

MAKE THE BIRDS YOUR LIFELONG FRIENDS

Do you remember the first birds you learned to recognize? I remember recognizing robins and bluebirds because of their colors, and the snowbirds, or juncos, in winter because of their activity.

Many bird-watchers and bird lovers keep life-long lists of the birds they know and meet, so everywhere they go—no matter where in the world—they can add to their lists.



Perhaps this is something you will want to do. It is satisfying to know you have these friends—many in different parts of America and many others abroad. When you start a list, find a safe place to put it—a special notebook or a certain part of a notebook. You can begin right now by recording all the birds you are sure you could name correctly if you saw them. See how long a list you can make to start with.

As time goes on, you will add new birds to your list, sometimes one, other times several at a time.

A lady I knew went to a window one stormy night to look out, and there on the window ledge was a tiny owl—one not usually seen in her part of the country. How this owl got so far from its natural home, no one will ever know. She was thrilled to add this bird to her list of bird friends.

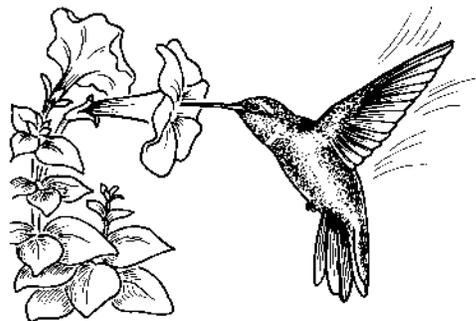
You will need a bird book. Maybe you can buy it yourself out of your earnings or allowance. There are probably bird-watchers in your neighborhood who can tell you what book they find most useful. Bird books can be found in bookstores and other places. Be sure to get one which will make certain identification possible. Never enter a bird on your list

that you are unsure of until you have seen it again and have made a positive identification.

After you write the name of your bird, put the date on which you first saw it and the place you saw it. This will add more interest to your list, especially when you talk about your findings with other bird-watcher friends.

Bird populations often change over time. They have where I live. Birds that were not seen years ago are now seen. This makes it exciting both for those who watch their bird feeders and for those who go out into the woods and fields to meet their bird friends.

This is a hobby that can remain fascinating as long as you live. You may have had hobbies you used to be excited about, but now you think of them as babyish and uninteresting. Bird watching doesn't change because bird friends abound everywhere and remain such interesting creatures.



Other hobbies related to bird watching which you might like to explore:

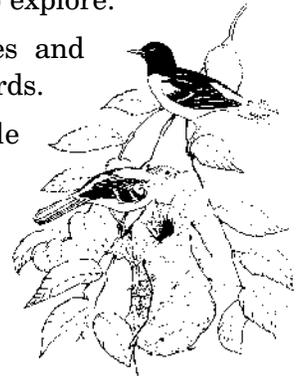
- Building birdhouses and feeders to attract the birds.

- Planting suitable shrubs or sunflowers to provide bird feed.

- Photography.

Have fun!

Some of these tricks



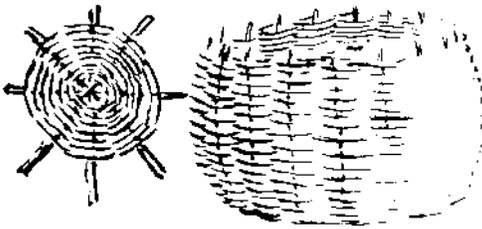
FLOWER PLAYMATES

with flowers are useful for entertaining younger children.

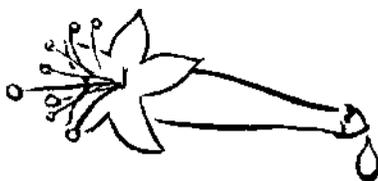
- **Hollyhock Ladies:** Use an open hollyhock blossom for the skirt. Remove the green from a bud and stick it on the stem of the blossom for a head.
- **Daisy Chain:** Start with three long-stemmed daisies. Plait the stems together, adding more daisies as you go. Make a garland or a crown.
- **Phlox Stax:** Pull a number of flowerlets from a clump of phlox. Stick them together to make a chain. Press them to decorate stationery.



