

Anderson Parks Winter Birds Packet



**Anderson
Park District**

This workbook belongs to:



Anderson Park District

Dear Anderson Park Fans,

We invite you to explore our backyard with the Family Outdoor Adventure Winter Birds Packet. The goal of this workbook is to encourage children and families to get outside together and explore your Anderson Parks. Winter is a good time to explore and look for birds since the trees are bare and it is easier to see them.

In this packet you will find a variety of activities focused on some birds that can be seen in our local area during the winter or year-round. While these are appropriate for ages 4-8 years old, everyone can enjoy birdwatching and learning a little something about our feathered friends. The activities are designed to engage your child in learning about birds in our local parks while having fun, using your imagination and being active. Spread the activities out during the winter months and let the birds brighten your days.

We hope you can explore as a family, especially since younger children may need assistance completing some of the activities. A map of all the Anderson Parks is included; we encourage you to visit a park that is new to you. If you are not able to visit our parks, many of these activities can also be completed at home in your own backyard. Don't forget to document your adventure through pictures and share them with us on social media, @AndersonParkDistrict.

Your Friends at the Anderson Park District



Color Match

Draw a line to match the bird to the color that matches it best.



Northern
Cardinal



Grey



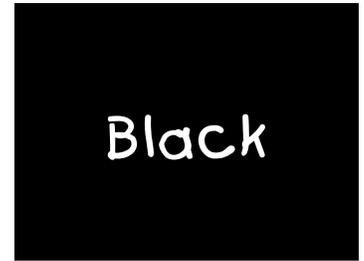
Blue Jay



Orange/
Rust



American
Goldfinch



Black



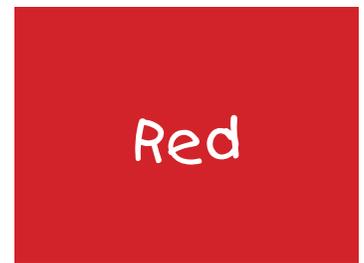
Mourning
Dove



Blue



American
Robin



Red



American
Crow

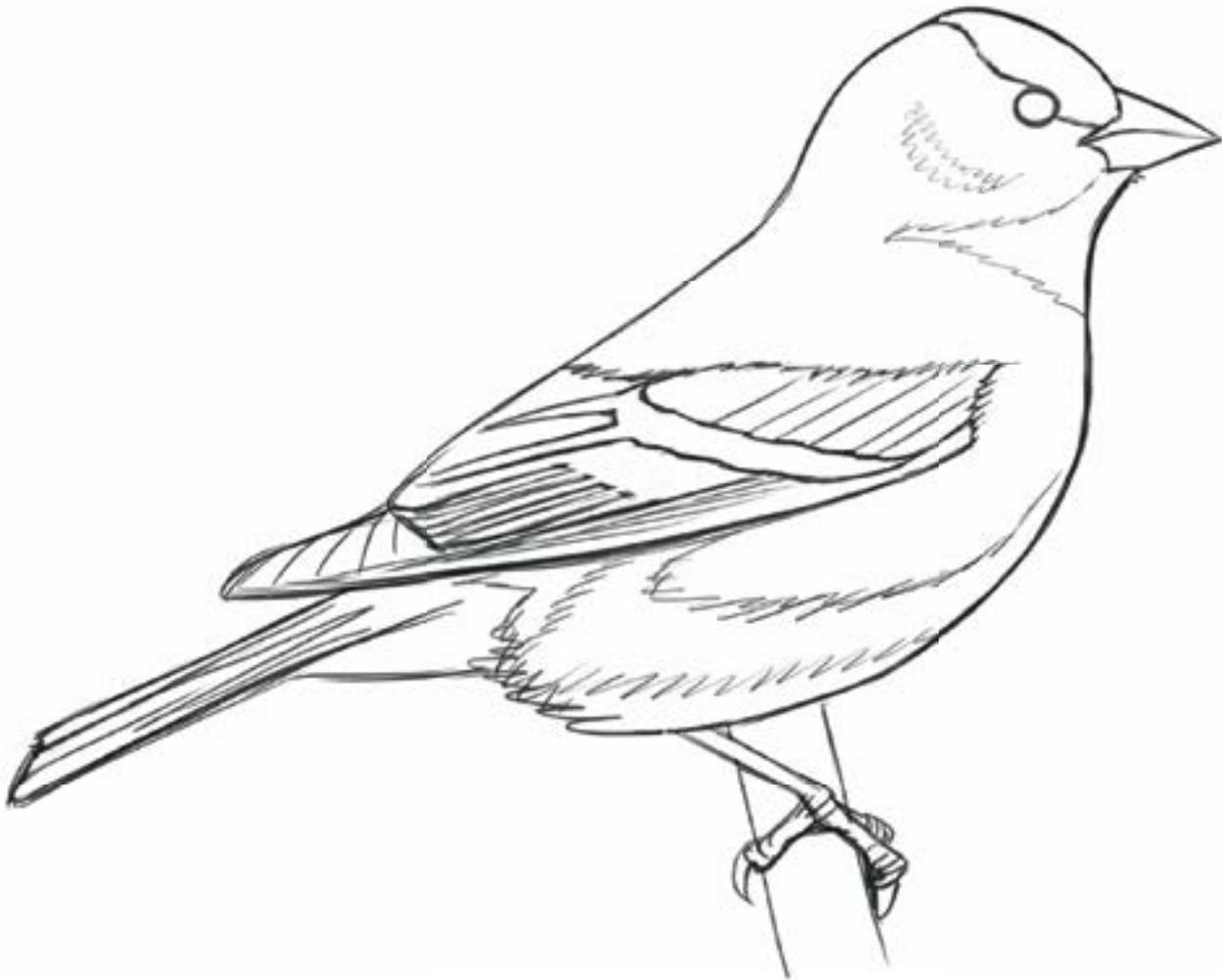


Yellow

Coloring Page

Color this bird. What color should it be? Its name is a clue!

American Goldfinch



Beaks & Feet Activity

You can find out a lot about a bird's habitat and diet by examining their beaks and feet. Draw a line from each bird to match their correct beak and feet.

Beaks:



Feet:



Bird Scavenger Hunt

Get out in your Anderson Parks (or your backyard) and use your eyes and ears to check off as many items as you can below:

Bird Evidence

feather

droppings

nest

Look for Birds...

on a branch

on a wire or roof

