities throughout their year(s) in Mini 4-H and their interest in this project.

As a Mini 4-H parent, your job will be to guide and encourage your child through the activity. It is highly suggested that you do not complete the activities for them. Instead, help them, guide them, work with them, and let them do all that they possibly can. The 4-H motto is "learn by doing" ...and is the best educational tool that we can provide for youth.

Additionally, the Mini 4-H program is set up to allow your child to exhibit a project at the 4-H Fair. This project is based upon information within this manual.

The 4-H Fair is an exciting time for 4-H members and families. It is a week that allows community youth to showcase their talents, interests and enthusiasm for learning.

Mini 4-H is fun! Your child will certainly enjoy it. You can have fun too, by guiding and helping as your child participates in the program. Encourage and praise your child as he/she has fun learning and sharing with you.

If you have any questions regarding Mini 4-H or other 4-H programs, please feel free to contact your local Extension Office.



# Mini 4-Her's Page



Welcome to Mini 4-H! You are now a member of the 4-H family. You are a special person.

Mini 4-Her's have lots of fun! There are lots of activities for you to explore. You can try new things. You can share it with your friends and family.

Mom, Dad or another adult can help you with your project. Bring your project to the 4-H Fair and lots of people will be able to see what you have done. You also get a ribbon made just for Mini 4-Her's.



Here are some things to know about 4-H

The 4-H Symbol: A four-leaf clover with an "H" in each leaf

4-H Colors: Green and White

The 4-H Motto: To make the best, better.

The 4-H Pledge: I pledge my *Head* to clearer thinking,  
my *Heart* to greater loyalty,  
my *Hands* to larger service, and  
my *Health* to better living,  
for my club, my community,  
my country, and my world.

# What are Wildlife Adventures?



Do you ever wonder about the animals that live in the woods and open areas around your house or city? Would you like to know about how and where they live? The world of wildlife is exciting! There are so many fun things to do to get to know wildlife, every month of the year.

Wildlife adventures involve watching wild animals and birds that live near our homes. It also involves building shelters, creating your own critters, making a nature mobile, and learning what type of tracks animals leave behind. Luckily you won't need much in the way of equipment to enjoy wildlife. You already have the most important tools – your eyes, ears, nose and hands!

There are some rules to keep in mind when exploring. Ask permission before you wander onto someone's property. Do not pick plants, flowers, or tamper with nature or fences in any way. Treat wildlife habitats with great care. Don't just turn over rocks or logs. Animals may live in those places! Take your time to experience wildlife. There is so much we can learn.

# Activity 1 – Birds of Indiana

## You will need:

- Color pencils, markers or crayons
- Scissors
- String or heavy thread
- Glue or tape
- 14"x22" poster board OR two or three dead twigs of different lengths



## Here is what you do:

1. Find color pictures of the birds at the end of the manual, in a book at your house or at the library.
2. Color the birds to match the pictures in the book.
3. Carefully cut out your colored pictures.
4. Arrange the pictures on the poster board. Leave room for your name in the lower right hand corner and a title across the top. If you would like to make a mobile, skip to step 6.
5. Carefully glue the pictures to the poster board.
6. To make a bird mobile, follow steps 1, 2, and 3. Tape or glue string or thread of different lengths to the back of each of the birds.
7. Arrange the twigs so the longest is on the top and the shortest is on the bottom. Tie the twigs together, leaving 4" to 6" between each twig.
8. Carefully arrange the birds and tie their strings to the twigs. You can move the birds if you need to.
9. Carefully pick up the top twig in the center. Look at how the mobile hangs. Tie a piece of string to the point on the stick where you are holding it. Congratulations! You have made a mobile.

It will take some time to find the color picture of the birds in a book. Look carefully. If needed, ask a librarian to help. This activity helps you to quickly identify the types of birds that live near your home. Look closely. Some of the birds live around you home only during the summer months. Some birds are seen only in the winter months. It shows how close we live to the wildlife around us.

