

Fly and Spy

Birds

Making Space for
our Feathered Friends

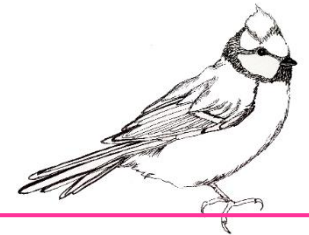
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Flight Patterns

Birds in flight make all sorts of patterns in the air. Look up and you might notice that different birds move their bodies in different ways:

- Flapping flight - some birds beat their wings quickly, making their body move up and down. They look as though they are hopping across the sky. Others slowly beat their wings up and down and their body remains still.
- Gliding flight – some birds hardly move their wings at all. They hold their wings out and catch air currents to glide effortlessly.
- Soaring flight – some birds soar up on currents of warm air and spiral around as they follow those currents.
- Hovering flight – a few birds hover in one spot (a kestrel is an example of a hovering bird).

What do you notice while you watch birds flying? Some fly high and some fly low. Some birds stay in the air for a long time or dart from rooftop to telegraph pole.



Hide and Seek

Why not build a den to use as a bird hide? Think carefully about where you will build it to get the best view of your garden or birdfeeder. Leave the den for a day or two so that the birds get used to it. Sit quietly in your den and see what you can spot. You could take snacks and a notebook to write or draw what you see.

Take a look at our den building ideas here: <https://www.chatsworth.org/media/14325/dens-and-shelters-updated-jan-2021-ks-12-compressed.pdf>

Bird habitats can vary, depending on the species. Look up in the trees and on rooftops, and down on the ground in the undergrowth to spot nesting birds. How many nests can you see?

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