flying or soaring

on the ground

eating

with white on its body

in a group of three or more

with two together

that are colorful

that is mostly black

drinking

with a long tail

with a short tail



Suet Feeder Activity

Different birds eat different foods like fruit, seeds and insects. Birds that love insects are attracted to suet feeders. Some birds that you might see at a suet feeder include chickadees, nuthatches and woodpeckers.

Materials:

- 1 1/2 cups shortening (look for palm oil free options)
- 3/4 cups nut butter (any kind)
- 3 1/2 cups wild bird seed
- 1 cup quick oats
- 1/2 cup corn meal
- Ice cube tray or cookie cutters



Steps:

1. Mix the dry ingredients of bird seed, oats, and corn meal together and set aside.
2. Combine the shortening and nut butter in a separate bowl and melt. Stir until completely combined.
3. Pour the melted mixture into the dry ingredients and stir until combined.
4. Spoon mixture into the ice cube tray or cookie cutters placed on a baking sheet. You may want to poke a hole for hanging.
5. Freeze for one to two hours and place in your suet feeder!

Note: Not recommended for outdoor temperatures above 50 degrees.

This recipe was found at <https://www.audubon.org/news/make-your-own-suet> and was originally inspired by “The Misfit Baker” blog.

Feeder Frenzy

Observe a bird feeder and make a tally mark every time you see one of these birds. Keep track for 10 minutes at a time. Observe at different times of the day and note the time. If you don't have a feeder at home watch this live cam: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/cams/cornell-lab-feederwatch/>

Bird	Time Observed & Tallies During that Time	Total Tallies
Woodpecker 		
American Goldfinch 		
American Robin 		
Blue Jay 		
Carolina Chickadee 		
Mourning Dove 		
Northern Cardinal 		
White-Breasted Nuthatch 		
Eastern Bluebird 		

Winter Bird Walk

Take a walk and make a tally mark every time you see one of these birds. Keep track for 10 minutes at a time. Take walks at different times of the day and note the time.

Bird	Time Observed & Tallies During that Time	Total Tallies
Woodpecker 		
American Goldfinch 		
American Robin 		
Blue Jay 		
Carolina Chickadee 		
Mourning Dove 		
Northern Cardinal 		
White-Breasted Nuthatch 		
Eastern Bluebird 		

Count & Compare

Use the information from your bird walk and feeder observations to complete this page.

