



Topical Tidbits

January – March 2019

Volume 8 Issue 1

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Songbirds

There are about 10,000 species of birds found around the world and of those, roughly half are songbirds. This type of bird is known for its complex songs which it uses for communication. In some species, the more songs a male knows, the more mates he will attract. Even though some birds, like parrots, can be taught to repeat human speech, songbirds are the only other species that can mimic other species or sounds. These sounds can be pleasant or very harsh-sounding depending on the bird and situation. Songbirds range in size from 0.2 ounces to over a pound. They can be spotted anywhere from open grasslands to forests. Be sure to look for them in your own backyard. You can also set up a birdfeeder near a window and get an even closer look at our feathered friends.



A FDC from Jersey, an island off the coast of France, has a souvenir sheet showing three songbirds found there. It also has a cancel with a bird perched on a branch. Can you find all three stamps on this sheet?

This New Zealand souvenir sheet is a progressive proof for color printing. It shows each color separately and then the colors combined with one color being added at a time in the order in which they are to be printed.

Songbirds and Their Eggs

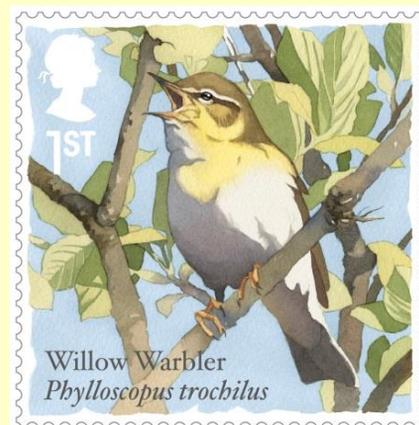
This beautiful set of songbird stamps was issued in Great Britain in 2017. Cut out the bird and egg cards on the next two pages and try matching the pairs. The third page can be used to store your cards and answer key (found below). Cut out and fold in half on the dotted line, then staple or tape the sides together.

Have fun!



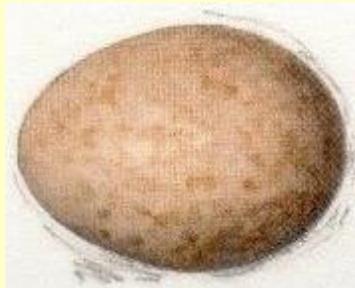
Songbirds and Their Eggs, cont.

Cut out these cards and use them
with the egg cards on the next
page.



Songbirds and Their Eggs, cont.

Cut out these cards and use them
with the bird cards on the
previous page.



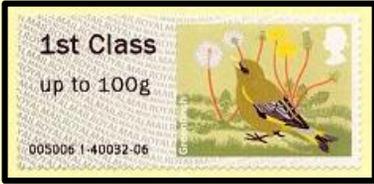
Songbirds and Their Eggs: A Matching Game



Use this to make a folder to store your bird and egg cards and answer key (found on previous pages).
Cut out and fold in half on the dotted line, then staple or tape the sides together.

Backyard Birds

There are so many different kinds of birds you can see right in your own backyard. Grab a pair of binoculars and the chart below. Put a tally mark for where you spot different birds. When you're all finished, add up the tally marks and write in the total.

	Tally Marks	Total
<p>In a Tree</p> 		
<p>On the Ground</p> 		
<p>In the Air</p> 		
<p>On an Object</p> 		

Bird Journal

The scientific study of birds is called *ornithology*. People who study birds as a profession are called *ornithologists*. But you don't have to be a professional to watch birds. Bird watching has been a popular hobby since the late 1800s. You really don't need much to get started. Most people just have a pair of binoculars and a notebook to record birds they see. Some people like to go out in the woods or fields and others set up feeders right outside their window. Whichever you decide to do, you might like to print out several copies of the next page and bind them together in a journal. Use it to record the birds you see. Draw a picture or attach stamps of the birds you find in the box at the bottom of the journal page.



