

- Blue jay
- Ruby-throated hummingbird
- Black-capped chickadee
- House finch
- Female Northern cardinal
- Male Northern cardinal
- Female purple finch
- Dark-eyed junco
- American goldfinch
- Black-capped chickadee
- Scarlet tanager
- White-crowned sparrow
- Rose-breasted grosbeak
- Downy woodpecker
- Painted bunting
- Indigo bunting
- Red-breasted nuthatch
- American goldfinch
- Red-bellied woodpecker
- White-throated sparrow
- White-breasted nuthatch
- Tufted titmouse
- Pine siskin
- Tufted titmouse
- Male purple finch
- House wren

Kimberly Beck, *Dinner Party*







Name That Bird

Kimberly Beck's grandmother wrote a whimsical song featuring the names of common songbirds. The artist drew on this childhood memory and her own Midwest bird-watching and bird-feeding experiences to paint *Dinner Party*.

Use your bird-identification knowledge and reasoning skills – think “color” – to connect the names at the left with the birds on the feeder.

For the answers, visit www.lywam.org and search 2014 *Birds in Art* Activity Guide.

Backyard Birding Tips

-  Hang birdfeeders so you can see them from a window.
-  If you have binoculars, keep them handy at your bird-watching window. Keep a bird-identification guide handy, too.
-  Notice the different colors and patterns as well as the shapes of beaks; use these details to identify birds.
-  Start a “Bird Journal” in a notebook; write notes and make drawings of the birds you see.

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Birds in Art® is an international juried exhibition organized annually by the Woodson Art Museum.

Activity Guide

Birds in Art

Attitude Is Everything

The way a bird looks – how it holds its head, moves, sits, or flies – is the primary way to identify a species.

“Attitude” is the word used to describe a bird’s distinct look.

Some artists capture a bird’s attitude using great detail. Others might use only sketchy gestures to give the viewer all the information needed to make an identification.

Use one or more of the adjectives in the word bank below – or write your own – to describe the attitudes of the birds pictured here.

Word Bank

aggressive, busy, hungry, scared, tired, sleepy, noisy, bold, all-knowing, loud, cocky, proud, arrogant, persistent



I’m . . .



We’re . . .



I’m . . .



We’re . . .

Artworks clockwise from top: S.V. Medaris, *Taliesin Goose*; Mary Cornish, *The Oracles*; Andrew Haslen, *The Feeding Tree*; Sandy Scott, *King of the Coop*

Where Do Birds Perch?

Everywhere!

Birds land, rest, and sit almost anywhere. Some perches are natural, such as tree branches and sandy beaches. Other spots might seem unusual: a hotel sign; under an old car fender; on a hippopotamus; or making mischief on a vintage typewriter.

Interesting perches and curious objects provide inspiration for an artist looking for just the right setting for a particular bird.

Where do you see birds perch? What would make for an unusual or odd perch? Sketch your ideas here.



Artworks clockwise from top: Vicki Banks, *Hunt and Peck*; David Milton, *Couple at the Sandman Motel*; Scot A. Weir, *Aviation Fueled*; Peter Elfman, *Do Not Disturb*

Snow Owl

Winter 2014 was a bonanza for snowy owl lovers. Usually at home in the Arctic tundra, snowy owls migrated south in record numbers; their typical range is along the southern border of Canada.

An "irruption" is the word used to describe the increase of snowy owls in atypical areas. An irruption of snowy owls on both the East and West Coasts at the same time – as happened in 2014 – is especially rare.

No surprise, artists take advantage of opportunities to see snowy owls whenever they can. Anne Senechal Faust, William Harrison, Terrill Knaack, and Dale Weiler each focused on this bird, but using a different medium: serigraphy or silkscreening, pencil, oil paint, and alabaster.

As you look at these four artworks, think about how they are similar and how they are different. Write your observations here.



Want More?

To learn more about snowy owls and recent sightings, use the Google search function for news articles and for images.



Artworks clockwise from top: Anne Senechal Faust, *A Gathering of Owls*; Dale A. Weiler, *White Lightning*; William H. Harrison, *Snowy Owl*; Hélène Arfi, *Two Barn Owls*; Terrill A. Knaack, *White on White*



How About Other Owls?

Birds in Art includes other owl species: great horned, barn, short-eared, and screech. Look for these birds in the galleries.

Name That Bird

Answers

These bird species – in order from top to bottom – are featured in Kimberly Beck's *Dinner Party*.

1. House wren
2. Indigo bunting
3. Male Northern cardinal
4. Female Northern cardinal
5. House finch
6. White-breasted nuthatch
7. American goldfinch
8. Male purple finch
9. Black-capped chickadee
10. Black-capped chickadee
11. Red-bellied woodpecker
12. Dark-eyed junco
13. Pine siskin
14. Ruby-throated hummingbird
15. White-throated sparrow
16. Painted bunting
17. Scarlet tanager
18. White-crowned sparrow
19. Tufted titmouse
20. American goldfinch
21. Female purple finch
22. Tufted titmouse
23. Downy woodpecker
24. Rose-breasted grosbeak
25. Red-breasted nuthatch
26. Blue jay

