

Getting Ready for Week

Suggested Books:

Flap Your Wings by P.E. Eastman
The Best Nest by P.D. Eastman
Three Little Birds by Cedella Marley & Gerald Hausman
Busy Birdies (board book) by John Schindel
Birds by Kevin Henkes
Bird Calls (Hear and There Books) by Frank Gallo
Grumpy Bird by Jeremy Tankard
Common Birds and Their Songs (Book and CD) by Lang Elliot
About Birds: A Guide for Children by Cathryn Sill
Birds, Nests & Eggs by Mel Boring

Vocabulary Words:

Bird, nest, egg, wing, feather, blackbird, sparrow, robin, migrate, south, north, birdseed,

Songs and Fingerplays:

Two Little Blackbirds

Two little Blackbirds
Sitting on a hill.
One named Jack
The other named Jill.
Fly away, Jack!
Fly away, Jill
Come back, Jack!
Come back, Jill!

Five Little Birdies

Five little birdies flying around our door,
One flew away and then there were four.

Four little birdies sitting in a tree,
One flew away and then there were three.

Three little birdies didn't know what to do,
One flew away and then there were two.

Two little birdies sitting in the sun,
One flew away and then there was one.

One little birdie felt all alone.
He flew away and then there were none.

Later on that very day,

Five little birdies came back to play!

Two Little Bluebirds

(Same tune as "Five Little Ducks")

Two little bluebirds up in a tree
Built a nest for all to see.
Along came the babies, one –two-three!
Now they're all a happy family!

Little Birdie

(Tune: I'm a Little Teapot)

I'm a little birdie cute and fat.
I eat worms. I don't like cats.
When I see a cat come out to play,
I spread my wings and fly away!

Five Little Ducks

Five Little ducks went out one day
Over the hill and far away
Mother duck said, "Quack, quack, quack, quack!"
But only four little ducks came back.

Four little ducks went out one day
Over the hill and far away
Mother duck said, "Quack quack, quack, quack!"
But only three little ducks came back.

(Continue counting down to none)

Mother Duck went out one day
Over the hills and far away.
Mother duck said, "Quack, quack, quack, quack!"
And all those silly little ducks came back!

The Sparrow

Chirpy fellow! Cheerful Fellow!
Skipping down the garden green;
Saucy fellow! Naughty fellow!
Picking cherries while they're green.

Tweet! Tweet! Gay and sweet,
Hopping on your nimble feet;
Stay! Stay! Let us play
In the garden all the day.

Materials to Gather:

Dramatic Play:

If you have an old birdcage, set it in the toy house area, along with a stuffed toy bird, empty food dishes. Set out a large empty box with a blanket, if child wants to pretend to be a bird in a nest.

Blocks:

Set out toy ducks or chicks, a small pail for carrying pretend birdseed, dishes for pretend water, maybe a pair of overalls, and a man's bandana. Child can pretend to be a farmer, caring for his flock. Use blocks to build the pen or coop for the flock.

Music:**Projects:**

Bird Collage: magazines, sky blue construction paper, scissors, glue. Child cuts pictures of birds and glues to a page.

A nest of eggs: paper plate, twigs, yarn, plastic Easter eggs, glue. Child glues twigs and yarn around the edge of a paper plate. Then glue several plastic Easter eggs to the center of the nest. Let dry before hanging.

Bird's Nest Salad: Mix together shredded carrots and crispy chow mein noodles. Moisten with a dollop of mayonnaise, and shape into a bird nest shape on the child's plate. Place either peas or grapes in the salad for eggs. Yum!

Robin's Eggs: Mix light blue tempera paint with a bit of sand to make speckles. Child paints egg-shaped paper with blue paint. Let Dry. Save at least one egg shape for later.

Egg Counting: Six-cup muffin tin, muffin papers, jelly beans OR malted egg-shaped candies. Write a number from one to six in each of six muffin papers, put in the muffin tin. Set a bowl of candies next to it. Child reads the number, counts out candies, and puts them in the corresponding muffin paper. When all done, he may share the candies with a friend.

Complete the Pattern: Use several different bird stamps and colors of stamp ink. Create a repeating pattern. Then have child figure out what comes next to complete the pattern. Or, print off extra copies of bird lotto, cut the birds apart, and create a pattern using the bird picture cards.

Birds and Beaks: The child discovers how the bird's beak helps it to eat. Set out a clothespin, spoon, straw, toothpick, tweezers to simulate different bird beaks. Then set out some kool-aide, sunflower seeds, Swedish Fish candy, gummy worms, uncooked shell macaroni, goldfish crackers, chocolate sprinkles (bugs), peanuts, raisins, mini-marshmallows, cherrios, etc. Child figures out which type of "beak" is best for eating which type of food. For example, the straw is best for eating the kool-aide, which is just how the hummingbird beak works! The tweezers work better for the chocolate sprinkle bugs. The large spoon works well for scooping up the Swedish fish or Goldfish crackers. Next, show the child a picture of various bird beaks.

Sensory Table: Birdseed Fun. Fill a small child's splash pool with about 20 lbs. of bird seed (mixed variety). Child may scoop, pour, mix, and bulldoze the seed with sand-box toys. Shake off well before coming inside – remove shoes, maybe even socks! Bird seed can make a mess in your carpet.