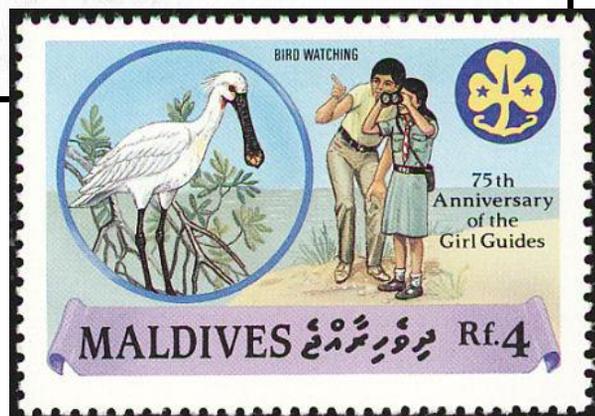
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

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Above: A 1991 stamp from Taiwan

Above: A Japanese FDC



Above: A Maldives stamp honoring the Girl Guides

Name: _____

Kingdom: _____

Date: _____

Phylum: _____

Time: _____

Class: _____

Order: _____

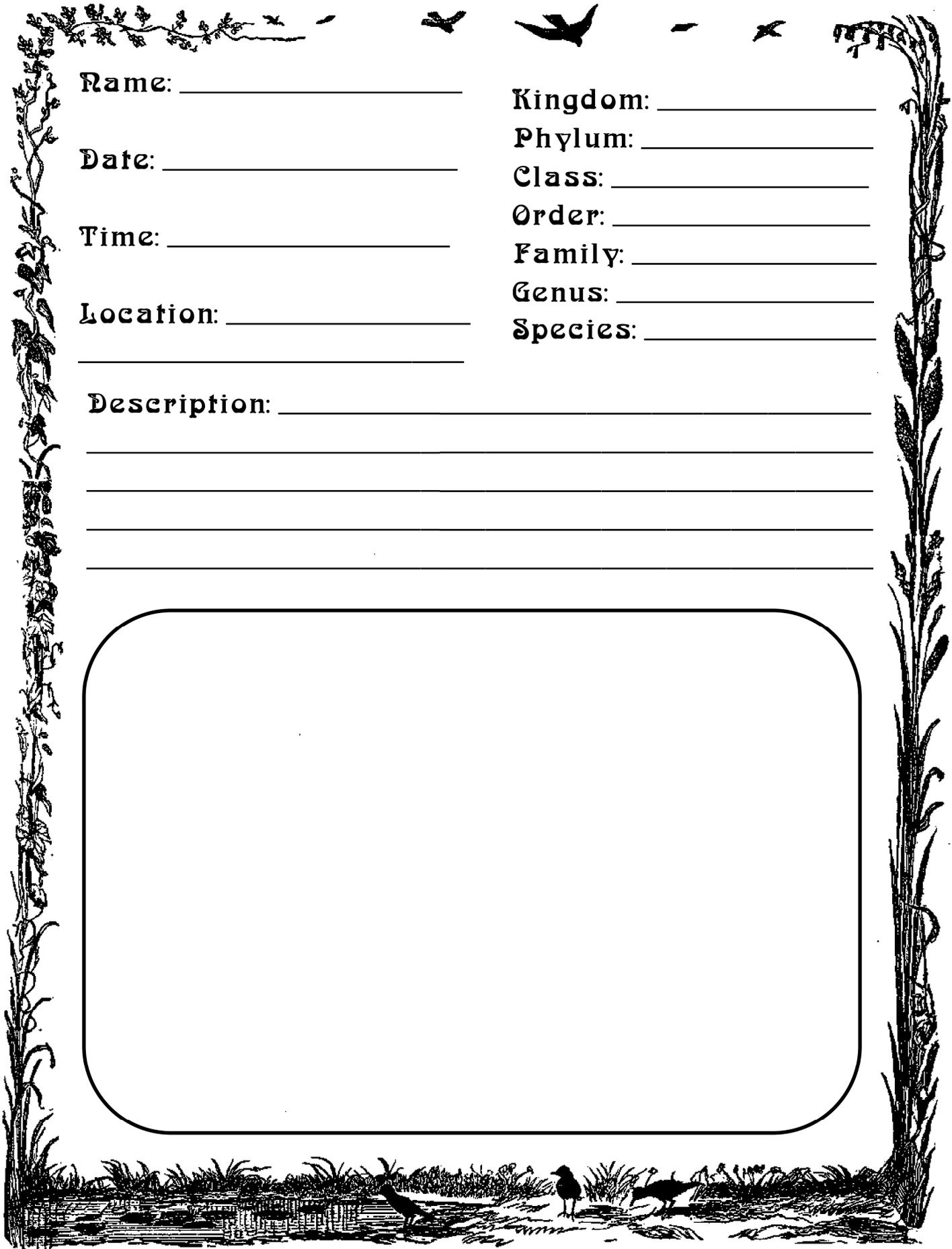
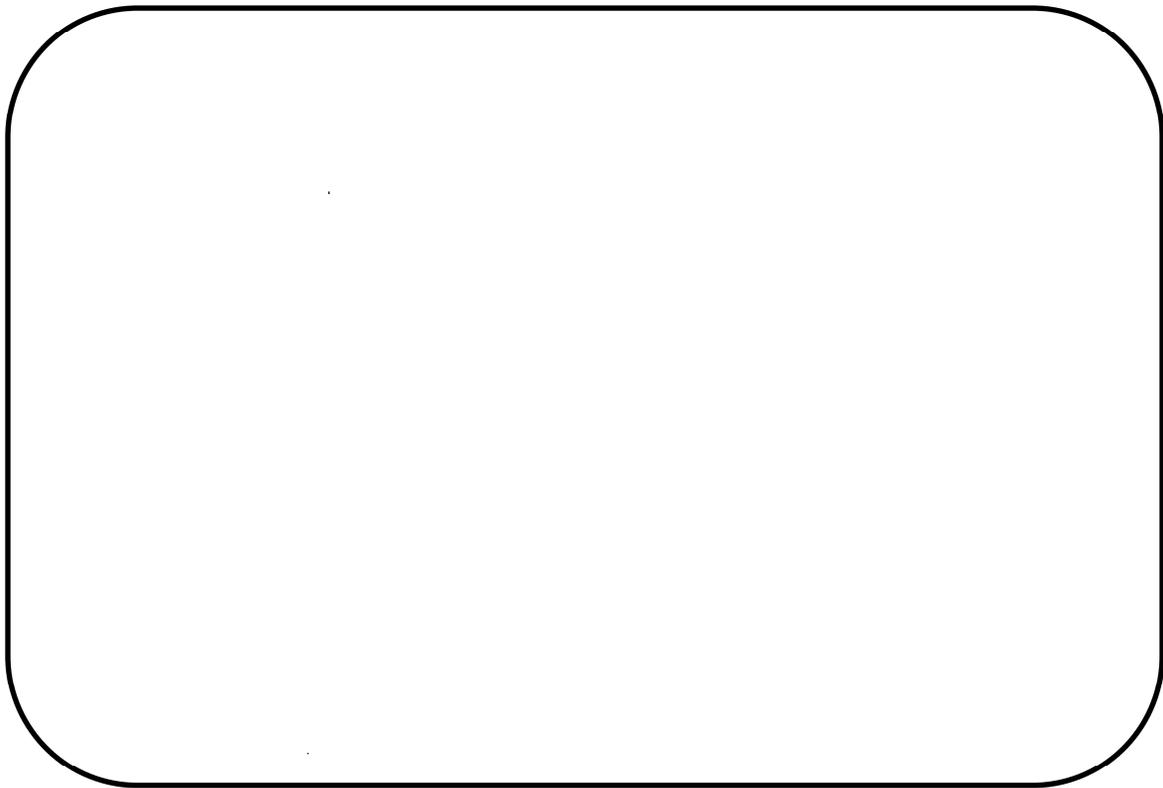
Family: _____