Total number of birds observed on your bird walk: _____

Total number of birds observed at the feeder: _____

Did you see more birds on your walk or at the feeder? _____

At what time of day did you see the most birds...

on your walk? _____

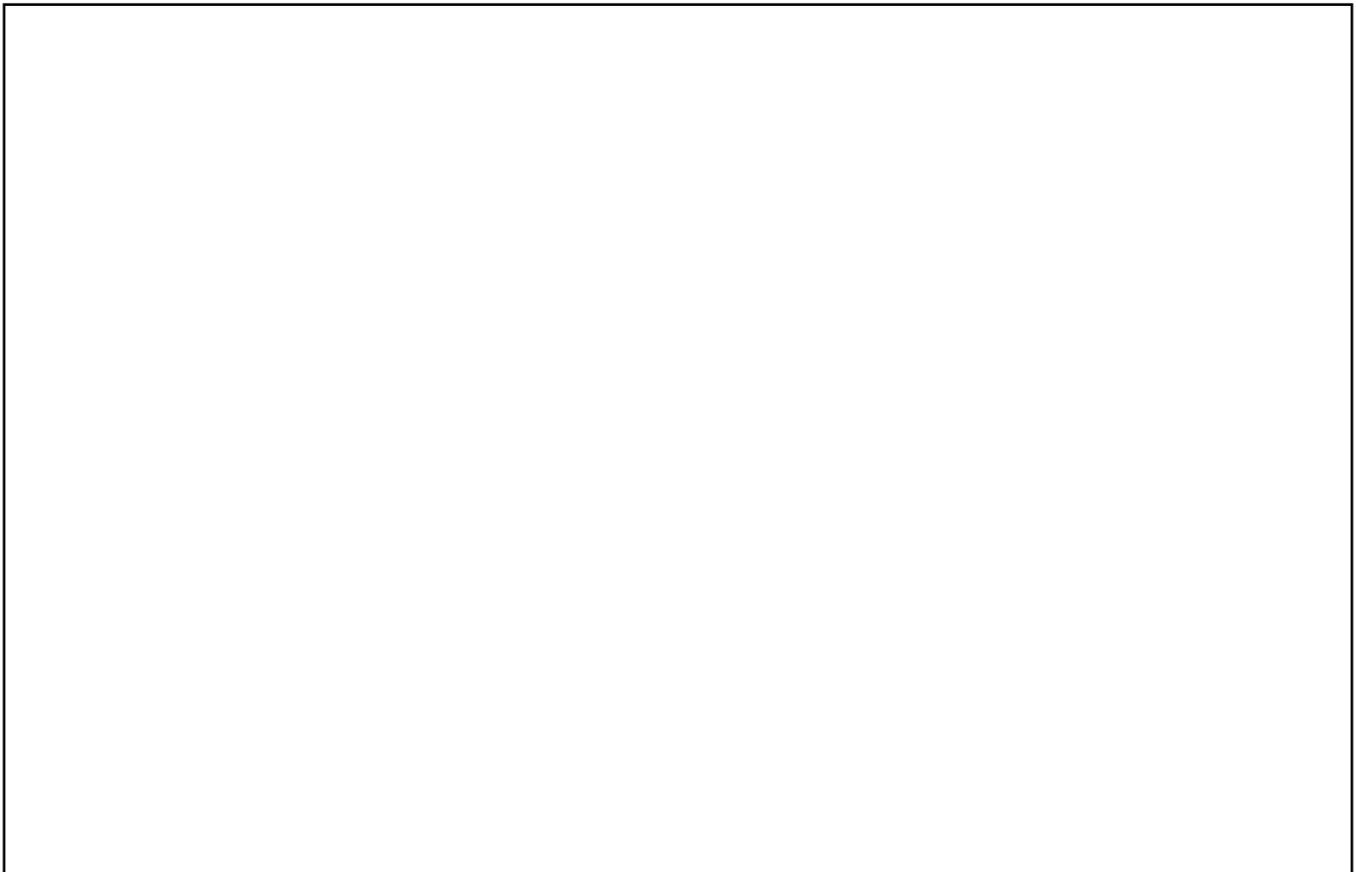
at the feeder? _____

Does the time of day make a difference? _____

Which bird did you observe most on your walk? _____

Which bird did you observe most at the bird feeder? _____

Draw a picture of the birds feeding at the bird feeder.



