

# BIRD BEHAVIOR SCAVENGER HUNT

Test your birding abilities! Search for these behaviors at Volo Bog State Natural Area or in your neighborhood. Keep track of your points and tally your score! The harder the discovery, the more points you get. How many points can you get in an hour? A day? A week? A year? A lifetime? You set the limit.

## 1 Point Each for A Bird:

- \_\_\_\_\_ in the woods
- \_\_\_\_\_ in the picnic area (or your yard)
- \_\_\_\_\_ in the marsh
- \_\_\_\_\_ in the bog
- \_\_\_\_\_ on the ground
- \_\_\_\_\_ in a shrub
- \_\_\_\_\_ in the grass
- \_\_\_\_\_ flying overhead
- \_\_\_\_\_ perched on a tree branch
- \_\_\_\_\_ perched on a tree top
- \_\_\_\_\_ chasing another bird of its kind
- \_\_\_\_\_ on the road or roadside (ground)

## 2 Points Each for A Bird:

- \_\_\_\_\_ singing
- \_\_\_\_\_ giving a warning call
- \_\_\_\_\_ drumming
- \_\_\_\_\_ walking
- \_\_\_\_\_ hopping
- \_\_\_\_\_ swimming
- \_\_\_\_\_ wading
- \_\_\_\_\_ soaring (wings held still)
- \_\_\_\_\_ flying with a flap-glide-flap-glide pattern
- \_\_\_\_\_ chasing a bird bigger than itself
- \_\_\_\_\_ in a flock of birds
- \_\_\_\_\_ hanging upside down from a branch to feed



## 3 Points Each for A Bird:

- \_\_\_\_\_ gathering nesting material
- \_\_\_\_\_ on a nest
- \_\_\_\_\_ climbing on a tree trunk
- \_\_\_\_\_ feeding on plant matter
- \_\_\_\_\_ hovering (in one place w/ rapid wing beats)
- \_\_\_\_\_ scavenging on a dead animal
- \_\_\_\_\_ eating an insect
- \_\_\_\_\_ chiseling into a tree trunk or branch
- \_\_\_\_\_ preening
- \_\_\_\_\_ walking in parallel confrontation with another bird

## 4 Points Each for A Bird:

- \_\_\_\_\_ running
- \_\_\_\_\_ using its oil gland in preening
- \_\_\_\_\_ bathing in water
- \_\_\_\_\_ dabbling in water for food
- \_\_\_\_\_ diving under water from the surface
- \_\_\_\_\_ flying with food in its mouth (may be feeding young)
- \_\_\_\_\_ eating a mammal or another bird
- \_\_\_\_\_ fighting with another bird (physical contact)

## 5 Points Each for A Bird:

- \_\_\_\_\_ taking a dust bath to choke parasites
- \_\_\_\_\_ feeding its young
- \_\_\_\_\_ feeding its mate
- \_\_\_\_\_ diving into water from a perch
- \_\_\_\_\_ sleeping (on one foot with eyes closed)
- \_\_\_\_\_ escaping predation
- \_\_\_\_\_ other behaviors (list separately on back)

## HOW DID YOU DO?

35 A Good Start!  
70 You're Pretty Observant!

100 Not Much Gets By You!  
125 You're a Top-Notch Birder!

Score \_\_\_\_\_



# STILL HUNTING!

**How still can you sit?      How *long* can you sit still?**

If you sit really still for a while, you become invisible. Not *exactly* invisible but... the animals near you might forget you're there, or not even notice you sitting up against a tree or rock. They will go about their lives as though you weren't there. What do animals *usually* do when they see us? Try this:

1. Wear natural colors such as greens or browns. Camouflage yourself!
2. Find a natural place where animals are likely to be. Ask permission from an adult you know and tell an him or her what you are doing (where you are going, when you plan to return). If you are not in your yard, take a friend (who also has permission).
3. Sit on the ground, leaning against something bigger than yourself. A tree or rock will do. Or tuck yourself up under a bush. Sit so you cannot see your friend (try opposite sides of a tree).
4. **Now, sit there without moving (or moving very, very slowly) for as many minutes as you are years old.** Make no sounds. Be very, very quiet!
5. The longer you sit, the more the animals nearby will come to accept you. You will not scare them. Sit very still. If you see an animal, watch what it does. You might see it eat, feed its young, or go to its home. Be respectful and don't follow the animal. Stay away from its home.
6. Never let a mammal come right up to you. If a mammal gets too close for comfort simply move suddenly and speak loudly and it should move away. What is too close for comfort? Well, a chipmunk may be allowed to get closer to you than a coyote! **Never, ever, try to pet a wild mammal.** Unlike your pet dog or cat, a wild mammal doesn't understand that you mean well by petting them. They will think *you want to eat them* (remember, you are the bigger animal!) They very likely would bite you to defend themselves!
7. Small birds can sometimes get as close as arm's reach without even noticing you! Don't move! You can get some very close looks this way. You may get lucky and watch it build a nest or feed its young!

**A young boy I once met said of still hunting, "it's kinda like time out - only fun!"  
I agree!**