

STAYING SAFE



Here are some things to keep in mind when exploring outside:

- Stay home if you feel sick, if you have been in contact with anyone who has tested positive, or if you are under self-quarantine.
- Practice physical distancing and best hygiene practices when you see other people in nature.
- Bring your own mask, hat, snacks, water, sunscreen, and bug spray. Make sure to bring back any garbage you have so you can properly get rid of it at home.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you will be back.
- Watch wildlife from a safe distance and do not try to handle them.
- Do not pick any wildflowers or plants - please leave nature for everyone to enjoy.
- Wear long sleeves and long pants if walking in a wooded area. Learn more about tick safety: <https://www.ontarioparks.com/parkblog/how-to-protect-yourself-from-ticks/>

ACTIVITY #4: TALK TO THE BIRDS

You may hear birdsong in a forest or your backyard, but have you ever tried to have a conversation with these birds?

Try to whistle and mimic (copy) their noises and use your binoculars to see if anyone comes to see you!



Red-winged Blackbird

- Males have red shoulder patch bordered in yellow (pictured)
- Have a slender, cone-shaped beak
- Habitat: near watery areas like marshes
- Close to the size of an American Robin
- Song sounds like they're singing "conk-la-ree!"



Northern Cardinal

- Females are pale brown with reddish tinges in the wings, tail, and crest, with a red-orange beak and black face around the beak
- Males are red all over, with a red bill and black face around the beak (pictured)
- Song: "cheer-cheer-cheer-purty-purty-purty"

Barred Owl

- Large owl with a round head, no ear tufts, and a medium length rounded tail
- Habitat: large, mature forests, often near water
- Nest in tree cavities (holes)
- Call: "whooo-cooks-for-you"



American Goldfinch

- In spring and early summer, males are bright yellow with black forehead and black wings with white markings (pictured)
- Habitat: fields, floodplains, roadsides, yards
- Diet: seeds
- Song: "pa-chip-chip-chip"



Northern Flicker

- This woodpecker is a ground forager, always looking for delicious insects to eat!
- Habitat: open habitats near trees (woodlands, edges, yards, and parks)
- Song: "kleeeyer-wik-wik-wik"



Keep practicing your bird call identification skills with these websites:



Merlin Bird ID

