CRAZY
FOR
BIRDS

Birdilicious activities,
coloring sheets,
and more!

ACTIVITY BOOK!

MISHA MAYNERICK BLAISE

Read along by shopping from:

Bookshop: https://bit.ly/3atiS2u
Amazon: https://bit.ly/2wWiV9s
Learn more on prh.com
TABLE of CONTENTS

Introduction
Eggs
Feathers
Flight
Birds in Love
Nests
Song
Adaptation
Conclusion

HOODED MERGANSER
BIRD LOVE BASICS:

Birds display some of the most bizarre and eccentric mating rituals in the natural world.
THE GOLDEN PHEASANT:
A man of MYSTERY
And after all of the (usually) male’s exhaustive work, most bird couples only need a few seconds to achieve successful fertilization. But those few seconds hold the key to species survival, something birds take very seriously.

This male frigatebird inflates a huge red throat pouch as part of his courtship display.

Every breeding season, male birds experience a rush of testosterone that triggers them into a state of eccentric spectacle. They ramp up on color, feather length, and overall swagger in an attempt to impress the ladies.
Like the horn on a unicorn, but more magical.
takes an even more psychedelic approach. Starting out as a pretty basic-looking black bird, he stretches his wings out and curves his head back to transform into what appears to our eye as a glowing smiley face.

I'm weirdly feeling very attracted to this.
TRUE STORY:  
THE GREATER SAGE-GROUSE

Puffs out two giant air sacks on its chest, then jiggles them up and down until they smack together. This in turn creates a loud "BLUP!" sound that can be heard up to three kilometers (1.9 miles) away.

If you’ve got it, flaunt it.
The male

**LONG-TAILED MANAKIN**

has a wingman who assists with his courtship dance.
At one point, the two males jump rapidly in a hypnotic circular motion, one replacing the other as if on a carousel, singing out a bizarre, buzzy call on each jump. In the end, the alpha always gets the lady, and his devoted helper waits until his services are needed again.
THE MALE Flame Bowerbird mesmerizes his female visitor by alternately expanding and contracting his pupils. He then makes a raspy, asthmatic call, stares intently at his extended wing, and executes a series of sensuous, slow-motion shoulder rolls.
does an awkward, exaggerated march in which he flaunts his feet to the female.

PREPARE to be AMAZED

So DAZZLING!

Keeping in mind that birds see a much wider spectrum of color than we do, who knows what kind of enchanting display of blue magic the female sees emanating from those feet.
Cute Couples:

Some 90 percent of the world’s birds form monogamous pair bonds that can last one nesting, one breeding season, or even for life. How special for these little lovebirds!
But the real drama starts when the DNA testing begins.

In most species, eggs in the nest of a supposedly monogamous pair can be traced to one or more other fathers!
Songbirds are known to be the most BRAZEN PHILANDERERS, with a whopping 86 percent of their species CHEATING on THEIR PARTNERS.
THE MALE RED-BACKED FAIRYWREN has a pubertylike transition around age two.

BEFORE

(LACKLUSTER)

AFTER

(STONE-COLD HUSTLER)
HOW TO MAKE A
PLASTIC BOTTLE
BIRDFEEDER

MATERIALS:

IT'S EASY!

2 STICKS
(could be
chopsticks
or pencil)

SCISSORS
and a TACK

STRING

A PLASTIC
BOTTLE

BIRDSEED

1. Clean and dry your plastic bottle.
2. Make holes on either side of the bottle to push the sticks through; sticks should be perpendicular to each other. PROTIP: In order to make holes easily, poke a thumbtack into the bottle, and then expand the hole using scissors.
3. About 1.5” above each stick, create a feeding hole. Feeding hole should be about .5”.
4. Near the top of the bottle, make 2 holes and thread a string through for hanging.
5. Add birdfeed!
6. Hang at eye level or higher, nearby to some bush or tree cover where birds can escape from predators.

These instructions were adapted from ecosapien.org. See the video on YouTube, Eco How: How to make a Bird Feeder from a Plastic Bottle.

It may take a day or two for birds to discover your feeder, but word spreads fast in bird world. Soon you should have plenty of visitors!
FABULOUS FEATHERS!
Some birds have the most eccentric and crazy feather styles.

The male Mandarin Duck has brightly colored feathers arranged in fancy shapes!

The male King-of-Saxony Bird-of-Paradise has two long feathers that look like antennae!

The male California Quail has one large plume dangling off his forehead!

Art challenge: On a blank piece of paper, invent your own bird with unique feather style!
PAPER BIRD ASSEMBLAGE

An assemblage art piece is an object made from different pieces fitted together (in this case, paper shapes)! You can use different colored or patterned papers, magazine pages, or even paper that's you've painted on.

1. Basically you are going to cut out some basic shapes and glue them together to form a bird.

2. What makes this assemblage bird special is its wings. Start with the top piece, which should be straight on one side and scalloped on the other.

```
TOP WING PIECE:
```

3. Cut out many pieces of this “feather” shape. Glue them onto the back of the top wing piece to form an overlapping grid.

4. The back of the wing should look something like this:

```
LIKE A BOSS
```

Flip the finished wings over, and glue all the final pieces together. Don’t forget to add an eye!
**Birding Basics**

**Bird Watching is for Everyone!**

Bird watching is all about taking the time to slow down and connect with nature; all you have to do is attune your senses to the world around you, and watch and listen to the birds.

1. Find an area where birds are present in your yard or at a park.
2. Find a place to sit comfortably. Just take in the environment and see what bird sounds or sights you start to notice. A big part of honing your birding skills is just being able to patiently observe what’s around you. It’s kind of a meditative experience.
3. If you want to get more acquainted with your local feathered friends, consider investing in an identification guide book, or a pair of binoculars (you might be able to find used ones for cheap!)
4. Another way to connect with the birds is to try and sketch or take notes about what you see in a notebook.
5. It’s ok if you can’t identify all the birds, the point is to take a break from the stresses of modern urban life and connect with nature. Birds are always around us, if only we take a moment to see them!

---

**How to Draw a Simple Cartoon Bird**

1. **Create an Initial Shape**
   - Basically a blob-like oval shape

2. **Add Wing, a Tail, & an Eye**
   - Try different variations!

3. **Accentuate!**
   - Create different patterns wherever you want
   - **Born to be Wild!**
     - (Don’t forget feet!)
   - **To Draw Your Bird Flying...**
     - Just put the wings on either side to let your bird soar!
CRAZY FOR BIRDS!
TAKE A MINUTE AND HEY THERE!
LISTEN TO THE BIRDS
@mishablaise

Find a place out in your neighborhood to hang this friendly reminder (careful not to damage any public property!)