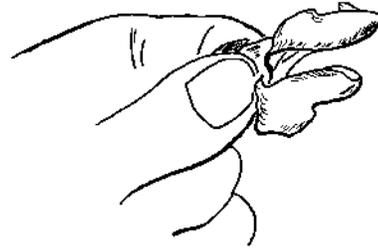
- **Honeysuckle Baskets:** Use green honeysuckle vines to make play baskets as you do from reeds. (Real baskets can be made, but that takes more know-how.)



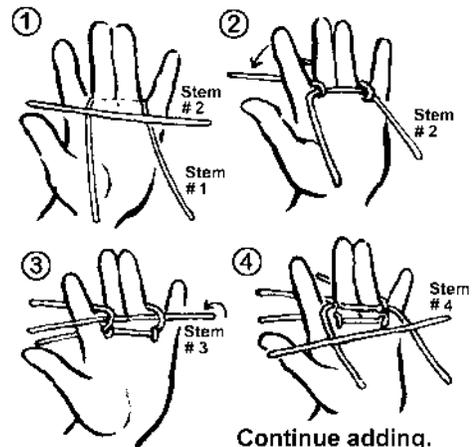
- **Honey Drops:** Pull out honeysuckle flowers. Bite through the tips where the nectar is. Yum! Now you know why bees and hummingbirds gather around the honeysuckle—and how it got its name.



- **Morning Glory Pops:** Press morning glory buds. Hear them pop. (This is especially good for wild morning glories in the potato patch!)
- **Snap Dragons:** Hold a snapdragon blossom between your thumb and forefinger. Press and release. The “dragon” opens and closes his mouth.



- **Cocklebur or Burdock Baskets:** Collect a heap of burrs. Stick burrs together to form a circle or rectangle for the bottom of the basket. Build up the sides in rows around the base. Make a chain of burrs for the handle.
- **Plantain Chair:** Gather stems of plantain or thick grass stems. With the palm of your hand toward you, bend a stem in a U-shape around your two middle fingers (ends toward you). Lay another stem across the ends. Bend the first two ends to the back between your fingers. Add another stem and repeat until you have woven a square. Behold! A Chair!



Like a chair, but too loose to stand.

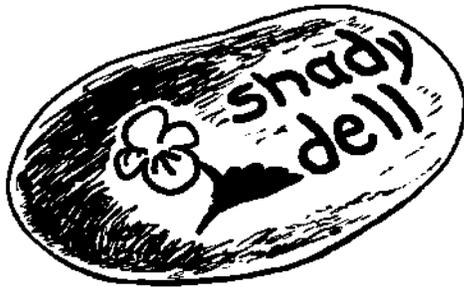


TRY STONECRAFT

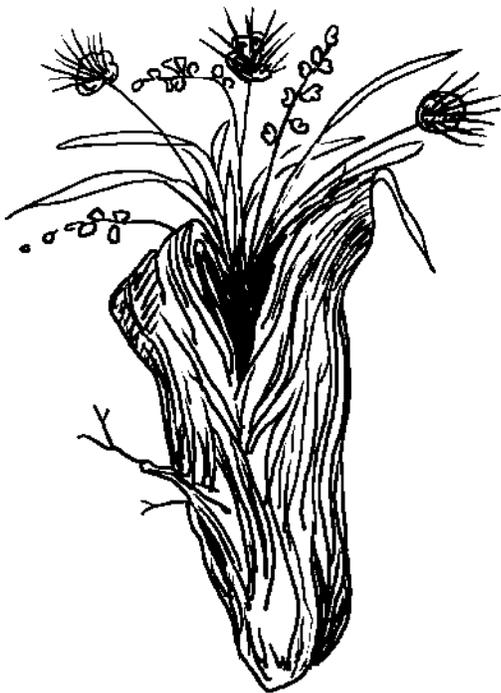
(Supplies: "Found" materials—stones, weathered wood, bark, etc.; oil paints, acrylics or enamel; strong glue)

When you go camping or picnicking, look for stones and weathered wood with interesting shapes. Use your imagination to see what you can make from them.

- River stones can be made into interesting animals. You can add extras, such as shells for ears, twigs or roots for tails, thread or tiny straws for whiskers.