Let's Help Birds Thrive

There are some simple ways that we can help birds to thrive.
These include:

- Turn lights off at night as to not confuse night-migrating birds.
- Plant native plants and trees to provide birds with fruits and seeds.
- Leave fallen branches and brush in your yard to provide birds with shelter from predators and bad weather.
- Help prevent birds from crashing into our windows. Birds see through the clear window to the other side or they see a reflection of the sky or nearby trees. That leads them to fly into the glass at full speed, most likely injuring or killing them. Screens could be put in windows; we could close blinds or curtains; or we could stick decals on the outside of the glass (with your parents' permission).



Window Clings Activity

Use these instructions adapted from the National Audubon Society article *Audubon for Kids Make Migration-Friendly Window Decorations*, September 18, 2015, updated April 7, 2020 (<https://www.audubon.org/news/make-migration-friendly-window-decorations>) to create your own window decorations to help birds thrive by preventing them from crashing into our windows.

Materials:

- Puff paint **OR** Elmer's glue, dish soap, and markers
- A smooth plastic surface like a sheet protector or sandwich bag
- A paintbrush
- Stencils for tracing (see next page for stencils or design your own)



Instructions:

1. Decide on designs! You can design your own, copy from a photo, or use the stencil from the next page. Or, you can just paint on your glue designs as you go.

Using Store-bought Puff Paint:

2. Place your smooth plastic sheet over your stencil so you can see the stencil through the plastic.

3. Apply the puff paint onto the plastic. Squeeze the paint directly from the bottle onto the plastic and use a paintbrush to smooth it out. You will want an even coating that is thick enough to withstand being lifted from the sheet.

4. Let the puff paint dry. This will depend on the thickness of the paint you painted on, but will take at least two hours—and maybe up to 24 hours.

5. Carefully remove the clings from the sheet. You will need to peel them off slowly and gently to make sure the clings do not fold over and stick to themselves.

6. Apply the decals close together on the window. For puff paint, attach the flat side to the window. Carefully smooth them on the window.



TIP: For maximum effectiveness against window collisions, decals should be placed no more than 2-4 inches apart on your windows.

Sit back and admire your work knowing this project is helping birds thrive!

Make your own Puff Paint:

2. Pour two tablespoons of glue into a cup, then put in two drops of dish soap. Stir until the soap is totally blended in.

3. Place your smooth plastic sheet over your stencil so you can see the stencil through the plastic.

4. Use the paintbrush to paint the glue onto the plastic. You will want an even coating that is thick enough to withstand being lifted from the sheet. Make sure there are no gaps or thin, streaky sections. You may need to apply a second coat.

5. Let dry. This will depend on the thickness of the glue you painted on, but will take at least two hours. The glue will become transparent as it dries—when it is completely transparent and smooth, that means it is dry.

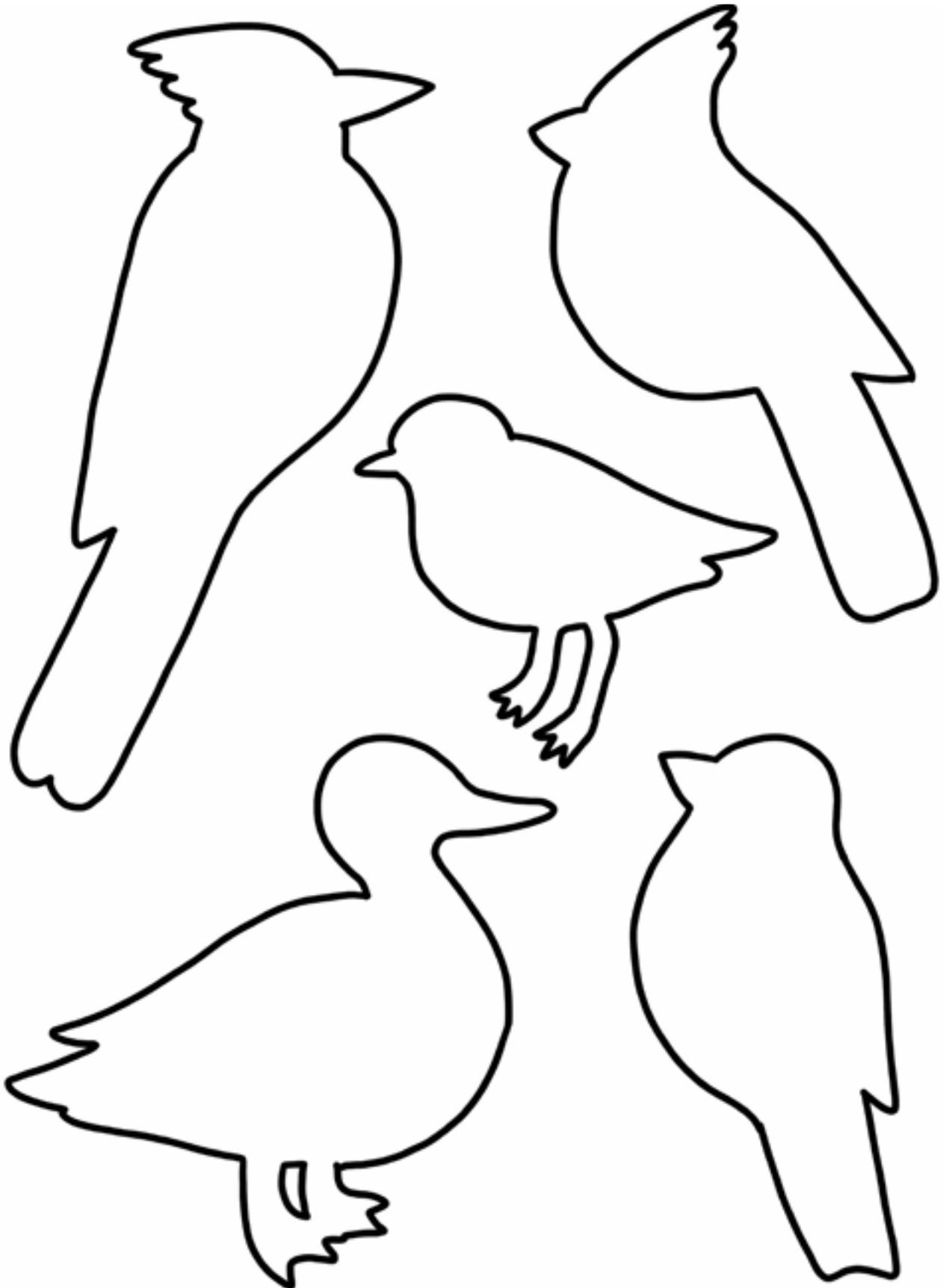
6. Once the clings are entirely dry, it is time to color! Leaving the clings on the plastic, use markers (permanent or water-based markers are both fine) to color in your creations as you wish! TIP: Make sure to color gently so as not to rip the decals.

7. Once the marker ink is dry, you can carefully remove the clings from the sheet. You will need to peel them off slowly and gently to make sure the clings do not fold over and stick to themselves.

8. Apply the decals close together on the window. The side pressed to the window should be the side you did not color. Carefully smooth them on the window.

Window Clings Stencil

Use the following stencils for your Window Clings activity!



All About Birds

Have fun with this word search! Find these words in the puzzle.

BEAK

WINGS

FEEDER

MIGRATE

FLY

SONG

BINOCULARS

FEATHERS

SEED

COVER

COLORS

CALL

F M K S I C C S G V F B E A K
L N I Q G O F N H R E V W R L
Y W C G L N O N R G E Z C T V
U Y I O R S I U Y S D Q E Y U
O H R H A A H W R H E Z B Y D
H S A X X W T A M W R C O A V
R E V O C V L E Y M S N R W C
Z Q I B H U N M J I U V B J R
P C A Z C K R A G Z B X A W D
C Y A O Q C M S U Q F W R X E
S O N L K S O P R D E L L B E
S I Y L L Q P F E A T H E R S
B T F E R N Y E J U I P K X S
Q E E J J G L H V G N B N Q O
W S D U C P H I S B B T L F Z

Sounds

Learning bird songs and calls is a great way to learn to identify birds. You are sure to recognize some of the calls even if you didn't realize before now what bird makes them. Follow these links to The Cornell Lab, All About Birds website to hear the sounds made by the birds featured in this packet.



https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern_Cardinal/sounds



https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Robin/sounds



https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Blue_Jay/sounds



https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Carolina_Chickadee/sounds



https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Eastern_Bluebird/sounds



https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Goldfinch/sounds



https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Mourning_Dove/sounds



https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-bellied_Woodpecker/sounds

