

RAMSEY READER



THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES:

Bird watching

Feed the birds

Dive into a good book

Bonus: make a puppet

Neighborhood Birds

Minnesota is an important migratory route for a wide array of bird species, which makes this a great area for bird watching. In this edition, we will discuss bird watching pointers, how to make your own bird feeder as well as crafts, book suggestions and great parks to get outside and see some birds!

Special thanks to our bird photographers: Jesse Johnson, Jim Podlich, Dagmar Christensen, Tom Baxter and Paul Nelson.

Bird watching

Bird watching is a fun and affordable outdoor activity, all you really need is some patience. Here are a few simple tips to get your started.

- Be quiet, birds are easily scared away.
- Don't move too much or too fast; sit still and let the birds come to you.
- Wear earth tone colors to help you blend in.
- Have the sun at your back if possible. This makes it easier to see the birds' colors.
- Look around. If you are by a lake, make sure to keep your eyes on the trees as well.



BIRD WATCH: LOCAL BIRDS

If you are interested in the bird species that can be found in Ramsey County, you can use this species checklist:

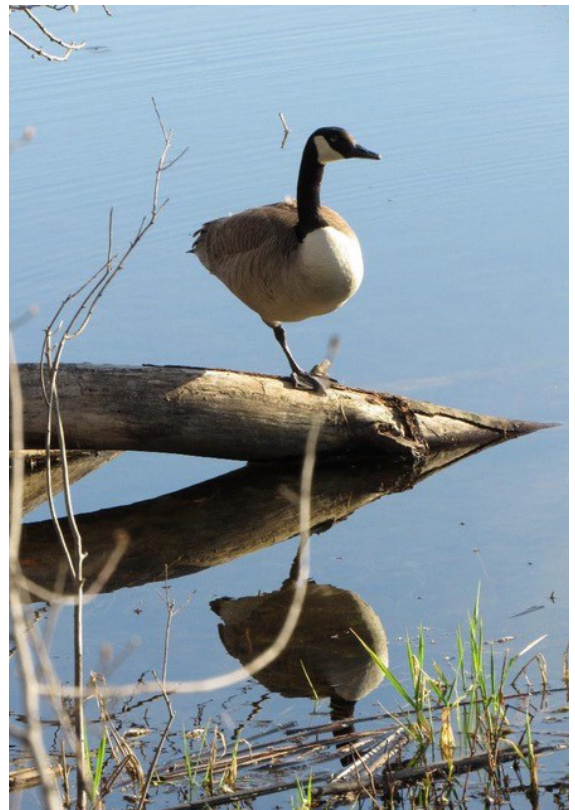
tiny.cc/ramseycountybirdlist

Here are some great parks with a different habitats where you can see a variety of bird species:

Tony Schmidt Regional Park has aquatic, woodland and open grass habitat so you'll see a variety of species in one park!

Keller Regional Park has lovely boardwalk paths along the lakeshore. Look for wading birds like egrets in the water's edge, as well as red-winged blackbirds, which love to be near water.

Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park allows you to walk wooded trails as well as taking a wide, paved path that splits the two Vadnais Lakes. You can see many aquatic species from mallards to trumpeter swans.



Feed the birds



MAKE A BIRD FEEDER

There are many ways to attract birds to your porch, deck or yard using simple homemade bird feeders. Empty two-liter bottles, popsicle sticks, tin cans, milk cartons or even something as simple as a plate of bird seed can feed your nature neighbors. You can even make a feeder out of Legos! Get creative and see what materials you have available around the house. Here are a few suggestions when crafting a homemade bird feeder:

- Make sure you include a perch or landing area; glue on small branch, dowel or craft stick.
- Try to put your feeder near a bush or a tree, this gives the birds a place to safely land before heading to your feeder.
- Put more than one feeder in your yard and try different types of seeds to attract different species.
- Once you create your feeder, load in some sunflower seeds or bird seed mix, wait and watch for the birds to find your feeder. If you need inspiration for making a Do It Yourself birdfeeder, check out these ideas:

redtri.com/diy-bird-feeders-kids-can-make/

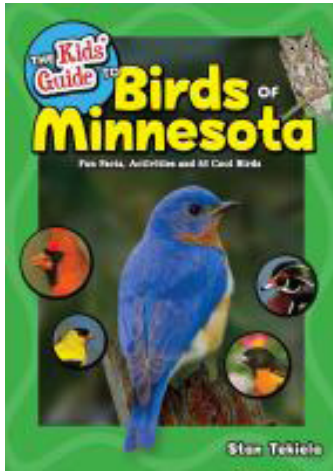


Photo credit: Creative Cubby

Ramsey readers

Here are some interesting bird books to get your little birders interested in our feathered friends. All of these books are available through Ramsey County Library. Book descriptions from: www.rclreads.org

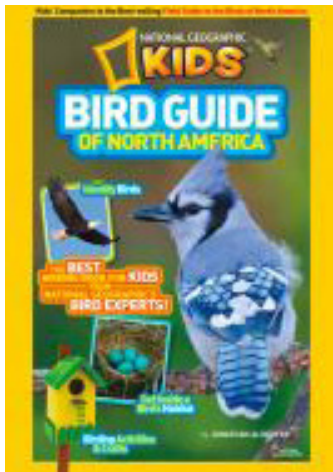
→ DIVE INTO A GOOD BOOK



The Kids' Guide to Birds of Minnesota: Fun Facts, Activities and 85 Cool Birds

by Stan Tekiela

The Kids' Guide to Birds of Minnesota features 85 of the most common and important birds to know, with species organized by color for ease of use. Do you see a yellow bird and don't know what it is? Go to the yellow section to find out. Each bird gets a beautiful full-color photograph and a full page of neat-to-know information — such as field marks, calls/songs, a range map, and Stan's cool facts — that make identification a snap.



National Geographic Kids Bird Guide of North America

by Jonathan Alderfer

Featuring 100 species of birds from coast to coast this colourful guide helps kids identify and understand birds. The National Geographic Kids Bird Guide of North America will be both accessible and tons of fun. Fifty of the country's most popular birds will be laid out in stunning two-page spreads that will include information such as their range, the sounds they make, and the food they like to eat.



Birds Make Nests

by Michael Garland

Birds make many kinds of nests in many kinds of places, to keep their eggs safe and to raise their chicks. With simple text, accessible for new readers, this is a perfect introduction to the many ways animals make their homes. The vibrant artwork, created with traditional woodcuts and digital coloring techniques, is labeled with the English common names of each bird shown.

Make a bird puppet

Listen to “The Nest Building Lesson” story, told by Tamarack Nature Center Naturalist Bethany. Print out, color and create your very own bird puppets to follow along or create your own bird tales!

Watch the story: tiny.cc/nestbuildinglesson

Download the PDF: tiny.cc/ramseycountybirdpuppets

Learn more

There’s so much more to learn about birds. Check out these select resources to continue exploring and discovering.

Audubon

Find tips for feeding backyard birds.

audubon.org/news/11-tips-feeding-backyard-birds

DIY & Crafts

Fill your garden with birds by making your own bird feeder.

tiny.cc/diybirdfeeder

Merlin

Check out this free bird app to help identify birds on your next outdoor adventure.

merlin.allaboutbirds.org/download/

Did you know?

There are nesting bald eagles at Keller Regional Park and the nest is easy to view. Go to the parking lot at 2166 Maplewood Drive in Maplewood, and walk directly from the parking lot towards Keller Lake. Once you get to the lakeshore, look up and across the lake, if you’re lucky, you’ll see an eaglet on the nest!