Location: _____

Genus: _____

Species: _____

Description: _____



Bird Fun

Bird Stamps

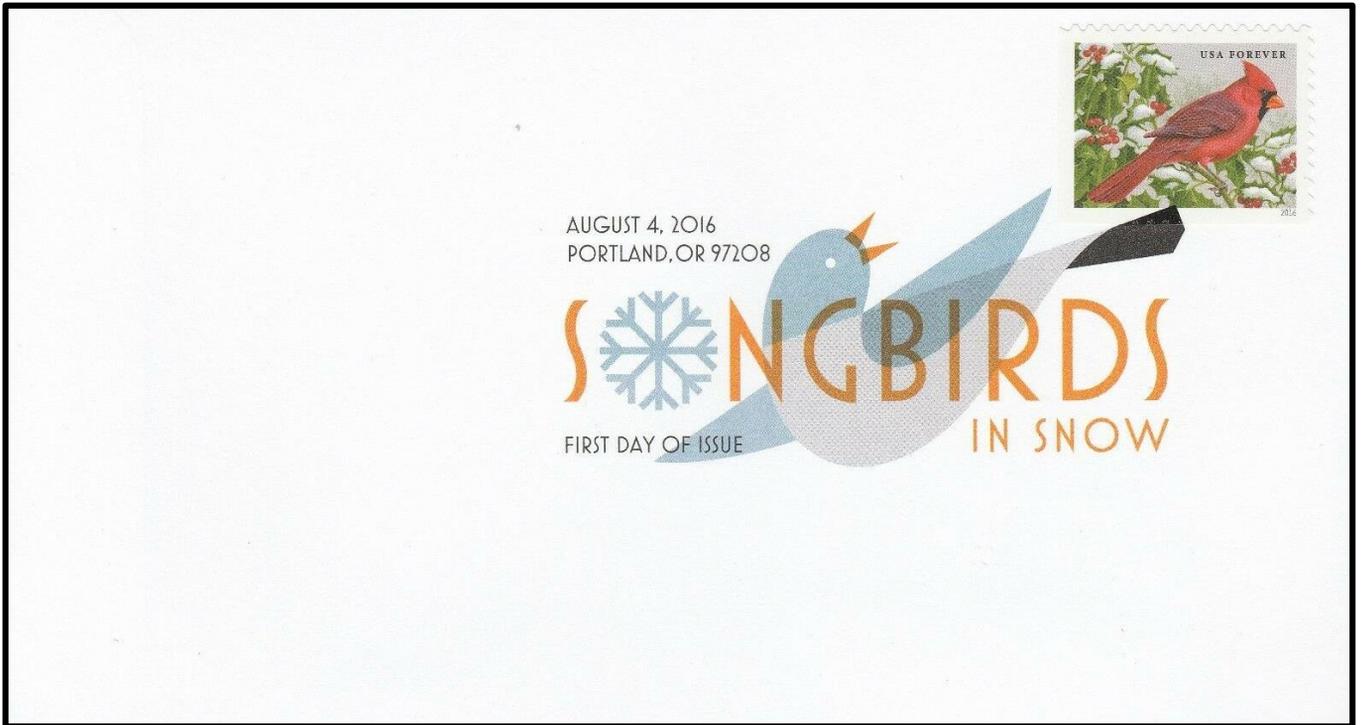
The United States Postal Service has issued a number of songbird stamps throughout the years. The ones on the right came out in 2016 and the ones below were issued in 2014.

Birds are always a popular topic!



Be a Cachet Artist

Use the cover below to design a cachet. A cachet is a design on a cover. It relates to an event or anniversary occurring on the date of the cancellation, or to the subject on the stamp.



Q: Which bird is at every meal?
A: The swallow

Q: How do blue jays stay fit?
A: By doing wormups.



This blue bird fancy cancel from Rockford, Illinois, sold at auction for \$13,000! The stamp is the finest used example of the 1867 3-cent Rose C Grill in existence.

Songbirds