# Activity 2 – Make a Bird Feeder

## You will need:

- An empty half-gallon milk carton, coffee can, glass jar, coconut shell, or pine cones
- Wire or string to attach the feeder to a tree limb
- Stapler, glue or tape
- Small nail or pin



## Here is what you do:

1. Cut 2 opposite sides out of the milk carton. Leave about 1” inch all the way around the cutout. The top should be stapled, glued or taped shut. Punch a hole in the top to tie the wire or string through.
2. Punch 3 or 4 holes in the bottom of the carton with a small nail or pin. Punch from the inside out so water can drain out.
3. Color the carton to look like a tree or cover it with leaves glued on with weather-proof glue.
4. Loop string or wire through the hole in the top of the carton. This string/wire will go around the tree limb to support the feeder. Leave enough string/wire to tie the feeder at a height where you can refill it.
5. You may hang your feeder from a post or clothesline pole.

## Other bird feeder suggestions:

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| For seed:    | Coffee can with half a plastic lid on both ends<br>Glass jar hung horizontally<br>Empty coconut shell cut in half                   |
| For suet:    | Mesh bag (like the kind onions come in)<br>Coconut shell filled with melted suet<br>Drill holes on log and fill with melted suet    |
| Other ideas: | Slather peanut butter on pine cones and roll in birdseed<br>Hang coconut half upside down<br>String peanuts on wire or heavy string |

Some birds will nest in an old kettle or jug in the grass or one placed securely in the fork of a tree.

# Activity 3 – Bird Watching

## You will need:

- Binoculars (optional)
- A bird feeder
- Bird feed
- Pencil and chart
- A quiet place to sit



## Here is what you do:

1. Since birds like to eat in the mornings, place the bird feeder where can see it while you eat breakfast. Remember, if you are doing this activity in the winter, when you begin to feed the birds you must continue to feed them until their natural food is available again.
2. Find a quiet place to sit. You will need to be still for several minutes before the birds come around you. Perhaps you can watch the birds from inside your home.
3. Watch the birds and chart what you see (you can use binoculars to watch them). Keep your chart by the window near the birdfeeder. Draw pictures of the tracks you see. Ask your family to help too! Use a book to help identify the birds.
4. Complete the chart. There is an activity sheet at the end called “Birds I Have Seen”. You may color it. Glue it with the chart below to a 14”x22” poster board. Bring it to the fair.

<b>Bird</b>	<b>How Many</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Where They Live</b>



# Activity 4 – How Do Birds Fly?

*You have probably noticed that birds fly in different ways. Crows and robins beat their wings about two to three times every second; starlings beat their wings four to five times each second. Chickadees are almost as fast as hummingbirds, flapping their wings at least 27 times each second. How do they do it? They have really strong chest muscles and hollow bones. Try beating your arms as fast a robin beats its' wings. That's three beats per second. How long can you keep up the flapping?*

## **You will need:**

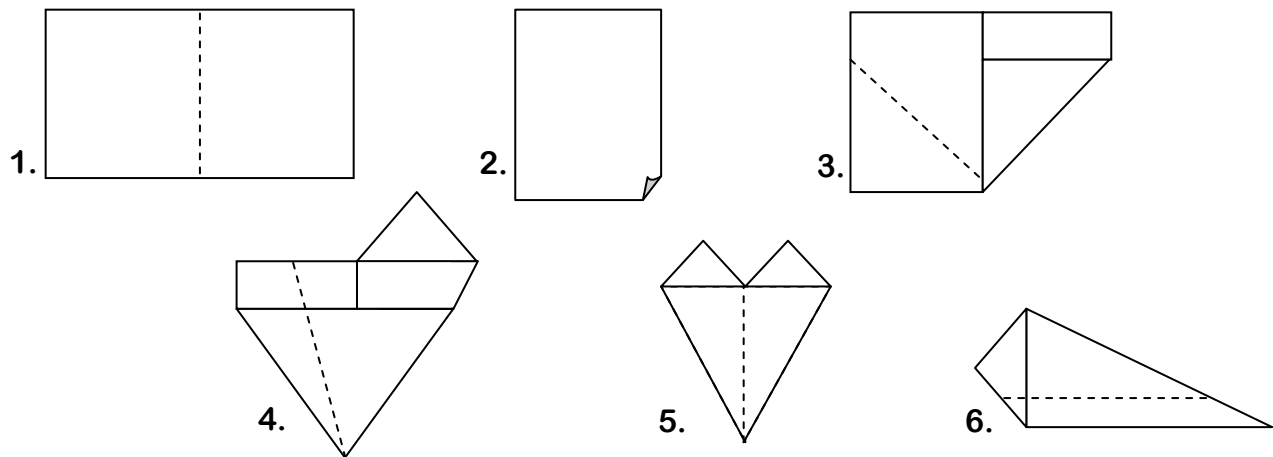
- Good quality paper
- Paper clips
- Pencil, ruler and stapler with staples

