



# Birds of a Feather

(The study guide!)

# ABOUT THE SHOW

**It's a beautiful summer day when Fiddle, a camper, and Beeker, a birdwatcher, meet in a national park.** One is adventurous and the other is a bit more reserved, but they quickly discover how to share the outdoor space. With Fiddle's knowledge of the great outdoors and Beeker's bird expertise, they work together to build a home for a bird... but will any birds come to visit?

This whimsical outdoor adventure celebrates the joy of making new friends and the wonders of nature. Join us and discover what amazing things can be accomplished through friendship and collaboration!

IRENE HAMILTON

**Fiddle**

an adventurous, considerate,  
and cooperative camper



PABLO GUILLÉN

**Beeker**

an imaginative and  
patient birdwatcher



CAMILLO LINARES

**Musician**

providing the sound effects  
and music in the show



# BEFORE THE SHOW

## Local Bird Information

Fairfax County is home to well over 300 different recorded species of birds living in the wide array of habitats of uninhabited nature space around the county.

**Huntley Meadows Park** in particular is a hot-spot for birds and bird watchers alike! Huntley Meadows Park has more than **200 different species** of birds alone. Some of those birds include:

- The Wood Duck
- The American Bittern
- The Osprey
- The American Woodcock
- The Barred Owl
- The Cuckoo
- The Arcadian Flycatcher
- The Scarlet Tanager
- The Indigo Bunting
- The Orchard Oriole

...not to mention several species of hummingbirds, and at least six different species of woodpeckers!

Throughout the year, different types of birds also migrate to the park, including Bald Eagles — **over 70 different species** visit during their migration periods.

# Let's Go on an Adventure!

Ready to begin your local birding adventure? Review these key identifiers to start spotting birds in your own backyard!



## ORCHARD ORIOLE

The Orchard Oriole has different identifiers for the male and female birds. The males are dark along their backs chests and have a **red** chest (similar to a robin!). The female Orchard Orioles are **greenish yellow**, with two **white** wing bars, and no black in sight.

## SCARLET Tanager

The male Scarlet Tanager is unmistakable with their bright **red** bodies with **black** tails and heads. The females tend to be a bit more muted with **olive-yellow** bodies and **dark olive** tails and heads. They have a call that sounds like a deep "chick-burr".



## ARCADIAN FLYCATCHER

The Arcadian Flycatcher is an insect-eating bird identified by the **olive** colored feathers on their chest with darker wings and tail, **white** circles around their eyes, and **white** bands underneath their wings. These little birds have a bill that is dark on top and **yellow** underneath! They sing a two-note song that sounds like "ka-zeep."



# EXPLORE THE SHOW

## Working Together & “Leave No Trace”

An SEL Conversation & Activity: Oral Language, Interacting With Others, Cooperation

Sometimes being patient can be tough and waiting is hard, but you can create something fun out of waiting, just like Fiddle and Beeker do in *Birds of a Feather*.

## Conversation Starter

Begin with some opening questions:

*“What does it mean to be a good friend?”*

*“How can we be patient when we are having to wait?”*

*“How do you feel when you share and work with others?”*

## Leave No Trace

It is important that we always leave places cleaner than we found them. This is extra important when we are outdoors, but also important inside too!

Take some time together to clean your backyard, front yard, or even your home space and talk about the importance of cleaning up together as a team.

# EXPLORE THE SHOW

## Fine & Gross Motor Skills: Scavenger Hunt & Movement

Locomotor Skills, Counting, Identification Skills

Using your body, voice, and imagination, you can transform into the different animals you find in your local park! Practice soaring, balancing, and more in this fun backyard movement activity. You can balance like birds on a limb, crawl like caterpillars through the grass, jump like a rabbit, and soar like a hawk.

For an added challenge, see if there are any big body obstacles standing in your way — like a curb to balance on, a stick to jump over, and more!

## Music & Movement: Nature Sounds!

Recreation Skills, Cognitive Thinking, Movement & Locomotor Skills

Take some time to sit outside and listen to the music and sounds around you. Have your child identify and repeat some sounds they might be hearing - like the crows cawing, water running in a creek, bees buzzing, wind through the trees, and more.

After identifying the sounds, put them into a pattern like **"CAW, drip, bzzz, WHOOSH. CAW, drip, bzzz, WHOOSH."** Then, create a big body movement for each sound.

Put it all together  
for a sound and  
movement nature  
party!

# EXPLORE THE SHOW

## Sensory Science & Cognitive Development: Birding for Kids

Fine Motor Skills, Oral Recall, Visual Production



Bird-watching takes patience. Here are some ways to make it more child-friendly! Start by making your own pair of binoculars using two toilet paper rolls (or purchase a pair if you want!).

Go to a local nature park, or even your backyard, and take a look around.

### Counting the Birds!

Count how many birds you see fly by during your birding adventure. Keep track of the different types you see: robins, swallows, and more!

For a more elevated hunt, print out some pictures of birds in your local area and keep track of which ones you see during your adventure. You can also take pictures of the birds you see!

