

Hudson RiverKids Story Hour

Rocking Birds Paper Plates

Themes: Bird Anatomy

Activity Time: ~ 20 minutes

Activity Summary:

This week's story is *Don't Feed the Coos!* written by Jonathan Stutzman and illustrated by Heather Fox. *Don't Feed the Coos!* is a cautionary tale that details the fallout when a little girl decides to share some bread with a coo (aka pigeon). From the park to home to the arcade to karate practice, the coos follow the generous-but-foolish girl who didn't heed the warning. Because when you give a coo a crumb...the entire population of coos will come! But fret not: our spunky little heroine will discover that even the biggest of problems can be solved with a little determination.

We invite you to follow along with this story during Hudson RiverKids Story Hour on Facebook Live and use the instructions below to create a rocking bird using a paper plate and a few other common craft materials.



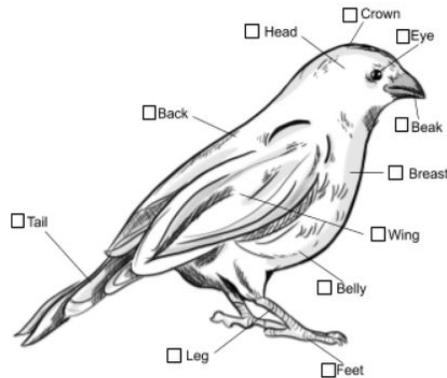
Materials:

- Paper Plate
- Tape or glue
- Markers/Paint
- Construction paper
- Feathers (optional)
- Googly eyes (optional)
- Chopsticks or popsicle sticks (optional)

Lesson Procedure:

Things like feathers, wings, and beaks make it very clear that these are birds and not, say, dogs or people! Review the diagram below that shows all the basic parts of a bird, and then follow the instructions to create a bird of your own, using a paper plate, markers, construction paper, and whatever other materials you would like to use.

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Instructions

1. Fold your paper plate in half to create the body of your bird.
2. Use markers, crayons, feathers, bits of construction paper, glue, tape and whatever else you would like to add the different body parts of a bird (shown above) to your plate. You can draw legs and feet directly on your plate, or attach other materials to create them.
3. Check off the boxes next to each body part in the diagram above to make sure you haven't forgotten any important parts. Bonus: Label the different parts of your bird.
4. Let any glue or wet paint/ink dry.
5. Slightly unfold your plate, so your bird can stand up. If you've attached legs, it may be a little tricky to balance. If you've drawn legs, you can rock your bird back and forth along the round edge to mimic pecking!
6. Name your bird. Many birds are named for the parts of their body that set them apart from other species, like the yellow-bellied sapsucker or the scarlet tanager. What parts of your bird make it unique?



Scarlet tanager, photographed by Park Naturalist, Keith Michael