## **Here is what you do:**

1. With a sheet of good quality paper, fold it in half bringing the two short sides together. Crease this fold.
2. Open the paper.
3. Bring the lower left-hand corner up to the center fold, creating a triangle. There will be some paper sticking out the top. That is OK. Crease this fold. Repeat this step with the right side.
4. With the paper still folded into a triangle, bring the right folded edge up to the centerline. There is a triangle point sticking about the body of the airplane. This is OK. Crease this fold. Repeat this step for the left side.
5. Fold along the centerline using the very first folds you made.
6. Lay the airplane on the side. Measure up from the bottom fold approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$ " to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " at each end. These are your guide marks for folding down the wings. Mark them lightly with a pencil.
7. Carefully fold down the wing on the side facing you using the pencil marks as a guide. Crease this fold.
8. Turn the airplane over. Repeat this step for the other wing.
9. Fold the tip of the airplane's nose back into the body at the point where the wings begin.
10. Staple the body of the airplane about 1" behind the nose.

11. Slide a paper clip onto the nose for weight.
12. Congratulations! You have made a paper airplane.
13. Repeat these steps as often as necessary to get the airplane just the way you like it. Remember, it is OK if it doesn't turn out tight the first time. You can always make another airplane.
14. Color or decorate your airplane.

Follow the diagram as you make your airplane.



***How do the airplanes fly?*** There are four forces that affect them and anything that flies. Even your paper airplane! Here they are:

**Lift:** Force exerted by air on the wing as it passes through the air.

**Drag:** Force caused by the air as it strikes the surfaces of the airplane.

**Thrust:** Force that moves the airplane through the air.

**Gravity:** Force of pull the earth has.

Lift and thrust must exceed drag and gravity for a bird or plane to fly. Once they are in the air, lift and thrust must equal drag and gravity for them to remain in the air. When drag and gravity exceed lift and thrust, the bird or airplane comes down.

What provides the thrust for your paper airplane?

How do birds provide thrust for flight?

Watch several different birds fly. Talk about what you see. Do the birds flap their wings all the time? Have you ever seen a bird stay in the air without flapping its wings? Hint: Look for a big bird up in the air.

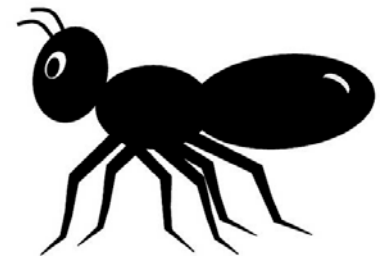
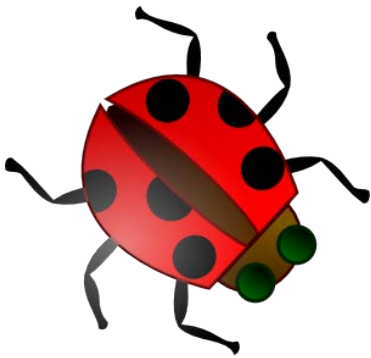
# Activity 5 – Insects

## You will need:

- Three glass or plastic jars with lids
- Magnifying glass
- Tape, pen and slips of paper

## Here is what you do:

1. Capture three different insects, placing one in each of the jars.
2. Close the lids tightly.
3. Use the pen to write this information on a slip of paper: Common name of the insect, the date, where the insect was captured, and your name.
4. Write down what you observe about the insects. How are they alike? How are they different? List as many ways as you can.
5. Tape the slip of paper to the top or side of the jar. Bring the insects to the fair.



# Activity 6 – Local Wildlife

## You will need:

- Pencil

## Here is what you do:

1. Take a walk in a park or woods. Look for different kinds of wildlife. Fill out the chart of five different kinds of wildlife.

<b>What wildlife did you see?</b>	<b>Where did you see it?</b>	<b>What does it eat?</b>	<b>What did you find that belongs to it?</b>
<i>Example: Robin</i>	<i>In tree</i>	<i>Worms</i>	<i>Nest, Feathers</i>

Where did you take a walk to find the wildlife?