Feather Painting: Set out several colors of paint in shallow containers (pie tins work well). Put a feather near each tin. Show child how to dip the feather in the paint and slowly move the feather over the paper. If the paint is not too thick and goopy, the resulting painting will be light and feathery. Try using pastel colors instead of bold ones.

Kool-aide painting: Spread large sheet of paper on the ground. Shake some unsweetened kool-aide powder on the paper. Spray the powder with water from a spray bottle. Watch the powder darken, watch the colors swirl together. Use several different flavors of kool-aide to get other colors.

Bird Nest Cookies: Melt 12 oz. of chocolate chips (may substitute butterscotch) with a tablespoon of butter. Stir often, and do not overcook. Stir in a container of crispy Chinese noodles until well coated. Drop by tablespoonfuls onto waxed paper and shape into a nest shape by pressing a spoon onto the center. Press two or three small egg-shaped candies into the nest. Refrigerate until hardened. Try mini Cadbury eggs, or jelly beans.

Nest sitting game: Gather plastic Easter eggs and a pillow. Put a few eggs together and cover them with a pillow. Have child sit on the nest and guess

how many eggs are there. Then look and count them. Repeat.

Bird Feeders: Make one or all three of these options: **One**-roll a large pinecone in peanut butter, then in birdseed. Tie it to a branch with fine craft wire. **Two**-use a grapefruit or orange rind, with the fruit removed. Punch four holes along the edge of the rind, and tie string through the holes, so you can hang it from a tree limb. Then fill with birdseed. **Three**-melt lard or suet in a pan over medium heat. Stir in birdseed until it is well coated. Put in muffin tins and chill until firm. Gently remove bird seed cakes from muffin tin. Tie to a tree limb with craft wire, or put them in a mesh onion bag and hang.

Bird Seed Cookies: Mix equal parts peanut butter, honey, and non-fat dry milk powder. Roll into balls. Roll balls through sesame seeds, then chill until firm. (If your dough is too sticky, add more milk powder. If it is too dry, add more honey.)

Bird Book: Using the robin egg your child painted on Tuesday, cut four more egg shapes the same size. Staple all together with the painted egg for a cover. On the first page, have your child draw a picture of a nest. Print the words “Birds make nests” or something similar at the bottom of that page. On the second page, have your child glue some feathers to it – either real bird feathers gathered on your nature walks, or craft feathers. Print words, “birds have feathers” on that page. On the third page, let your child print some egg shapes by dipping his finger tips into paint and stamping them on the page. Print the words “birds lay eggs” on that page. On the last page, invite your child to draw a picture of anything that he liked or learned this week, and print what he tells you to print. Lay the book open until the egg prints are dry. Then read your child’s book to him! Most children love making their own books.

Feathered Friends: Monday

Date: _____

Concepts: Nn, 5, oval, blue

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity: Practice vocabulary words: Teach “Two Little Blackbirds”.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Play Bird Bingo (by Channel Craft) or make your own Bird Lotto game (included in this lesson).
8:15	Free Play: Set out props in dramatic play, blocks, music, books areas.
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time: Go for a nature walk, look for birds, nests, seeds, worms, etc. Talk about what you find with your child.
11:15	Project: Bird collage. Child cuts out pictures of birds from magazines and pastes to a sheet of blue construction paper. Later, you may name the birds for him – robin, sparrow, etc.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack:
3:30	Outside time: Dig for worms. Give child a small trowel and an area of the yard to dig. Let him try to find worms. Talk with him about the robin, and how it hops along the ground listening for worms, then stops and pulls a worm out of the ground to eat!
4:30	Table Time: Have child color the Nn coloring page. Trace the shape of the letter with a finger. If child is ready, let him practice writing the letter N on the Nest worksheet.
4:45	Project: A Nest of Eggs. Make a nest with paper plates, twigs, yarn, and glue.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journals
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

Feathered Friends : Tuesday

Date: _____

Concepts: Nn, 5, oval, blue

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Vocabulary. Teach "Little Birdie" song. Review older songs. Review concepts: Nn, 5, oval, blue.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Puzzles. Do you have a good puzzle of birds? There are some online jigsaw puzzles, if your child uses a computer. It is better for their fine-motor control to do real puzzles.
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack: Make Bird's Nest Salad.
10:15	Outside time: Feathering the Nest. Give child a large box. He "flies" around the yard, gathering twigs and feathers and stuff to soften his nest, then he can play inside the box.
11:15	Project: Robin eggs. Child paints egg-shaped paper with light blue paint. Mix small amount of sand in the paint to make speckles.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack:
3:30	Outside time: ride tricycle.
4:30	Table Time: Cutting practice. Print off DKL's Bird in a Nest page. Child cuts out and pastes together.
4:45	Project: Egg Count. Place numbers in the bottom of a six-cup muffin tin. Set out a bowl of jelly bean eggs or malted egg candies. Child counts the correct number of eggs to place in each muffin cup.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journals
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

