



4-H BIRD PROJECT



The 4-H bird project helps youth explore different types of birds from across the globe. This project may also help youth learn about the types of birds that fit into their family's lifestyle and how to be an excellent caretaker of your pet. Birds may include

- 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.

4-H THRIVE

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.

Goal Selection: Choose one meaningful, realistic and demanding goal.

Pursue Strategies: Create a step-by-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.

Starting Out *Beginner*

- Gather information and determine the best bird 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.

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



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.

Resources

- Service Animal
[//en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Service_animal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Service_animal)
- Animal Assisted Therapy
[//en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal-assisted_therapy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal-assisted_therapy)
- Healthy pets
www.cdc.gov/healthypets
[//vetmed.illinois.edu/pet_columns](http://vetmed.illinois.edu/pet_columns)
www.avma.org/firstaid/procedures.asp
- ASPCA Bird Care
www.asPCA.org/pet-care/small-pet-care/bird-care.aspx
- American Red Cross: Pet First Aid/ CPR
www.redcross.org/pets
- California State Fair
www.bigfun.org

Connections & Events

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.

Curriculum

- 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 <http://www.4-hmall.org/Product/4-hcurriculum-pets/06374.aspx>

4-H Record Book

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.