How long did it take you to find the wildlife?

How many more kinds of wildlife did you find?





# What to Exhibit



Listed here are the projects you can exhibit at the fair. Choose one project each year and bring it to the fair for judging. Check the fair book for the date and time it is due. There may also be special project exhibit rules.

If you have any questions about your projects, talk to your adult leader or the Extension Office.

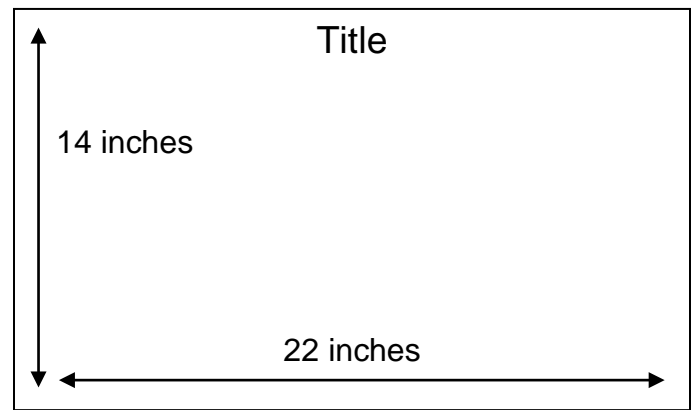
- Birds Poster
- Birds Mobile
- Bird Feeder
- Paper Airplane
- Three Insects
- Bird Watching Chart Poster
- Animal Characteristics Poster

## Good Luck and Have Fun!

### Mini 4-H Poster Requirements

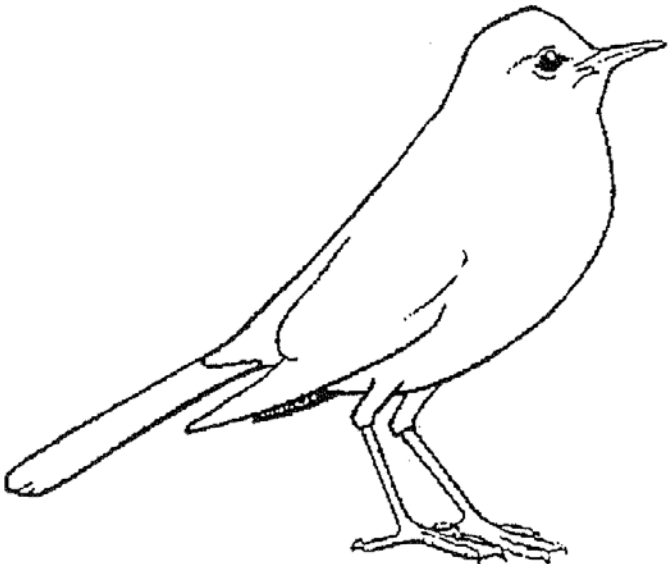
Poster requirements for ALL Mini 4-H projects that require posters:

1. Poster board (14"x22") should be displayed horizontally
2. Poster should have stiff backing and covered with clear plastic
3. A title should be at the top of the poster
4. Include your name, grade and club on a card in the lower right hand corner.

