



2024 Edition

SCOUTMASTER BUCKY

Bird Study Merit Badge

SCOUTS PARTICIPATING IN A SCOUTMASTER BUCKY MERIT BADGE OPPORTUNITY (ONLINE OR IN PERSON), PLEASE CONSIDER ALSO USING THE BIRD STUDY MERIT BADGE CLASS PREPARATION PAGE FOR CLARIFICATIONS, INSIGHTS, AND EXPECTATIONS.

<https://scoutmasterbucky.com/merit-badges/bird-study/class-prep/>

REQUIREMENT 1: Explain the need for bird study.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 1: Explain why birds are useful indicators of the quality of the environment.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 1: Describe how birds are part of the ecosystem.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 2: Show that you are familiar with the terms used to describe birds by doing the following:

REQUIREMENT 2a: Sketch or trace a perched bird and then label 15 different parts of the bird.





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REQUIREMENT 2b:

Sketch or trace an extended wing and label six types of wing feathers.





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REQUIREMENT 3: Demonstrate that you know how to properly use and care for binoculars, a spotting scope, or a monocular.

If you have binoculars, a spotting scope, or a monocular, bring it with you for use during the class.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

BE PREPARED!



BINOCULARS

Notes:



SPOTTING SCOPE

Notes:



MONOCULAR

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 3a: Explain what the specification numbers mean on binoculars, a spotting scope, or a monocular.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 3b: Show how to adjust the eyepiece and how to focus for proper viewing.

If you have binoculars, a spotting scope, or a monocular, bring it with you for use during the class.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

BE PREPARED!

REQUIREMENT 3c: Show how to properly care for and clean the lenses.

If you have binoculars, a spotting scope, or a monocular, bring it with you for use during the class.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

BE PREPARED!

REQUIREMENT 3d: Describe when and where each type of viewing device would be most effective.



BINOCULARS

Notes:



SPOTTING SCOPE

Notes:



MONOCULAR

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 4: Demonstrate that you know how to use a bird field guide. Show your counselor that you are able to understand a range map by locating in the book and pointing out the wintering range, the breeding range, and/or the year-round range of one species of each of the following types of birds:

REQUIREMENT 4a: Seabird

Wintering Range Notes:

Breeding Range Notes:

Year-Round Range Notes:

REQUIREMENT 4b: Plover

Wintering Range Notes:

Breeding Range Notes:

Year-Round Range Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 4c: Falcon or hawk

Wintering Range Notes:

Breeding Range Notes:

Year-Round Range Notes:

REQUIREMENT 4d: Warbler or vireo

Wintering Range Notes:

Breeding Range Notes:

Year-Round Range Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 4e: Heron or egret

Wintering Range Notes:

Breeding Range Notes:

Year-Round Range Notes:

REQUIREMENT 4f: Sparrow.

Wintering Range Notes:

Breeding Range Notes:

Year-Round Range Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 5:

Observe and be able to identify at least 20 species of wild birds. Prepare a field notebook, making a separate entry for each species, and record the following information from your field observations and other references.

- Note the date and time.
- Note the location and habitat.
- Describe the bird's main feeding habitat and list two types of food that the bird is likely to eat.
- Note whether the bird is a migrant or a summer, winter, or year-round resident of your area.

Scout's should make their own Field Notebook or use the Scoutmaster Bucky Bird Study Field Notebook found at [Scoutmaster Bucky - Bird Study Merit Badge Field Notebook Booklet.pdf](#)

REQUIREMENT 6:

Describe to your counselor how certain orders of birds are uniquely adapted to a specific habitat. In your description, include characteristics such as the size and shape of the following:

REQUIREMENT 6:

Beak

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 6:

Body

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 6: Leg and foot

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 6: Feathers/plumage.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 7: Explain the function of a bird's song.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 7: Be able to identify five of the 20 species in your field notebook by song or call alone. Explain the difference between songs and calls. For each of these five species, enter a description of the song or call, and note the behavior of the bird making the sound. Note why you think the bird was making the call or song that you heard.

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DO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING (8A, 8B, or 8C) FOR REQUIREMENT 8

REQUIREMENT 8a: Go on a field trip with a local club or with others who are knowledgeable about birds in your area.

Club or Group:

Field Trip Location:

Date and Time of Visit:

REQUIREMENT 8a1: Keep a list or fill out a checklist of all the birds your group observed during the field trip.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 8a2: Tell your counselor which birds your group saw and why some species were common, and some were present in small numbers.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 8a3: Tell your counselor what makes the area you visited good for finding birds.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 8b: By using a public library, the internet, or contacting the National Audubon Society, find the name and location of the Christmas Bird Count nearest your home and obtain the results of a recent count.

Christmas Bird Count nearest you:

Source:

Recent Results and Year:

REQUIREMENT 8b1: Explain what kinds of information are collected during the annual event.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 8b2: Tell your counselor which species are most common, and explain why these birds are abundant.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 8b3: Tell your counselor which species are uncommon, and explain why these were present in small numbers. If the number of birds of these species is decreasing, explain why, and what, if anything, could be done to reverse their decline.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 8c: Participate in a bird banding program with an approved federal or state agency, university researcher, bird observatory, or certified private individual.

Bird Banding Program Agency you participated with:

REQUIREMENT 8c1: Explain who is able to band birds and why

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 8c2: Explain why birds get banded

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 8c3: Explain what kinds of birds get banded

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 8c4: Tell how the birds were captured, the number of bird species recorded during your visit, and your role in the program

Notes:



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DO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING (9A, 9B, 9C, or 9D) FOR REQUIREMENT 9

REQUIREMENT 9: For the option you choose, describe what birds you hope to attract, and why

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 9a: Build a bird feeder and put it in an appropriate place in your yard or another location.

This requirement will NOT be done during the class

Consider doing this before class for the opportunity to review with the merit badge counselor during the class.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

REQUIREMENT 9b: Build a birdbath and put it in an appropriate place.

This requirement will NOT be done during the class

Consider doing this before class for the opportunity to review with the merit badge counselor during the class.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

REQUIREMENT 9c: Build a backyard sanctuary for birds by planting trees and shrubs for food and cover.

This requirement will NOT be done during the class

Consider doing this before class for the opportunity to review with the merit badge counselor during the class.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

REQUIREMENT 9d: Build a nest box for a species of your choice using plans approved by your counselor.

This requirement will NOT be done during the class

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REQUIREMENT 10a: Explain the differences between extinct, endangered, and threatened.

Extinct:

Endangered:

Threatened:

REQUIREMENT 10b: Identify bird species that is on the endangered or threatened list.

Bird Species:

REQUIREMENT 10b: Explain what caused their decline.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 10b: Discuss with your counselor what can be done to reverse this trend and what can be done to help remove the species from the endangered or threatened list.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 11: Identify a nonnative bird (introduced to North America from a foreign country since 1800).

Nonnative Bird Species:

REQUIREMENT 11: Describe how nonnative birds may become damaging to the ecosystem.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 12: Identify three career opportunities connected to the study of birds.

Career Opportunity #1:

Career Opportunity #2:

Career Opportunity #3:

REQUIREMENT 12: Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss with your counselor if this profession might interest you.

Selected Career Opportunity:

Educational Requirements:

Training Requirements:

Experience Requirements: