



# Bird Spotting. Welcome to Chances Park.



Thank you for downloading this activity sheet aimed at children aged 3-8 years.

It would be helpful for the parent or adult in charge to also download a copy of the "Chances Park Nature Trail" for additional information. Adults must stress to children that they must not put anything that they find in the park in their mouths, and that they should wash their hands after completing the activities.

## Activity 1: A Little Bird Told Me...

We will start our Bird spotting trail in the Georgian Gardens, marked **2** on your map. As you walk there tell a friend about the types of birds you think you might see today. When you reach the Georgian Gardens tell your adult the names of some of the birds you hope to spot.

## Activity 2: Food, Glorious Food

We are starting our trail here because birds can find lots of different things to eat here. Stand very still and see if you can spot any birds feeding.

Have a walk around the Georgian Gardens and see if you can find anything that birds might like to eat. Don't forget to look in cracks in walls, under leaves and on flowers. Tell your adult about what you have found. Did anyone say seeds, berries, insects or caterpillars?



## Activity 3: Topsy Turvy

Birds often hang upside down so they can spot food under leaves and in other hiding places. Stand with your legs apart, bend over and look through your legs. Everything will be upside down.

Move around very carefully and see if you can spot any food for a bird?



Friends  
of Chances Park



## Activity 4: Birds of a Feather



As you walk to the Performance Area, marked **9** on your map, look all around you for birds. There may be some flying over-head. Gulls often scavenge for food on the park. They are large white or grey birds, who make a loud, high pitched “keow” noise.



You are now going to pretend to be one of three different birds. Your adult will read out three descriptions, then they will whisper in your ear which bird you are going to be.

Common Gull: I walk around the park, looking on the ground for any food, such as worms. My call is a high pitched “keow”.

Pied Wagtail: I walk quickly, stop, then bob up and down while finding insects to feed on. My song sounds like “cheep cheep, chirp chirp chirp, cheep”.

Blackbird: I run along, pause, look around, grab a worm or insect, then run away to eat it. My song is a beautiful whistle, ending with a harsh “hack cack cack”.

Now you must move around your friends, in the way your bird moves. If you spot someone moving in the same way as you make the noise your bird makes. Can you find any birds that are the same as you? If you do, stand with them, to make a “flock”.

When you think you have found all of your “flock”, show your adult how you all move, and demonstrate your songs.



## Activity 5: Home to Roost

Walk to the area marked on your map as **5** - A Home to Creepy Crawlies. Why do you think you are going here? Many birds like to eat the insects and minibeasts which live on the fallen tree and in the living trees. Can you find any insects or minibeasts?



Look up in the trees. Can you spot any birds? You might see a crow or a magpie. Tell your friend what a crow looks like. In what way does a magpie look different to a crow?

Can you see any nests up in the trees? You are going to work with a partner to build a nest on the ground. You can only use one hand, like a beak, to pick up the materials you will use. You can only use materials which are lying on the ground. Work with your partner, and don't steal from anyone else's nest!

When you think your nest is finished, show it to your adult and tell them how you made it. Why do birds build nests? Tell your friend.



## Activity 6: Fly Away Home

The trail finishes back at Morton Manor. As you walk there look all around you for birds. When you reach the Manor tell your adult about some the birds you have seen today. What do you think you could do to encourage birds to visit your garden or playground?