A Tale of 4 Birds
Activity Book

There are many different kinds of birds. To help us identify birds with similar characteristics, they are grouped into families. Here are three families of birds that share characteristics. Knowing these similarities will help you identify the bird.

I’m a Water Fowl.

I have a large, wide bill to eat water plants, algae and aquatic insects.
I have a special oil to keep my feathers waterproof and to keep me warm and dry.
My feet are webbed so I can paddle and dive.
I need lakes, ponds, marshes, rivers and streams with clean water and shelter so I can safely raise my young.

Hi there! I’m a Turkey Vulture.
My head is bare to prevent rotting flesh from sticking to it.
I poop on my legs and feet to keep cool.

My main defense is projectile vomiting.
Wow!
I’m so Awesome!

Protect our birds by creating safe places and habitats.

5 water fowl you may see at lakes, ponds, marshes, streams and rivers: American Widgeon, Blue-winged Teal, Canvasback, Mallard, Northern Shoveler.

Illustrations by Jackie Blurton

Helping You Appreciate Nature.
I’m a Song Bird
I have a sharp, pointed beak to catch insects and pick up seeds.
I have very good vision so I can find very small insects, berries, seeds and watch for predators.
My wings are short and rounded for fast flight and quick turns.
My feet have long toes for perching on branches.
Some songs I sing to attract a mate and let other birds know where my territory is. I also have calls that warn other birds of danger.
I make my nests in trees, bushes, in holes in trees and on the ground.
It’s important to have plenty of food, water and cover for safety to build my nest and raise my young.
Here are 7 Song Birds you may see in your yard: Canyon Towhee, Curved-billed Thrasher, House Finch, House Sparrow, Junco, Western Bluebird, White-crowned Sparrow.

Make your back yard Bird Friendly.
Visit our website at www.swnmaudubon.org.

I’m a Bird of Prey
I have a large, sharp, hooked beak to tear meat to eat and feed my young.
My eyes are like binoculars and I can see a rabbit on the ground a mile away.
I have long, wide wings so I can soar high into the sky on warm air currents and look for prey. I feed on rabbits and rodents as well as small birds, fish, reptiles and insects.
My feet are strong and have long, sharp, hooked talons to catch my prey.
I build my nest high in large trees or cliffs.
I need lots of space and open country to look for prey and have a safe place to raise my family.

Here are 5 birds of prey you may see where there are open spaces: American Kestrel, Coopers Hawk, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Red-tailed Hawk.