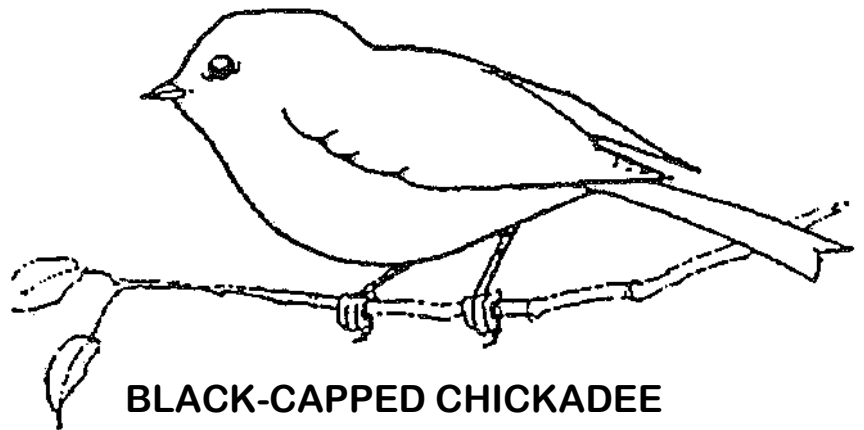


*Sample poster*

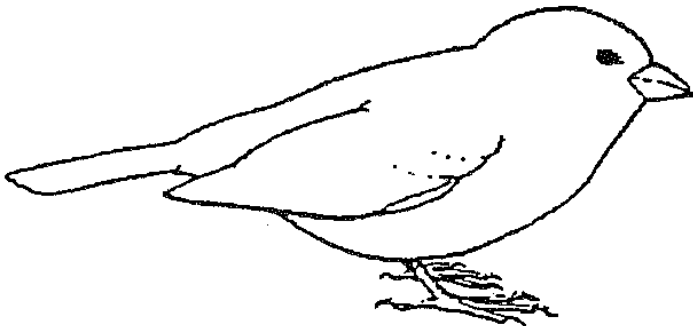
# BIRDS



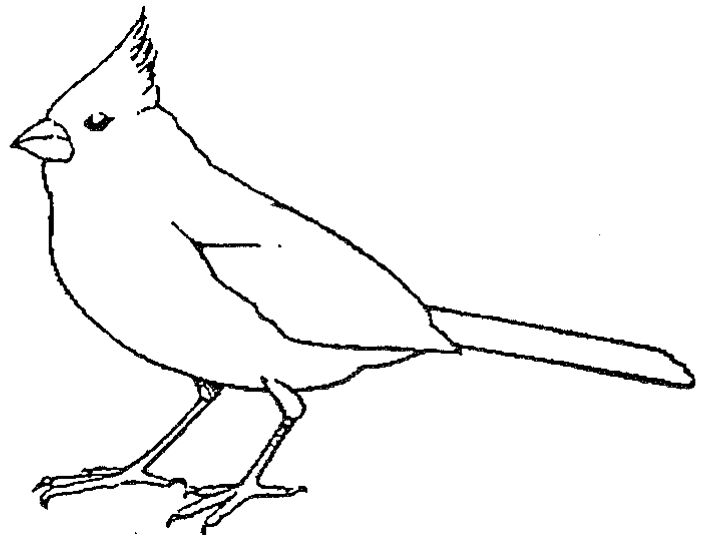
AMERICAN ROBIN



BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

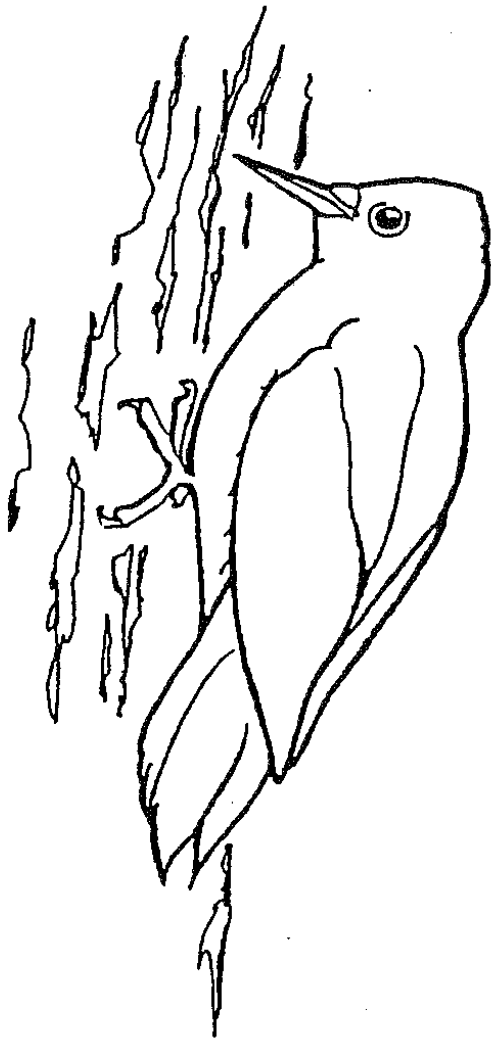


HOUSE SPARROW

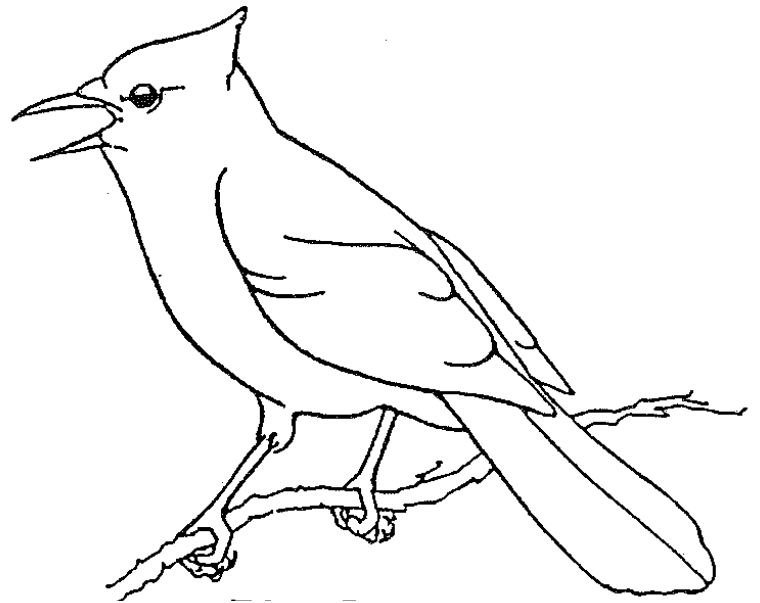


NORTHERN CARDINAL

