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**2022-23  
4-H Wildside**



**FIELD BOOK**

**December 1 - February 27**

This book belongs to:

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## Winter Bird ID Challenge!

The second seasonal Wildside Challenge this year is the Winter Bird ID Challenge. Have you ever hoped to increase your ability to identify birds but are intimidated by the hundreds of species that fly around New Hampshire? Winter is a great time to begin this education as most birds migrate to warmer climates leaving only a small number to identify. Those that stay are surprisingly easy to approach and recognize.

This winter, while you are out and about with your family participating in your favorite winter activities, take a closer look at the birds in your natural surroundings. This challenge is a winter bird identification project. On any type of winter outing, accurately identify birds that have chosen to call New Hampshire home all year round. There is a list of bird species to choose from on the next page.

- Choose at least 6 of the bird species. Use the bird identification guide at the end of this logbook to help you.
- Participate in a family, 4-H Club, or group outing related to Winter (see list on next page).
- Fill out a logbook section for each bird species.
- Return your filled-out logbook to your county 4-H office by Monday, March 6th.
- We will send your completed logbook and your limited edition Winter Bird ID Challenge patch back to you.

*Hurry, because like a migrating bird, the time to complete this challenge goes quick!*

#### 4. *Song Sparrow* –

- Appearance – brown plumage with streaking, grey supercilium or “eyebrow,” brown streak behind eye, white underneath with brown streaking, long tail
- Song – short burst of evenly spaced notes followed by “trilling,” or two notes sung in rapid succession, over and over



#### • **Old World Sparrows (*Passeridae*)**

##### 1. *House Sparrow* –

- Appearance – Males in the winter have chestnut colored heads and backs with yellowed beaks and greyish bellies. Females have greyish brown plumage with minimal markings.
- Song – a straightforward song made up of notes heard as “cheep” or “chirrup,” repeated over and over by the males.



- **New World Sparrows and Allies (*Passerellidae*)**

1. *American Tree Sparrow* –

- Appearance – cone shaped beak with a yellowed lower portion, rust colored head with a grey “eyebrow,” white and grey underbelly, brown wings and tan back, black spot on chest
- Song – clear, high-pitched whistle involving an intricate pattern



2. *Dark-eyed Junco* –

- Appearance – pink beak, dark-grey upper plumage with white feathers underneath
- Song – loud song of even notes, can also sing quietly, resembling song of the American Goldfinch



3. *White-throated Sparrow* –

- Appearance – long tail, short beak, white throat, black and white (or tan) striping on head with yellow patch by the eye, brown striped wings, greyish brown on belly
- Song – whistling notes heard as “Oh Sweet Canada Canada” or “Old Sam Peabody Peabody” with the ending notes being higher in pitch



## Bird Species List

- **Crows and Jays**
  - Blue Jay
  - American Crow
- **Chickadees and Titmice**
  - Black-capped Chickadee
  - Tufted Titmouse
- **Nuthatches**
  - Red-Breasted Nuthatches
  - White-Breasted Nuthatches
- **Cardinals and Allies**
  - Northern Cardinal
  - Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- **Finches and Allies**
  - Evening Grosbeak
  - Pine Grosbeak
  - House Finch
  - Purple Finch
  - Common Redpoll
  - Pine Siskin
  - American Goldfinch
- **New World Sparrows and Allies**
  - American Tree Sparrow
  - Dark-Eyed Junco
  - White-Throated Sparrow
  - Song Sparrow
- **Old World Sparrows**
  - House Sparrow



## Eligible Outings

- 4-H Club Meeting or Event
- Snowshoeing
- Maintaining Bird feeders
- Hiking or Walking
- Skiing
- Ice Fishing
- Snowmobiling
- Outdoor School Events
- Hunting



Participating in an outing that is not on this list? That's awesome, add it. The point is simply to get out of the house and more in touch with your *wildside*.

Note: you are permitted to identify multiple species during the same outing. For example, you can identify several species taking a walk in the woods, at a 4-H Club meeting, etc. However, you are required to do at least 2 different outings to get 6 different bird species.

### Recording your findings:

Your logbook has 5 components for each species:

1. **Information section:** Name of species, date of outing, town, type of outing, description of location.
2. **Picture of Bird:** Either a photo or drawing of the bird identified.
3. **Description of Species:** Describe the species you have identified using key markers (i.e. size, coloring, beak/ tail shape)
4. **Feather:** Photo of bird feather(s) or tape in a found feather of listed species.
5. **Description of Bird Song/Call:** Identify bird species by their song/call and write down the sounds you hear.

### Submitting your Logbook:

**Paper Log Books:** Return your filled-out logbook by Monday, March 6th to:

COÖS COUNTY 4-H OFFICE  
Christine Whiting  
629A Main Street  
Lancaster, NH 03584



#### 4. Purple Finch –

- Appearance – Males have a reddish-purple plumage with streaking along their back, brown feathering on their wings and tail with white on their underbelly. Females have streaked brown and white plumage.
- Song – fast paced song full of high and low notes/pitches

#### 5. Common Redpoll –

- Appearance – cone shaped beak, red forehead, grey plumage on back and sides with black streaks, whit/pale coloring on the underneath, forked tail. Males also have a pink/reddish chest.
- Song – a long song made up of “chattering” “whistling” and “trilling” sounds used to call to one another

#### 6. Pine Siskin –

- Appearance – small size, brown plumage with heavy streaking throughout, pale underbelly, yellow feathers on wings and tails while also being streaked with white,

- Song – quiet, raspy, short notes sung together, sometimes sounding like “zreeeeeet”

#### 7. American Goldfinch –

- Appearance – Non-breeding coloring held in the Fall/Winter- yellow faces with black wings accented by pale yellow markings, greenish-brown body with whiteish underbelly

- Song – chirping in a varying tune for an extended length of time



- **Finches and Allies (*Fringillidae*)**

1. *Evening Grosbeak* –

- Appearance – Males feathers are yellow and black with a white patch on wings. Females are mostly pale yellow and grey with black on wings and tail. Both have a large, cone shaped bill and short tail.

