



Royal Rangers

Merit Requirements: **Red-Bordered Merit**

BIRD STUDY

1. Define "ornithology." Tell how birds are important members of the ecological system.
2. Locate on a diagram of a bird some of the key areas to look at when identifying a bird. Learn these parts of a bird.
3. Learn how to use a bird field guide by doing the following for at least three bird species found in your area (the red-tailed hawk, hairy woodpecker, and song sparrow are all found in most of the U.S.):
 - a. Find the bird in the index.
 - b. Locate the bird on the page.
 - c. Find the dimensions of the bird's size.
 - d. Look at the map to make sure it is found in your area.
 - e. Read the information about the bird to determine what type of habitat you could expect to find it in.
4. Make a list of at least fifteen bird species you have learned to identify from pictures in a bird field guide, posters, or birding web site, and three birds you have identified in your yard, neighborhood, or church area. These should all be birds that are found in your area. The list should include the following information:
 - a. Specific common name of the bird.
 - b. Where you saw it (poster, yard, etc.).
 - c. The date you observed it.
 - d. Specific markings on the bird that helped you identify it.
 - e. Is it a year-round resident in your area or does it migrate?
5. Make a list of at least ten birds that prey on insects and rodents such as mice and rats.
6. Do ONE of the following:
 - a. Visit a bird exhibit in a natural history museum, zoo, or local park interpretive center and make a report of your visit.
 - b. Make a written or oral report about a great ornithologist, such as James Audubon or Roger Tory Peterson. Describe Audubon's or Peterson's major contributions to bird study.
7. Do ONE of the following:
 - a. Construct a birdhouse for a particular type of bird. Explain why it is suitable for this type of bird.
 - b. Construct a bird feeder.
 - c. Construct a bird bath.
8. Explain what may be done to protect bird life in your area.
9. List three Scripture references regarding birds.