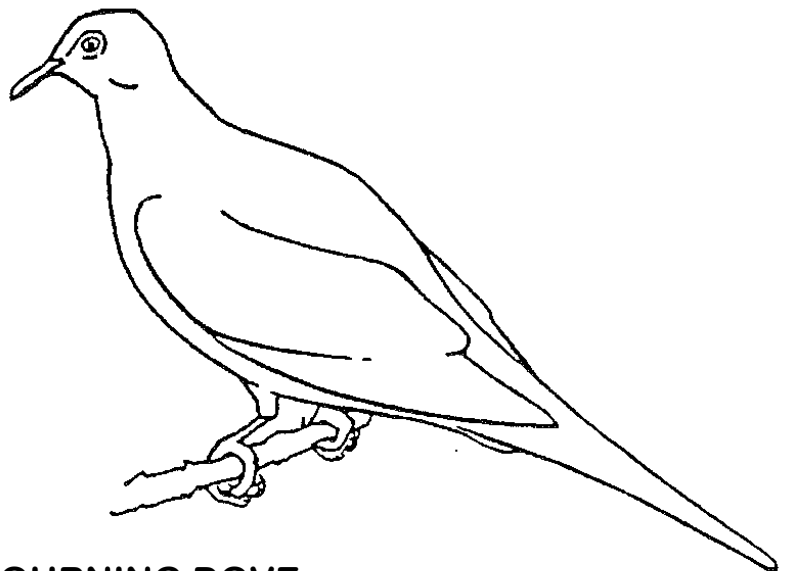
# BIRDS



**DOWNY  
WOODPECKER**



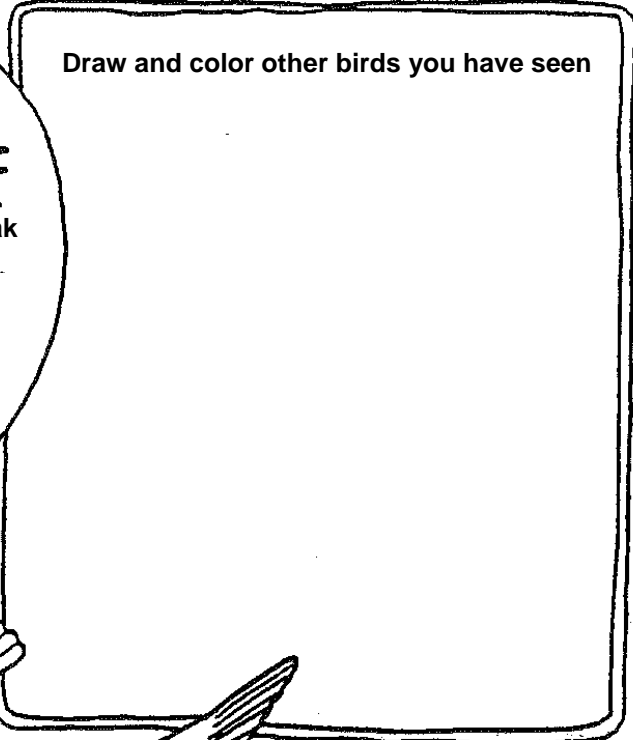
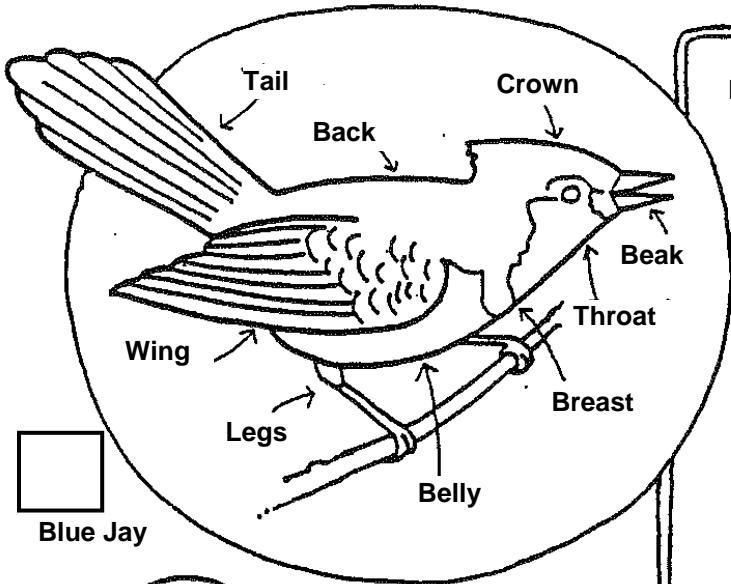
**BLUE JAY**



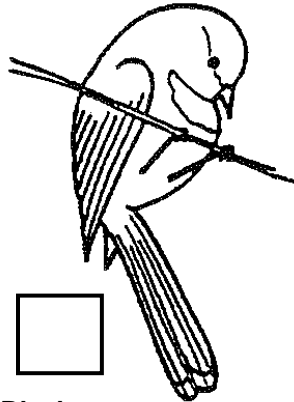
**MOURNING DOVE**

# BIRDS I HAVE SEEN

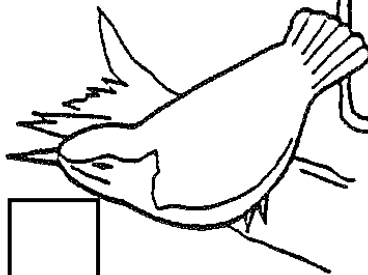
Put a check in the box by the birds you have seen. Color the