Feathered Friends: Wednesday

Date: _____

Concepts: Nn, 5, oval, blue

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Practice vocabulary words, concepts, and songs. Teach "Five Little Ducks"
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Complete the Pattern. Use bird stamps or cut out pictures of birds from lotto game.
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time. Fill small child's splash pool with 20 lbs of birdseed. Let child play in the seed with sand-toys, measuring cups, water wheel, whatever is available.
11:15	Project: Birds and Beaks activity.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time: bubbles
4:30	Table Time: Letter N worksheet #2
4:45	Project: Feather Painting
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journals
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

Feathered Friends: Thursday

Date: _____

Concepts: Nn, 5, Oval, blue

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Sequencing Birds. Print birds on card stock, laminate if desired. Cut out. Child puts birds in sequence from largest to smallest, or visa versa. Use fewer birds for younger child.
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack:
10:15	Outside time: Kool-Aide painting
11:15	Project: Make Bird Nest Cookies. Have one with lunch. If there's more time, child can glue feathers onto a bird shape you cut from paper.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time: Wood working. Give child a small hammer and a box of roofing nails and a log. Supervise him as he pounds the nails into the log. Look for a real hammer, not a cheap toy. Lowes Hardware carries children's tools, and even offers woodworking classes.
4:30	Table Time: Number 5 worksheet. "Nest Sitting" activity.
4:45	Project: Make bird feeders
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journal
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

