



WATERSHEDS:

Identify birds in your own backyard.

Join Captain of the *Margerite* and CBF Educator Tiffany Granberg as she explores her backyard looking for birds! How many do you think she'll find, and how are birds an indicator of the health of the Bay?

cbf.org/news-media/multimedia/video/cbf-education-videos/an-introduction-to-backyard-birding.html

Learning Bird Silhouettes

Use these questions to help guide your investigation:

1. How many birds of the same species do I find? 2. How many different species of birds can I find?
3. What's the difference between number of different bird species vs. the number of birds of the same species? Why is that difference important?


It's for the Birds: Practical Practice


STEP 1: SILHOUETTES (side profiles)


Look at the silhouette of the three different birds below:

Compare and contrast the features of each bird based on its size, shape, color, and distinguishing marks. For example, how would you describe their beaks? Or their legs?

Write three things about each bird:

Sparrow	
1.	
2.	
3.	

American Robin	
1.	
2.	
3.	

Crow	
1.	
2.	
3.	

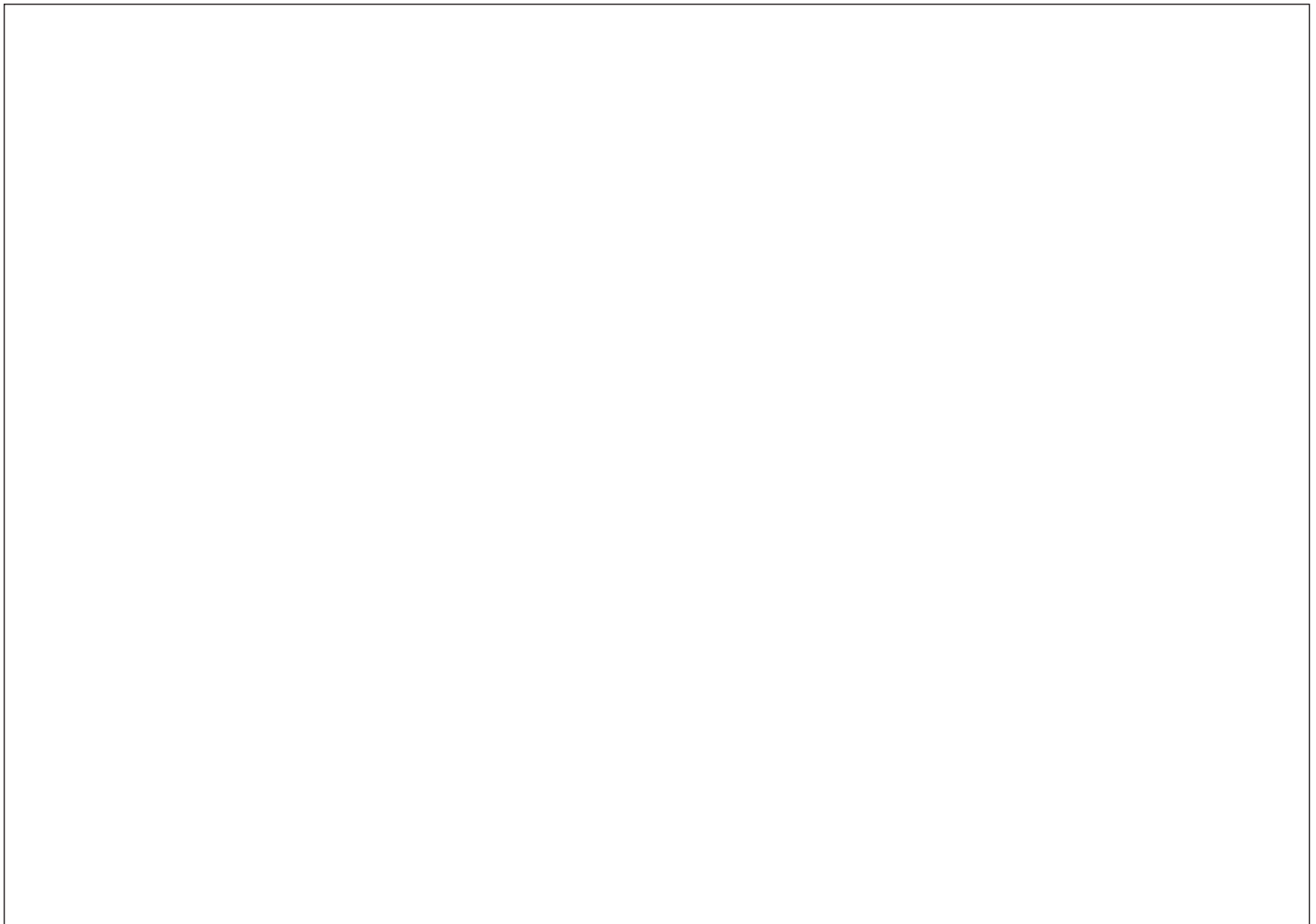
Sketch the beak, crown, and head of the bird that most interests you.

STEP 2: INVESTIGATE OUTSIDE!

When looking for birds in your backyard, neighborhood, or local park, it's important to allow yourself a moment of quiet. Very often we may hear birds before we see them! Every bird has a preferred habitat, so make sure you investigate the branches of trees, the nooks and crannies of shrubs, as well as "preferred" perches like streetlamps, fence posts, and of course, up in the sky.

Throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed we can find small songbirds, medium-sized birds (like crows and blue jays), as well as birds of prey (like redtail hawks and bald eagles). Some bird species we may only find along the shore of the Bay itself or in the temperate forests further inland.

Once you're able to find birds to observe, sketch or draw the silhouette of that bird (or birds) below. Label the sketch with details to help you identify the species later on using the resource list on the worksheet. Keep count of how many different birds you observe!



DIVE DEEPER:

Peterson Field Guides
petersononline.com

National Audubon Society
audubon.org/bird-guide

The Cornell Ornithology Lab
birds.cornell.edu



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INVESTIGATION

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