birds to match how they look. You can draw any birds that are not pictured here.



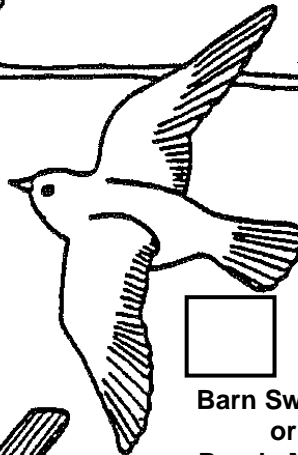
Blue Jay



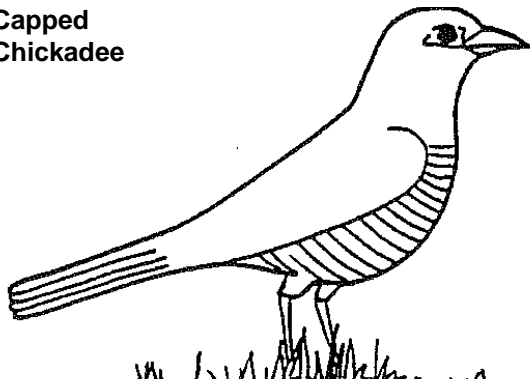
Black-Capped Chickadee



White Breasted Nuthatch



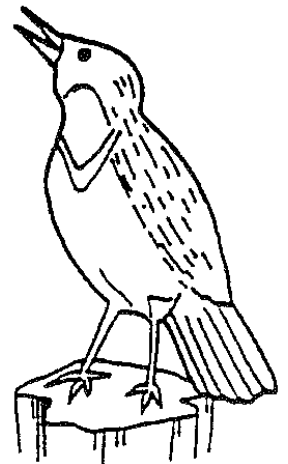
Barn Swallow or Purple Martin



American Robin



House Wren



Western Meadow Lark