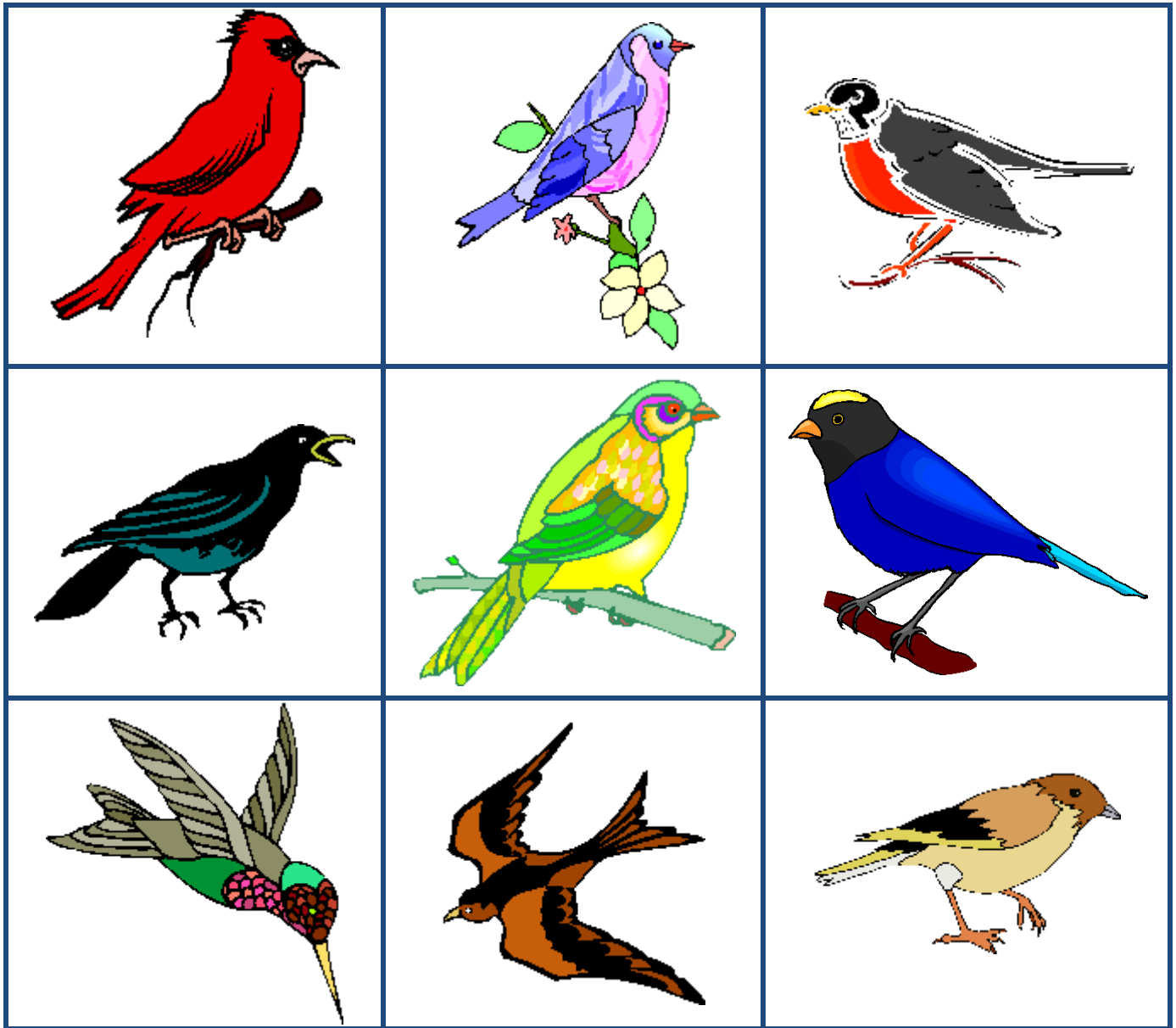
Feathered Friends: Friday

Date: _____

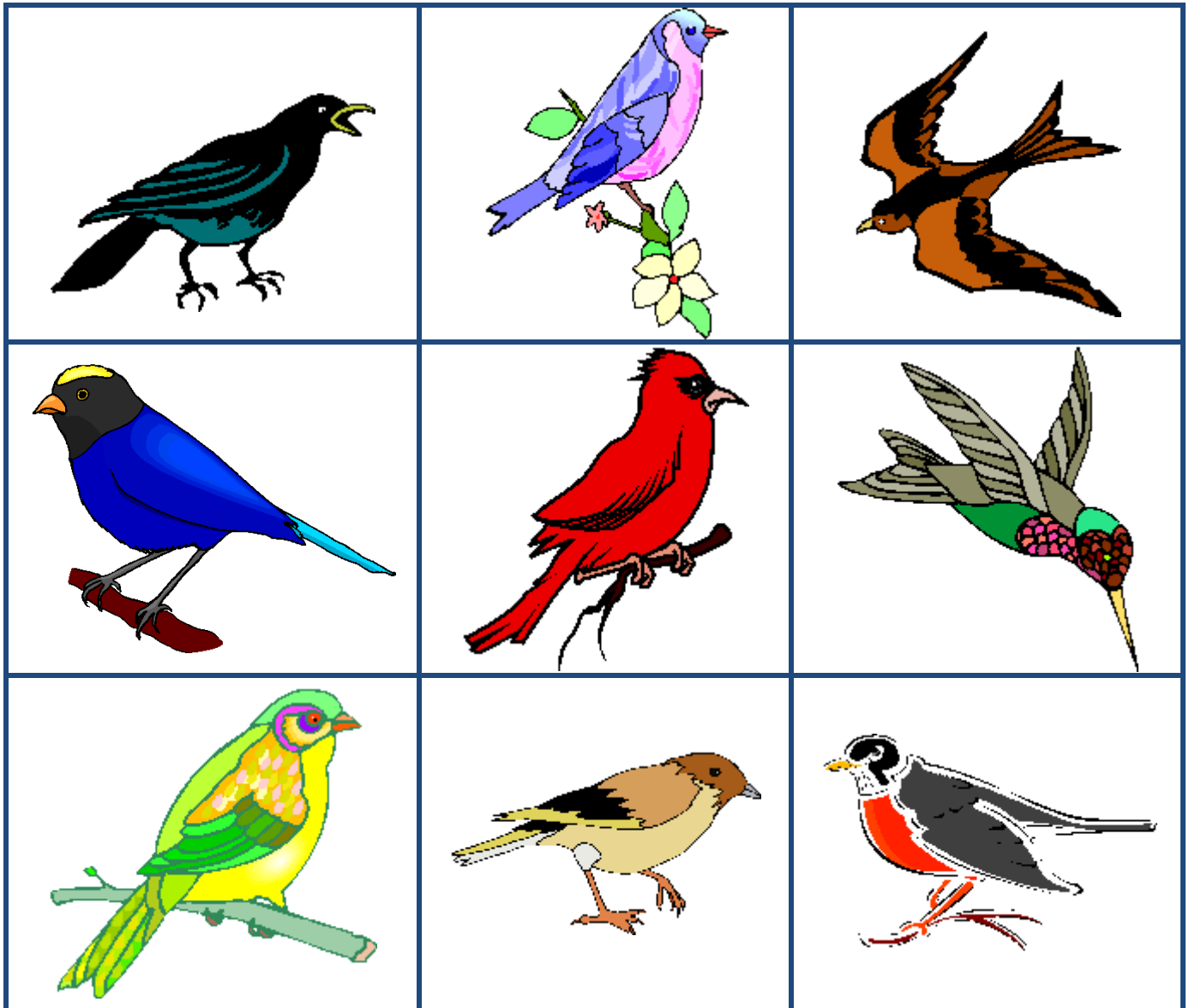
Concepts: Nn, 5, oval, blue

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity.
7:45	Breakfast:
8:00	Table Activities: Gather a variety of items that are all blue, but different shades of blue. Let child examine them, and describe them to you. "Light blue, gray blue", etc. Teach a few new words for blue, like navy, indigo, and royal blue.
8:15	Free Play.
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack:
10:15	Tour: a pet shop that sells birds, or an aviary at a zoo. Help your child to recognize that all birds have feathers, and lay eggs. Look for birds' nests.
11:15	
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack: Bird Seed Cookies
3:30	Outside time:
4:30	Table Time: Shapes: Oval worksheet
4:45	Project: Bird Book. Make a short book about birds with your child.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner: Try Egg Drop Soup!
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journal
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