### Drawing the Birds!

Sit with some snacks and some colored pencils (or watercolors) and paper. Encourage your child to draw the birds they see, really looking at the colors and space the birds inhabit.

Ask them questions about what they see and what they are drawing.

Not many birds that day? Don't let your child get discouraged! Encourage them to draw the bugs and flowers they also see in the environment.

### Imitating the Birds!

Encourage your child to imitate the bird sounds you hear.

This will help your child begin to recognize the sounds of the birds that are local to you!

# EXPLORE THE SHOW

## Visual Art: Recycled Bird Feeder

Tactile Learning, Visual Communication, Fine Motor Skills

You can create a bird feeder to enhance your backyard habitat using a few objects from around your home!

Instead of throwing out that plastic water bottle, up-cycle it into a nifty cool feeder for your neighborhood birds.

## Supplies Needed

- 1 plastic water bottle
- Hot glue
- 3 to 4 six-inch dowel rods (you can also use sticks from your yard, chopsticks, or pencils!)
- A box cutter or other sharp tool (for grown-ups only!)
- Fishing line, yarn, string, or twine

*For an all-natural bird feeder, use a pine cone covered in your favorite nut or sunflower butter and roll it in bird seed. Attach a string to the top of the pine cone and hang on a tree outside your favorite window.*



## Instructions

1. Remove all liquid from your bottle and have an adult cut small holes (3 to 4, depending on how many dowels you have for perches!) across the width of the bottle all the way through to the other side.
2. Slide your dowel rods in through the holes to create small perches for your bird friends.
3. Secure these dowel rods in place with hot glue.
4. Cut another small hole above each perch so your birds can reach the seeds. Be careful not to cut these holes too big so the seeds don't fall out!
5. Take the lid and punch a small hole in the top; feed a piece of twine (or other material) through and create a solid knot on the underside of the lid.
6. Fill your bottle with bird seed, screw the lid back on, and hang outside your favorite window.
7. Watch as your new bird friends come and say hello!



# EXPLORE THE SHOW

**Creative & Drama Play: Camping Adventure!**  
Performance, Cooperation Skills, World Building

Our friends, Fiddle and Beeker, went on a fun camping adventure where they had to work together to attract birds to their campsite. As a great creative play activity, allow your campers to:

- **Help build a nest using found objects from around the classroom or home**
- **Become birds taking flight**
- **Roast marshmallows over an imaginary campfire**

...and more! Give your children **open-ended prompts** to help lead their story and play creation time.

**Language Arts & Literacy: Story Recall**  
Oral Communication, Recall

Asking children to recall key story points of the show helps enhance their literacy and recall skills. This will help them expand their vocabulary, impact their ability to connect emotion to experience, and aid in the development of stronger attention spans, focus, and concentration.

## Conversation Starter

Here are a few questions you can ask after the performance:

*"What happened in the beginning of the story?"*

*"How did Beeker and Fiddle work together?"*

*"What did they create?"*

*"What happened at the end of the story?"*

## Favorite Part

Using a small bird toy or other "talking item" to pass around, ask each child to share their favorite part of the play.

# Birds of a Feather

Continue the adventure!

## Online Birding Resources

**Audubon for Kids:**

[www.audubon.org/get-outside/activities/audubon-for-kids](http://www.audubon.org/get-outside/activities/audubon-for-kids)

**The Northern VA Audubon Society:**

[www.audubonva.org](http://www.audubonva.org)

**Northern VA Birding:**

[www.fxva.com/things-to-do/outdoor-activities-sports/birding](http://www.fxva.com/things-to-do/outdoor-activities-sports/birding)

**The VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation Best Birding:**

[www.dcr.virginia.gov/insights/where-to-find-the-best-birding-in-virginia](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/insights/where-to-find-the-best-birding-in-virginia)

## Recommended Reading

**[Better Together](#)** by Amy Robach and Andrew Shue

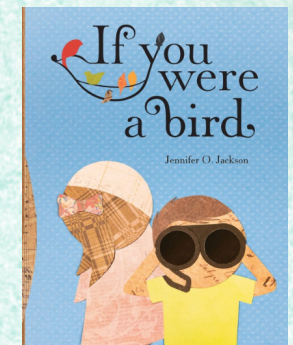
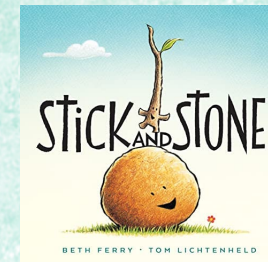
**[Stick and Stone](#)** by Beth Ferry

**[Fly, Little Bird - ¡Vuela, pajarito!](#)** by Ingo Blum  
(Bilingual book: English-Spanish)

**[Why Should I Walk? I can Fly!](#)** by Ann Ingalls

**[If You Were a Bird](#)** by Jennifer Jackson

**[Bird Count](#)** by Susan Edwards Richmond



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artsonthehorizon.org | 571-549-1270  
info@artsonthehorizon.org

  
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