

Erie National Wildlife Refuge



"Let's Go Birding"

1) Before you begin your birding adventure, take time to learn about the National Wildlife Refuge System. Watch the video “America’s National Wildlife Refuge System, Where Wildlife Comes First”. Name one thing that you learned about the Refuge System.

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2) Pick one book to read about birds. (The refuge has many books about birds that you can borrow.) What are two things you learned:

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10) While out on the refuge find as many birds as you can. Pick 3 of those birds, and look very closely at it. Describe what each one looks like, where you found it, and what the bird was doing.

	Bird #1	Bird #2	Bird #3
What colors were on the bird? Head Breast Wings Tail			
What did the beak look like? (long and thin; short and narrow, short and rounded, ..)			
Were the legs extra long?			
Did you notice anything else special about the bird?			
Where did you see the bird?			
What was it doing?			

- 3) Spend some time doing activities in the Refuge Headquarters. Be sure to try the bird song game, make some animal tracks, play the matching animal signs game, and look out the bird observation window.

- 4) At the Refuge Headquarters, look at the Freshwater Mussel Display. Try to find the mussels amongst the rocks. Record your findings.

- 5) There are many different kinds of birds – birds of prey, waterfowl, songbirds, shorebirds, and more. Pick one of these groups of birds and learn something about it. (The refuge has some books you can borrow, or use the internet, or look at some of the information signs around the refuge.) What did you learn?

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11) Use a Bird Guide Book to try to learn the name, and something interesting about each of the 3 birds you described in #10. (The refuge has guide books you can borrow.)

	Bird #1	Bird #2	Bird #3
Bird Name			
One fact about the bird			

I've gone birding at Erie National Wildlife Refuge!

Student

Parent or Guardian

Date

6) Many birds migrate south for the winter looking for food and shelter. Talk with an adult about migration. (If you would like to learn more, there is an information sign about bird migration on New Road on the refuge.) List one problem a bird could have when they migrate.

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7) There are three bald eagle nests on the refuge. Spend some time at the Observation Deck on Deer Run Trail; you may see an eagle flying in the area. What did you learn about eagles from the information sign at the beginning of the trail?

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8) At the refuge headquarters, play the wildlife signs game (in the bird observation area). Can you identify all the wildlife signs by touch?

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9) Learn to use binoculars to see birds that are far away. (The refuge has binoculars that you can borrow.)