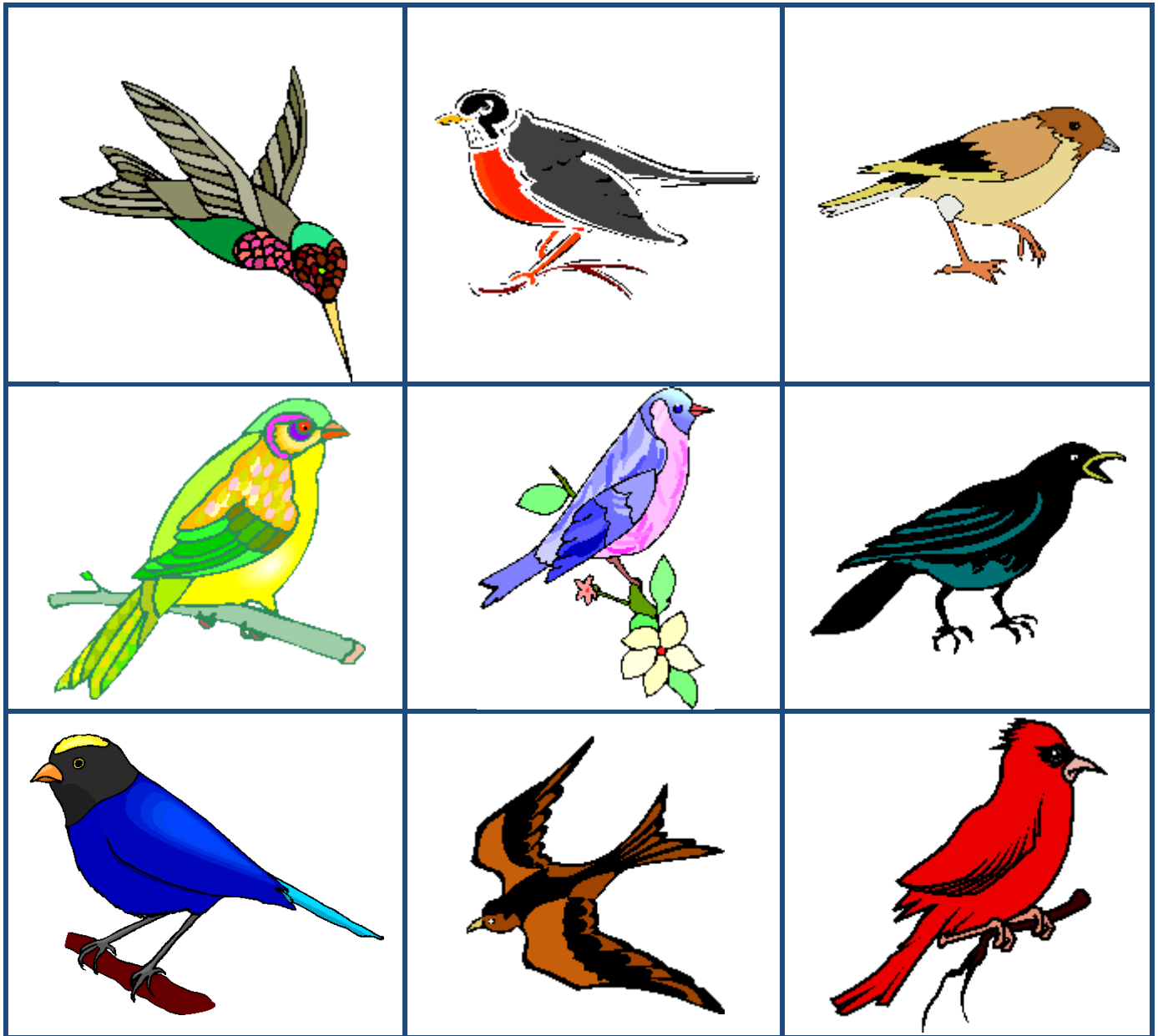
Bird Lotto



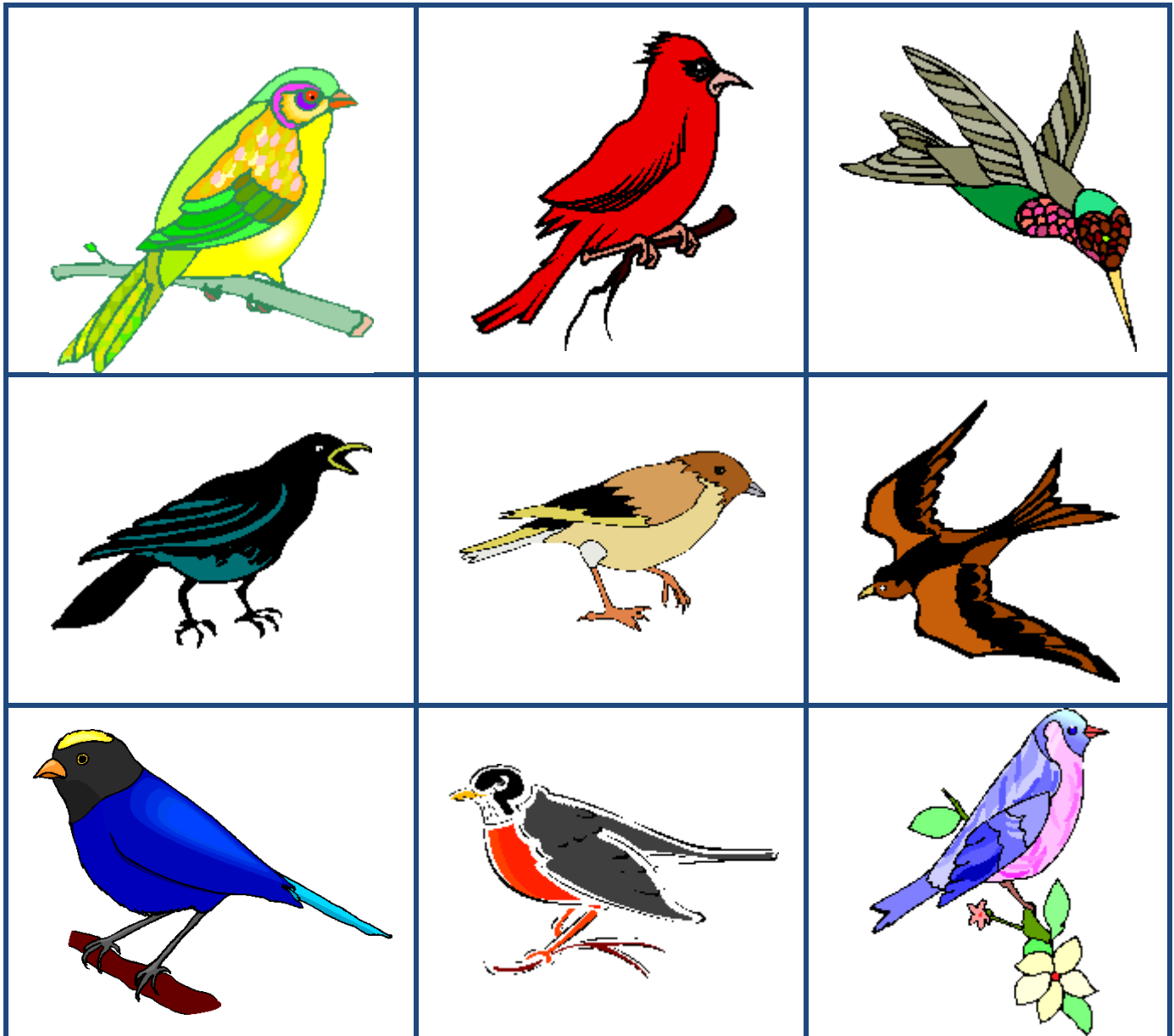