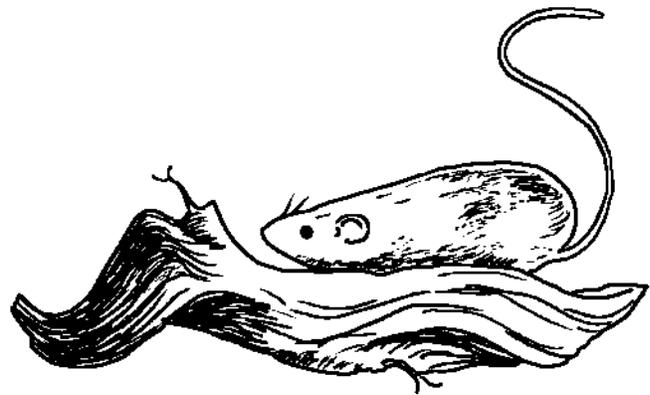
stone paperweight



weathered wood vase

- A stone with a flat surface makes a good paperweight. Paint on it a tree or flower that grows naturally where you found it. You may like to add the name of the place too.
- Some pieces of weathered wood look like animals. Some pieces are hollow and make wall vases for a bouquet of dried seed heads and grasses. Others have lovely shapes and are beautiful just for their forms.

Use oil paints, acrylics, or enamel for decorations. The glues that are used for metals are good for gluing the stones.



stone mouse
on bark



stone duck

PRESS FLOWERS FOR CRAFTS LATER

(Supplies: Flowers suitable for pressing; soft papers to press them between)

Have you ever found pressed flowers or leaves in an old book? Pressing flowers is an old, old hobby that is always new. When spring and summer come, it's time to think about pressing flowers for making gifts later. The procession of flowers continues from spring to autumn.

Any flower without woody stems or heavy center veins can be pressed. Some flowers keep their color better than others,

even of the same variety. Yellows, pinks, and oranges are better color keepers than the blues. Shining yellow buttercups keep their color well. The tiny pansy-like johnny-jump-ups are favorites. These two flowers press best if you pinch off the stems and set them on their faces. Press some of the stems separately. Wild roses or other single



ones (with just one layer of petals around the center) also press well.

Choose leaves with interesting shapes, such as buttercup, yarrow, Queen Anne's lace, and ferns. Queen Anne's lace (pressed on their faces), grass heads, and coral bells work into bouquets with a roadside look. Choose the smallest Queen Anne's lace heads for pressing. Sweet clover and Chinese clover are attractive (if you take off some of the leaves).

- Lay the flowers between soft-finished papers, such as newspaper or magazines and catalogs printed on dull paper. Old books are fine if they have soft paper and are no longer wanted.
- Lay a cutting board or tray on top and put on a heavy weight, such as lots of books, bricks, or a box of stones.
- If the flowers shrivel, put on more weight. Leave the flowers until they are thoroughly dry, or they will curl or shrivel up.
- Store them in boxes with covers. You can put them into shallow box covers and stack them in a larger box to save space.

Experiment. You'll find that some take longer than others, and that some flowers do not press well. Dandelions become a mess of frizzles. Daisy petals shrivel because the center keeps the weight off. Some flowers dried in parts, as scarlet sage flowerlets, add a bright note to an arrangement.

Pressed flowers are lovely mounted and framed, or glued on stationery.

MAKE PRESSED-FLOWER GREETING CARDS

(Supplies: Pressed flowers, notepaper, waxed paper/plastic wrap)

During the summer gather and press a variety of tiny flowers, leaves, and grasses.

- Select notepaper in colors that make your flower arrangements look their best.
- Cut pieces of waxed paper and plastic wrap somewhat larger than your entire sheet of notepaper when opened out flat.
- Arrange flowers on one end of the waxed paper. (Put a sheet of the notepaper under the waxed paper to guide your spacing.)
- Lay the arrangement on a piece of white paper on an ironing board. Cover it with a piece of plastic wrap and another sheet of white paper. (See drawing for order.)
- Press with a warm iron to bond the waxed paper and the plastic wrap to hold the flowers in place. Try to cover the surface in one stroke.



- Trim the finished sheet to fit your notepaper as a transparent jacket. A tiny touch of glue on the edge of the stationery when you put the jacket on will insure that it stays in place.

Note: Practice with small pieces of waxed paper and plastic wrap until you find the correct setting on your iron. If the iron is too cool, the papers will not adhere to each other. If it is too hot, the plastic wrap will melt away. When just right, the plastic wrap crinkles on the waxed paper, and the two sheets become one except where the flowers are sealed in.