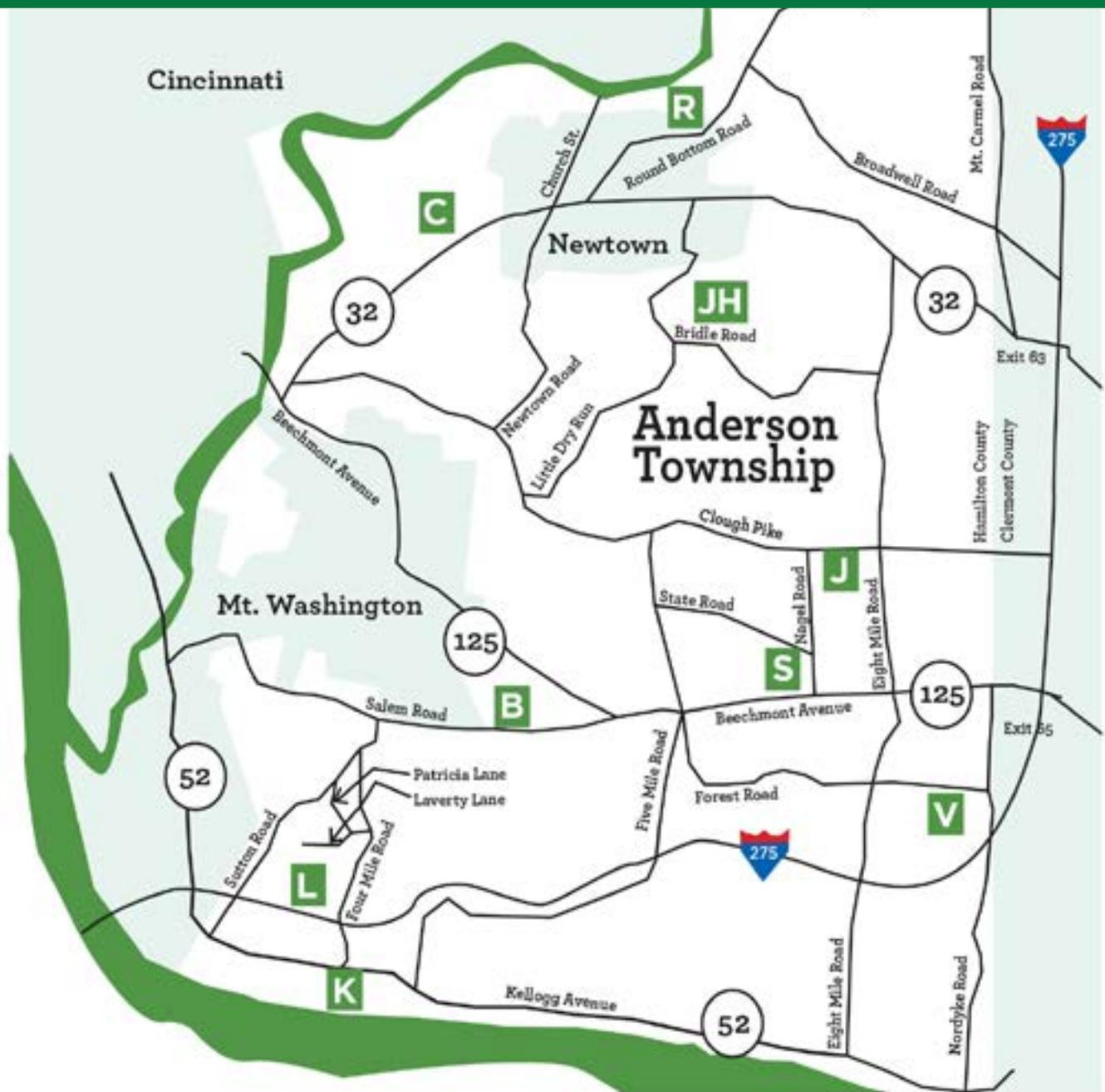


https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Eastern_Bluebird/sounds

Journal

Draw and write about your favorite part of this Family Outdoor Adventure.





504 acres of parkland for everyone's enjoyment. Visit a park near you!

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>B Beech Acres Park
6910 Salem Road
Anderson Parks RecPlex
6915 Beechmont Ave.</p> | <p>K Kellogg Park and Dog Field
6701 Kellogg Ave.</p> |
| <p>C Clear Creek Park
6200 Batavia Road (S.R. 32)</p> | <p>L Laverty Park
839 Laverty Lane</p> |
| <p>JH W.M. Johnson Hills Park
7950 Bridle Road</p> | <p>R Riverside Park
3969 Round Bottom Road</p> |
| <p>J Juilfs Park
8249 Clough Pike
Juilfs Park (south parking lot)
8200 Patton Ave.</p> | <p>S State & Nagel Park
8031 State Road</p> |
| | <p>V Veterans Park
8531 Forest Road</p> |