Bird Lotto



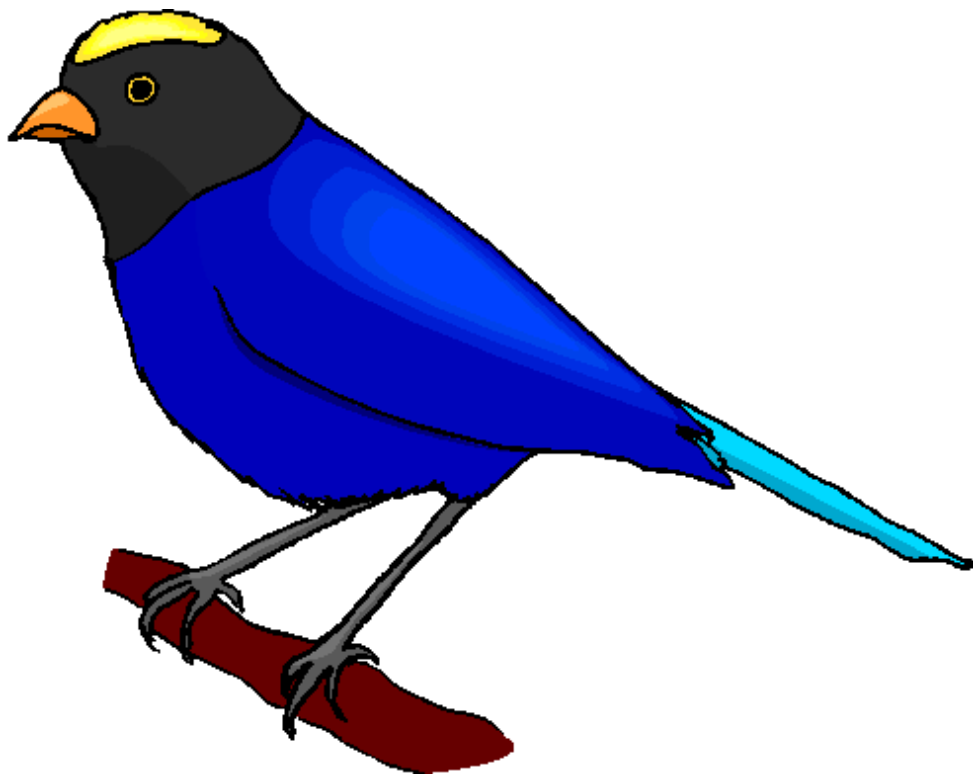
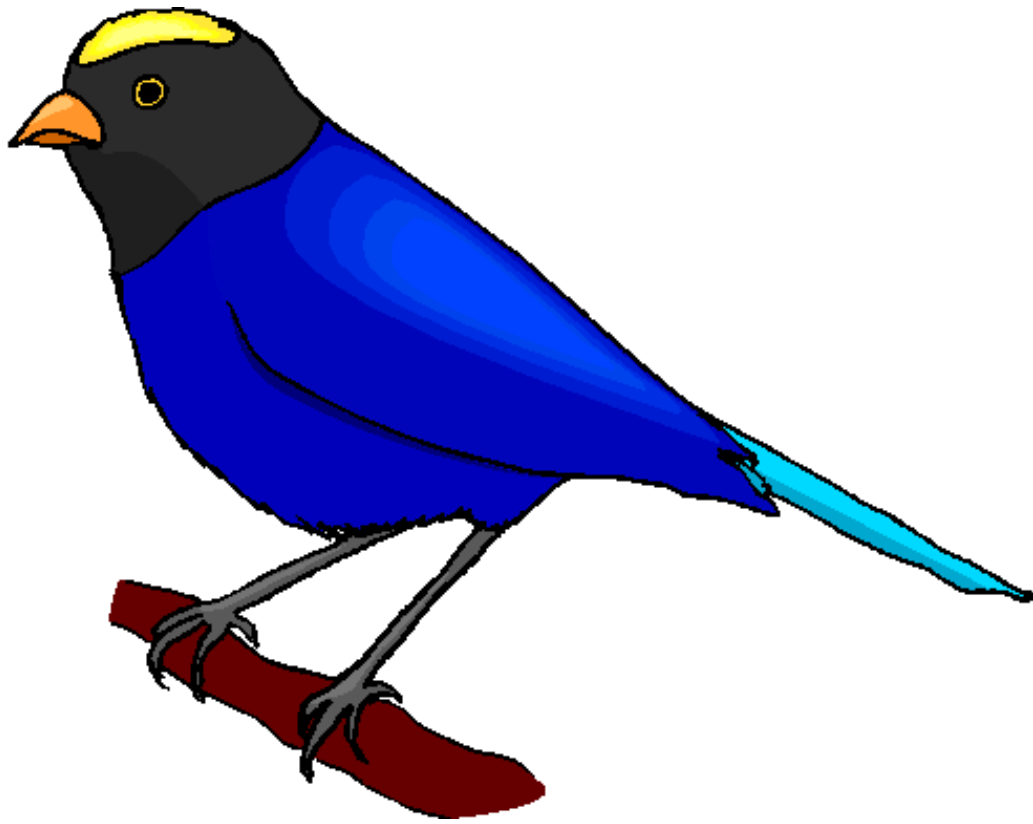
Bird Lotto

