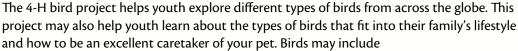
# **4-H BIRD PROJECT**





- Identify different bird species and their characteristics.
- Learn about the selection, care, needs of birds, and basic principles of bird behavior.
- Demonstrate care and management in feeding, handling, grooming, and fitting/showing.
- Explore health regulations, first aid, and simple treatments for ailments.
- Learn and practice animal ownership responsibilities.

# Starting Out Beginner

# Gather information and • Plan a determine the best bird cise p

- for a family.Learn about proper care, grooming, and feeding.
- Create a plan to prevent birds from getting lost and/or finding it.
- Purchase and use appropriate grooming equipment and techniques.
- Practice appropriate training for a bird.
- Compare prices to shop for setting up an aviary.

### Learning More Intermediate

- Plan a training and exercise program for a bird.
- Prepare for participation in a bird show.
- Make a decision about breeding or not breeding.
- Compare labels on bird food to make an informed decision on content and price.
- Keep a diary of a bird's health and eating habits.
- Learn to identify parts of a bird for conversations with your veterinarian.

# Exploring Depth Advanced

- Develop a business plan for a bird care or sitting business
- Assess careers related to birds and bird business.
- Help a friend make a decision about bird ownership.
- Research diseases in birds.
- Identify symptoms and a course of action for a disease in a bird.
- Do a presentation on how birds affect the environment and humans.



Help Youth:

## **Light Their Spark**

A spark is something youth are passionate about; it really fires them up and gives them joy and energy. Help youth explore what they love about animals.

## Flex Their Brain

The brain grows stronger when we try new things and master new skills. Encourage youth effort and persistence to help them reach higher levels of success.

## **Reach Their Goals**

Help youth use the GPS system to achieve their goals.

- **G**oal Selection: Choose one meaningful, realistic and demanding goal.
- Pursue Strategies: Create a stepby-step plan to make daily choices that support your goal.
- Shift Gears: Change strategies if you're having difficulties reaching your goal. Seek help from others. What are youth going to do when things get in their way?

## Reflect

Ask project members how taking care of an animal can make them more confident, competent and caring. Discuss ways they can use their skills to make a contribution in the community, improve their character, or establish connections.

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.

Light Your Spark

Flex Your Brain

Reach Your Goals

Light Your Spark

Spark Flex Your Brain

Reach Your Goals

# **Expand Your Experiences!**

# Science, Engineering, and Technology

- Research the nutritional needs of your bird(s) and compare to nutritional needs of humans and other animals.
- Teach the basics of wildlife photography.
- Discuss migration paths and trail marking using GIS technology.

## **Healthy Living**

- Discuss the necessity and practice of washing your hands before and after handling your bird.
- Discuss your bird's life expectancy, what to look for when they get older, and how you might feel when they die.
- Go hiking to watch birds in the wild.

## Citizenship

- Use the confidence obtained through shows and expos in all aspects of life.
- Volunteer with an animal rehabilitation program that also accepts birds.
- Work with an environmental refuge to help build animal preserves.

## Leadership

- Present to community groups about the information learned though the project.
- Become a role model for others by taking the position of junior/teen leader in your project.
- Create a Teens as Teachers program to integrate wildlife projects in afterschool programs.

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#### Resources

- Service Animal //en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Service animal
- Animal Assisted Therapy
   //en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Animal assisted therapy
- Healthy pets
   <u>www.cdc.gov/healthypets</u>
   //vetmed.illinois.edu/pet columns
   <u>www.avma.org/firstaid/ procedures.asp</u>
- ASPCA Bird Care
   <u>www.aspca.org/pet-care/small-pet-care/bird-care.aspx</u>
- American Red Cross: Pet First Aid/ CPR

www.redcross.org/pets

 California State Fair www.bigfun.org

#### **Connections & Events**

#### Curriculum

#### 4-H Record Book

Presentation Days – Share what you've learned with others through a bird related presentation.

**Field Days** – During these events, 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.

County & State Fair - Enter your animal(s) and show the judge what you have learned!
Contact your county 4-H office to determine additional opportunities available.

• The Veterinarian's Way of Selecting a Proper Pet (4H 560A)

- Pet Pals Level 1 (4H 563A)
- Scurrying Ahead Level 2 (4H 563B)
- Scaling the Heights Level 3 (4H 563C)
- Pet Leader Guide (4H 563 LDR)
   Available from <a href="http://www.4-">http://www.4-</a>
   hmall.org/Product/4-hcurriculum-pets/06374.aspx

4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their personal experiences, learning and development.

4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.

To access the 4-H Record Book online, visit www.ca4h.org/4hbook.

The UC 4-H Youth Development Program does not endorse, warrant, or otherwise take responsibility for the contents of unofficial sites.



# ■ University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources

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