



Girl Scouts.

Girl Scouts – North Carolina Coastal Pines

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Birds of the Carolinas



**Our Own Council's
Badge**

*Special thanks from the Program Department to,
Jenny Palmer of Girl Scout Troop #1763 from
Raleigh, NC who contributed her time and energy in
the development of this
Our Own Council's Birds of the Carolinas badge.*

GIRL SCOUTS – NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL PINES
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Before completing six of the following, including the two starred (*) requirements, read the attached page on Birding Ethics.

1. *What Makes a Bird a Bird?

Birds have some pretty unique features. Name at least three things that make a bird. Label the main parts of a bird. (See *Leader's Resource Guide*.)

2. *Birds of the Carolinas

North Carolina is home to a large variety of birds including the following:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Northern Cardinal* | Carolina Chickadee |
| Eastern Bluebird | Ruby Throated Hummingbird |
| Blue Jay | American Robin |
| Northern Flicker | Herring Gull |
| Downy Woodpecker | Great Horned Owl |
| Red Tailed Hawk | White-breasted Nuthatch |
| Northern Mockingbird | Tufted Titmouse |
| Canada Goose | Barn Owl |
| Osprey | Brown Thrasher |
| American Goldfinch | Red-bellied Woodpecker |
| House Finch | Carolina Wren |
| Grey Catbird | Baltimore Oriole |
| Eastern Towhee | Great Egret |
| Mourning Doves | |

Choose 10 of the above birds (including the one *). Using field guides or the internet, learn more about each bird including their habitat, bird family to which they belong, diet, size, or other interesting facts. Why is the Northern Cardinal special to North Carolina?

3. Bird Watching Tools

Brainstorm a list of tools needed for bird watching. Learn the main parts of a pair of binoculars and practice using them.

4. Go See the Birds

Go on a guided bird hike with a park ranger, Audubon Society member, or other person knowledgeable about birds. See how many different kinds of birds you can find. Take along a notebook so you can write or draw what you see.

5. Communication

Learn about how birds communicate. Choose five of the birds from requirement two and find out what their call sounds like. What is the easy mnemonic to help you remember their call? (See *Leader's Resource Guide*.) With your troop, practice communicating like the birds you chose. Can you identify each other by your calls?

6. Be a Friend to the Birds

Help your local birds by making and installing either a bird house, bird feeder, or bird bath.

7. Celebrate Birds

Attend a special day dedicated to the birds or host your own event. See the *Leaders Resource Guide* for several area contacts. Examples of area events include: Songbird Celebration at Blue Jay Point County Park, International Migratory Day at Falls Lake State Park, and Wake Audubon Society events including the annual bird count.

8. Why Do Birds Migrate?

Many birds stop in the Carolinas on their way to and from their winter homes. Find out why birds migrate. Why is North Carolina a good stopping place? Play an existing game or create your own that involves the many challenges birds face while migrating.

9. You Eat Like a Bird!

Be creative and make a bird-themed snack for your troop/family.

10. Birdie See Birdie Do!

Now that you've learned about North Carolina's birds, be creative and make a bird-related craft or game.

BIRDING ETHICS

Leave nests alone and don't get too close – you could cause the parent to abandon the nest or lead predators to the eggs or young.

Show respect for landowners and private and public lands. Respect the rights of others observing nature.

Leave “injured” and “orphaned” birds alone. The parent is often nearby and will return to care for the young.

Understand and obey regulations on harvest of gamebirds.

In nature, you are the guest. Be quiet and orderly. Move slowly.

Don't “chase” birds. Observe birds from a distance using your binoculars to bring them close.

Leave no litter. Some litter, especially fishing line, plastic soda rings, bubblegum, and cigarette butts, can be harmful to birds.

If you are feeding birds, maintain fresh and adequate food supplies for them. Don't feed birds your food – they are healthiest when they eat natural foods.

Don't bring predators along. Your dogs and cats belong at home.