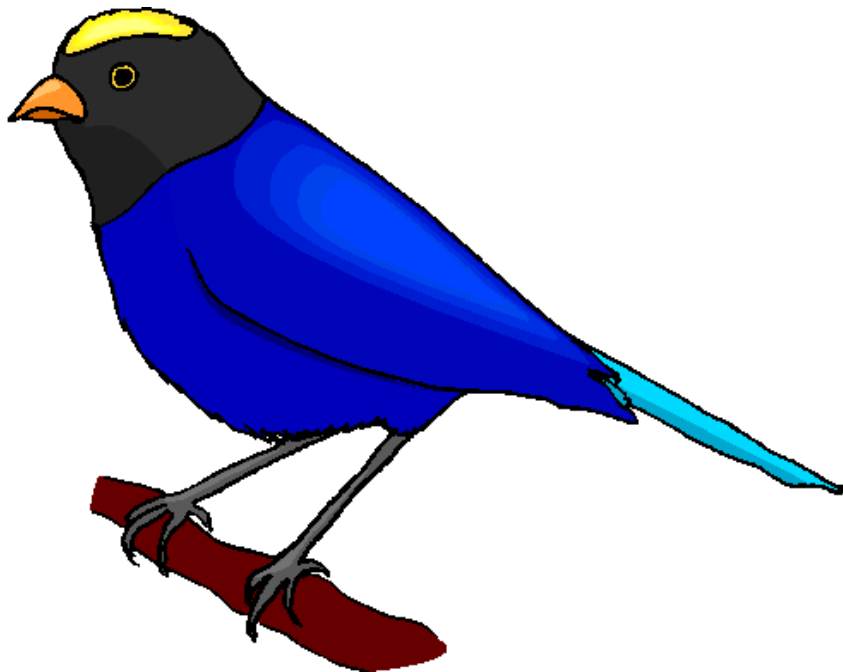
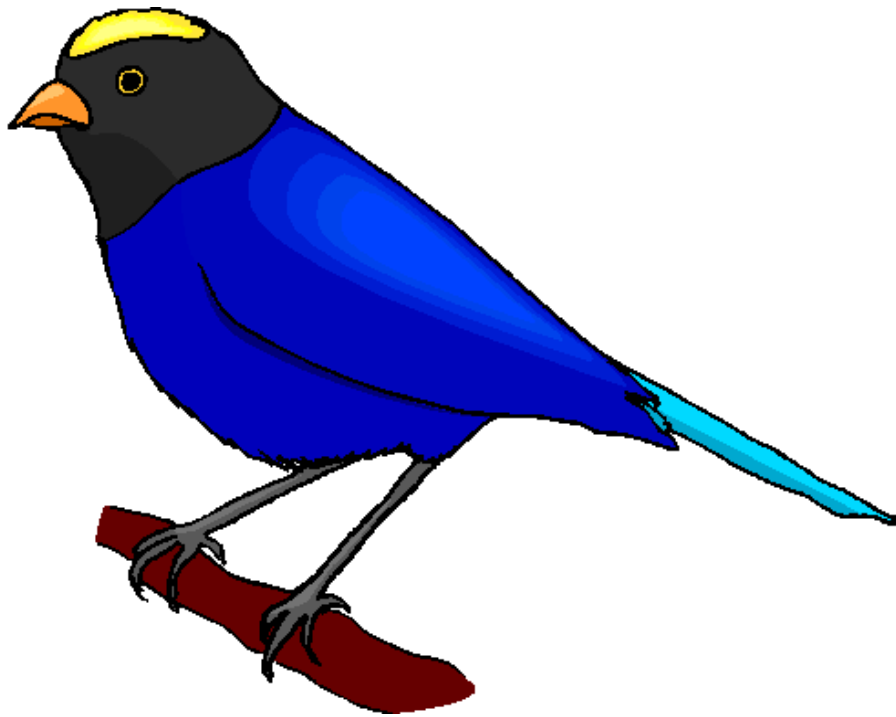


