

# Learn about birds in nature

*This activity is inspired by Forskerfrø.no and their description of the Norwegian app 'Kvitre!+'. The activity has been translated and further processed by Emilie Schønemann and Yana Nikolova for Natural Technology.*

**Target audience:** 3-13 years old.

**Time use and prerequisites:** 30-60 minutes. This activity has no prerequisites.

**Materials:** A phone or tablet that can access an app about birds. The activity has no other prerequisites.

Take the children out for a walk in the forest and use an app, such as BirdNET, to learn more about the birds you see on your way and listen to what their song sounds like. Maybe you will be able to recognize the birdsong if you hear it the next time you are on a trip? The activity can also be combined with activities like 'bird theme days' focusing on different birds each day.

## About this activity

This activity is part of a series of activities developed by the Danish research project called *Natural Technology*. The purpose of the project is to investigate technology in combination with nature, such as the potential of smartphones in children and teenagers' experiences in nature. You can read more about the project here: <https://naturligteknik.dk/en/>.

*Natural Technology* is affiliated with the interdisciplinary organization Center for Children and Nature and is supported by Nordea-fonden.

*Natural Technology* is anchored in the research program 'Future Technology, Culture and Learning', located at the Danish School of Education at Aarhus University.

## Bird Apps

There are several different apps you can use to investigate birds. Here are a few of our suggestions; however, we recommend that you search for national bird apps:

### *BirdNET*

BirdNET is a sound recognition app that allows you to make recordings of birdsong for the app to identify using machine learning. By using the app, you will also be contributing valuable audio data for research in citizen science projects.

### *Merlin Bird ID by Cornell Lab*

Merlin is an expansive bird identification and reference app, containing downloadable 'bird packs' that cover almost every geographical area on the globe. Bird ID predictions can be based on sound or images, but you can also just explore birds in your area or in any bird pack of your choice and listen to others' recordings of birdsong.

### *Bird Theme Days*

You can choose to create theme days about particular birds, focusing on one bird at a time for a closer look. For example, you can investigate what a particular bird eats, what its eggs look like, and what its birdsong sounds like. These themes can easily be combined with creative activities, such as drawing the bird in its natural size, or creating a board with drawings about the bird facts you have investigated – or perhaps making an e-book about the bird.



### ***Important information***

*(Source: Forskerfrø.no)*

*Be aware of the following before playing bird sounds in nature:*

- *Be careful not to play bird sounds for too long at a time. It can stress the birds, and you risk scaring them away!*
- *Do not play bird sounds if it is mating season or if you are in a nature reserve.*
- *Do not use bird sounds to attract rare birds.*