

Winter Bird Bingo

trumpeter
swan



snow goose



great blue
heron



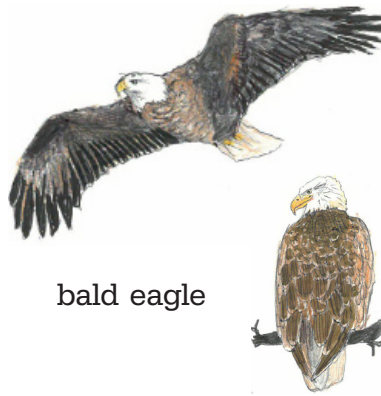
snowy owl



FREE
BIRD



bald eagle



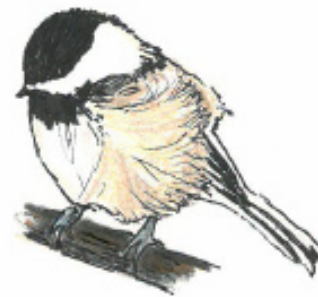
common loon



pileated
woodpecker



black-capped chickadee



illustrations by Alexa Lindauer

Up your chances of seeing birds with these kid-friendly **Bird Hikes**

Skagit Wildlife Area, Stanwood. *Big Ditch Slough*: 0.5 miles and up; flat; walk along the dike. Hop in the car and pair with the flat 2-mile loop at the Skagit Wildlife Area just out of Conway. *Bird Bingo*: see all Bird Bingo species!

Padilla Bay, Mount Vernon. 2.4 miles one-way; flat; through sloughs, tidal flats, and salt marshes. Visit the Breazeale Interpretive Center. *Bird Bingo*: see all Bird Bingo species!

Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, Olympia. *Nisqually Estuary Boardwalk Trail*: 2 miles one-way; flat; boardwalk extends one mile into the delta; \$3.00/family. Free binocular rental! *Bird Bingo*: great blue heron, bald eagle (and many others!)

Dungeness Spit, Sequim. 6.5 miles one-way; 130ft elevation gain and loss; briefly through a wooded area, then drops to the beach; \$3.00/family. Walk a little or walk to the lighthouse, and see up to 250 bird species.

Washington Park, Anacortes. *Fidalgo Head Loop Trail*: about 4 miles round-trip; explore side trails like Green Point and Juniper Point trails to get better water access. *Bird Bingo*: bald eagles.

Ebey's Landing, Coupeville. *Bluff Trail*: 1.5 miles one-way, mildly rolling trail along the bluff. Go at low tide for a beach walk. *Bird Bingo*: common loon, bald eagle.

Your Local Park! Check out city, county, and state parks for easy-to-spot birds like black-capped chickadees, Stellars jays, mallards, and various woodpeckers. For Seattle-ites, you can occasionally spot a great blue heron at the **Ballard Locks!** For Tacoma and Federal Way families, check out the **Dumas Bay Sanctuary** heron breeding colony interpretive signs.

Winter Bird Bingo

Trumpeter Swans are large, white birds with long straight necks, black beaks and faces, and a loud honk like a bike horn. Trumpeter swans can live to be 24 years old. There are more Trumpeter Swans in Washington than in any other state. Look for these swans wintering in lakes, streams, springs, rivers, and reservoirs.

Snow Geese are white with black wing tips. Snow geese travel in flocks by the thousands, and some are coming to Washington from Siberia and the Arctic Tundra, over 3000 miles away! Snow geese also make 6-15 droppings an hour, so watch where you step... Look for snow geese in wetlands or plowed cornfields.

Great Blue Heron are large, shaggy blue-gray birds with "S"-shaped necks. Their wingspan can be up to 6ft long, but they only weigh 5 pounds! How long is your wingspan? Look for heron in salt- and freshwater habitats such as open coasts, marshes, sloughs, riverbanks, and lakes.

Snowy Owls are white owls with yellow eyes and fluffy legs. Unlike most owls, they like to hunt during the day – in the summer, they live north of the Arctic Circle so they can hunt in the sun 24 hours a day. Look for them flying low to the ground in fields or on ocean or lake shorelines. In Harry Potter, Hedwig was played by a male snowy owl.



Bald Eagles have white heads, dark brown wings and bodies, and a wingspan of 6 ½ feet. Look for them soaring high in the sky, flapping slowly through the air, or resting in a tree. Even though they are big, small songbirds often scare bald eagles away. Look for Bald Eagles near lakes, reservoirs, rivers, marshes, and coasts.

Common Loons have gray heads and backs, and white throats and bellies in the winter. They are excellent divers, but loons can also fly up to 70mph! However, loons can only take off from water, and they need from 100ft to ¼ mile of water space to take flight. Look for loons on lakes, rivers, estuaries, and coastlines in the winter, and listen for their calls.

Pileated Woodpeckers are black with white neck streaks and red caps on their heads. The pileated is the largest woodpecker in WA, similar in size to a crow. If you can't spot one, try to look for the rectangular holes they drill in dead trees in search of carpenter ants, their favorite food. Look for pileated woodpeckers in forested areas with tall dead trees.

Black-capped Chickadees have white bellies, gray wings, a black cap and bib, and white cheeks. They are small, curious, and cute birds with great memories – they can remember thousands of hiding places where they stashed seeds. They call their own name: CHICK-A-dee-dee-dee. Chickadees can be found anywhere with trees or woody shrubs.

Want to learn more? Check out these handy **Online Resources**

Seattle Audubon Society's Bird Web:

www.birdweb.org/birdweb/

Learn about birds you saw or want to see on your hike

Cornell University's Online Bird Guide:

www.allaboutbirds.org/Page.aspx?pid=1189

Learn about birds you saw or want to see on your hike. Listen to bird calls (loon, chickadee)

Bird Distribution Maps (select WA counties):

soundtosage.org/soundtosage/index.aspx

Learn where different migratory birds winter in WA

Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve:

www.padillabay.gov/

click on "Publications" and scroll down to download a bird checklist and children's activities

Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge:

www.fws.gov/refuge/Nisqually/seasons_of_wildlife/index.html

User-friendly website about refuge wildlife and how you can experience it

Skagit Wildlife Areas:

wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/skagit/

Washington Park Map:

www.cityofanacortes.org/Parks/Documents/WA-Park/WashingtonPark.pdf

Just for fun...How to Whistle like a Loon:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2DCCACTJ6M

****Be Prepared:** Check a tide chart before you head out – some trails (Dungeness Spit, Fort Ebey) have more walking room at low tide. Also, keep little feet happy with rubber boots or water-proof footwear for beach or marsh walks.