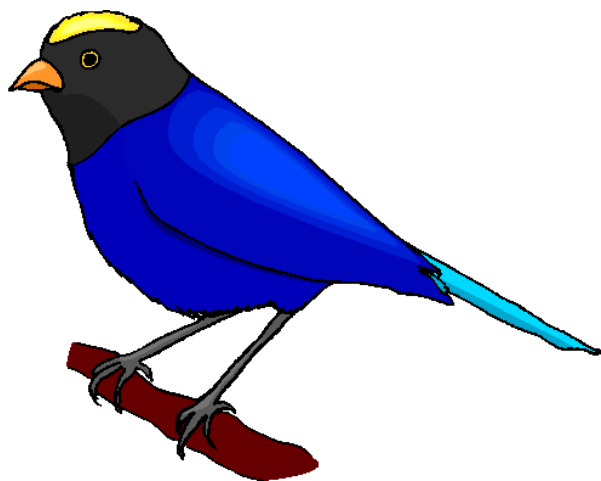
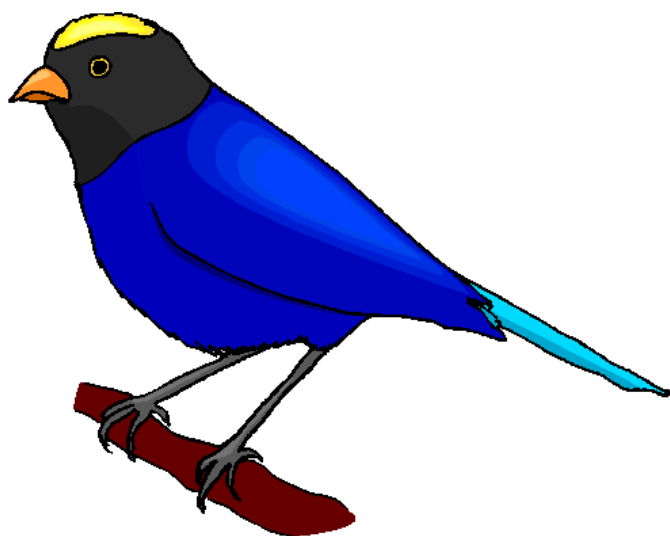
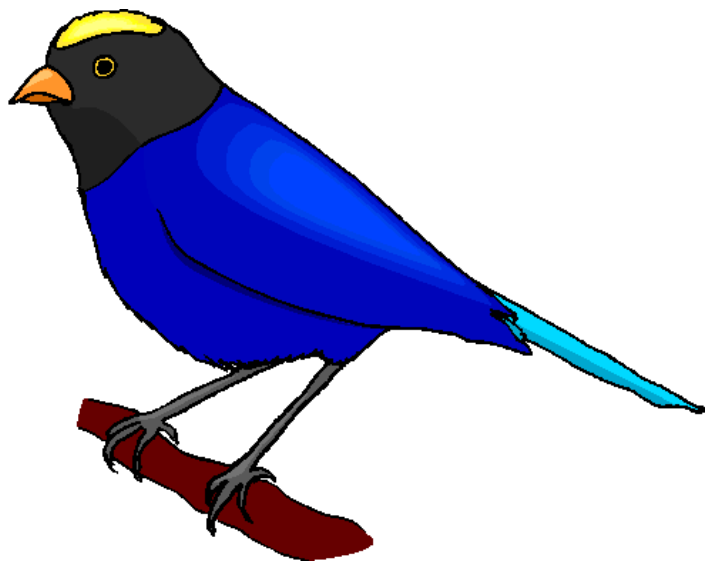
Bird Lotto



Lotto Directions: Print off all four pages of birds. Two pages will be playing boards. The other two will be the pieces, so cut the pieces apart. Laminate the two boards and the 18 playing pieces, and cut apart again. Place playing pieces upside down in center of the table. You play one board and your child plays the other. Take turns drawing a piece and trying to match it to your board. If it doesn't match, then return it to the center of the table upside down. Take turns until all the birds are found. For younger children, do not stress "winning" and "losing" but taking turns and having fun. You can quit any time, if interest begins to fade. Otherwise, trade boards and play again. You can buy sturdy card stock to put in your printer, to make the game last longer.







Print on card stock. Cut out, laminate if desired. Store pieces in zip-bag. Child sorts birds by size, lining up from smallest to largest, then from largest to smallest. Show child how to stack the birds one on top of the other to see which is bigger.