- Song – short, soft, varied or uneven notes/pitch

2. *Pine Grosbeak* –

- Appearance – Males have red plumage on their heads, back, and rear with black wings and tail. Females have greenish-yellow feathers on their head and rear with gray plumage covering their back and underside with black wings and tail.

- Song – flute-like sound, varied notes ranging over 2-5 seconds

3. *House Finch* –

- Appearance – light brown to brown feathers, plumage appearing streaked, gray coloring on wings. Males have reddish coloring on their heads and neck.

- Song – a long song of varied notes that are short/concise



We will send your completed logbook and your limited edition Winter Bird ID Challenge patch back to you after the Challenge end date!

Scan the QR code below to access a web-link with information on all the bird species you may find on your winter outing!



Best of all,  
have fun  
exploring the  
beautiful  
nature of  
New  
Hampshire!



## Species #1

Species Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date Identified \_\_\_\_\_

Town/Location \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Outing \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Species Location \_\_\_\_\_

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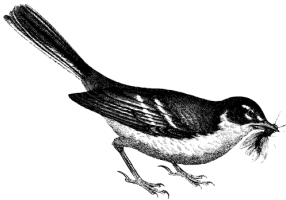
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### 2. Tufted Titmouse –

- Appearance – Light grey and white feathers, grey crest, rust colored underneath the wings, short beak
- Song – whistle sounding like “peter-peter-peter” repeated up to eleven times in a row



### • Nuthatches (Sittidae)

#### 1. Red-Breasted Nuthatches –

- Appearance – small size, blue/grey plumage on top while reddish underneath, black crown with white “eyebrow” or supercilium running from beak to back of the head, straight beak, short tail
- Song – horn like noise, quick paced series of “yank-yank” sounds



#### 2. White-Breasted Nuthatches –

- Appearance – small size, blue/grey plumage, mostly white face, black crown, rust colored underneath tail, short tail
- Song – “wha-wha-wha” in a low and quick succession, lasting 2-3 seconds



## Winter Bird Identification Key

Use these descriptions to help identify the birds you find on your *Wildside* outing

- **Crows and Jays (*Corvidae*)**

1. *Blue Jay* –

- Appearance - blue feathers with black and white markings on tail and wings, dark beak and legs
- Song - mimic a hawk-like call, harsh sound resembling “jaay-jaay,” series of soft noises known as “whisper song”

2. *American Crow* –

- Appearance – covered in black feathers, squared off/fan shaped tail
- Song – harsh calls heard as “caw-caw” or “caa-cao”

- **Chickadees and Titmice (*Paridae*)**

1. *Black-capped Chickadee* –

- Appearance – small beak, black, white, and gray plumage, black crest and chest,
- Song- high-pitched whistle sounding like “fee-bee”



Picture of Bird  
(Drawing or Photo)

**Species #1**

**Description of Species**

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**Species #6**

**Feather**

(photo of feather or actual feather taped in)

**Description of Bird Song/Call**

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**Species #6**

**Description of Species**

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**Species #1**

**Feather**

(photo of feather or actual feather taped in)

**Description of Bird Song/Call**

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**Species #2**

**Picture of Bird  
(Drawing or Photo)**

**Species Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Identified** \_\_\_\_\_

**Town/Location** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Outing** \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of Species Location** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Species #6**

**Picture of Bird  
(Drawing or Photo)**

**Species Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Identified** \_\_\_\_\_

**Town/Location** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Outing** \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of Species Location** \_\_\_\_\_

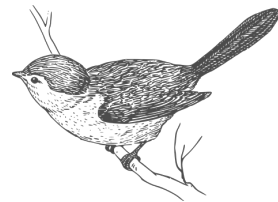
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**Species #2**

**Description of Species**

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**Species #5**

**Feather**

(photo of feather or actual feather taped in)

**Description of Bird Song/Call**

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**Species #5**

**Description of Species**

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**Species #2**

**Feather**

(photo of feather or actual feather taped in)

**Description of Bird Song/Call**

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**Species #3**

**Picture of Bird  
(Drawing or Photo)**

**Species Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Identified** \_\_\_\_\_

**Town/Location** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Outing** \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of Species Location** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Species #5**

**Picture of Bird  
(Drawing or Photo)**

**Species Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Identified** \_\_\_\_\_

**Town/Location** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Outing** \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of Species Location** \_\_\_\_\_

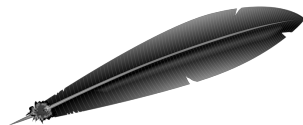
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**Species #3**

**Description of Species**

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**Species #4**

**Feather**

(photo of feather or actual feather taped in)

**Description of Bird Song/Call**

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**Species #4**

**Description of Species**

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**Species #3**

**Feather**

(photo of feather or actual feather taped in)

**Description of Bird Song/Call**

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**Species #4**

**Picture of Bird**  
(Drawing or Photo)

**Species Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Identified** \_\_\_\_\_

**Town/Location** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Outing** \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of Species Location** \_\_\_\_\_

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