




Maggie's Birdwatching Adventure

Story and Illustrations by Madison Trozzi





On a bright, warm day, 6 year old Maggie is on her way to visit her cousin, Joanna.

Their favourite place to meet is a forest right behind Maggie's house!



As Maggie walks through the forest, she hears some animals in the trees.



'What are they?' she wonders.

When she looks up, she knows exactly what they are: they are birds!



Maggie finds Joanna at their favourite spot, but Joanna is doing something Maggie has never seen before.

"Hi Joanna!" Maggie says.
"What are you doing?"
"I'm doing something called birdwatching!"
Joanna replies.



"What is birdwatching?" Maggie asks.

Joanna smiles, "Birdwatching is an activity where you look at birds. It's so cool!"

Maggie thinks that birdwatching sounds fun, especially because she loves birds!

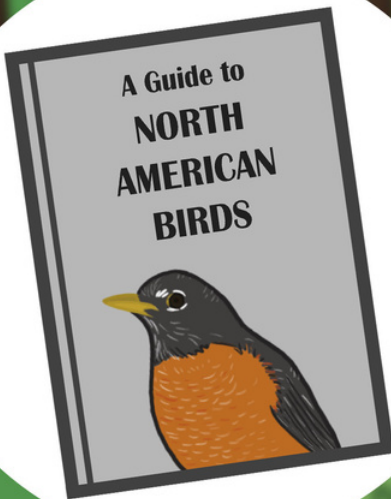
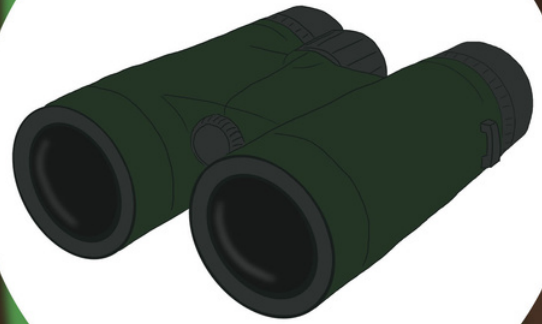
"Joanna, how do you do birdwatching?" Maggie asks.

Joanna smiles and holds up a few things in her hands.



"Birdwatching is all about looking for birds and watching what they do!" she explains.


"To see the birds up close, I use a tool called 'binoculars'," she continues.



"Then, I have a book that helps me find out what type of bird I see."

"I can also use my phone to share what birds I see, and this information can even help scientists!"





Hearing Joanna talk about birdwatching makes Maggie even more curious and excited.

"Can I try?" Maggie asks.
"Yes! Birdwatching can be done by anyone!"
Joanna replies.

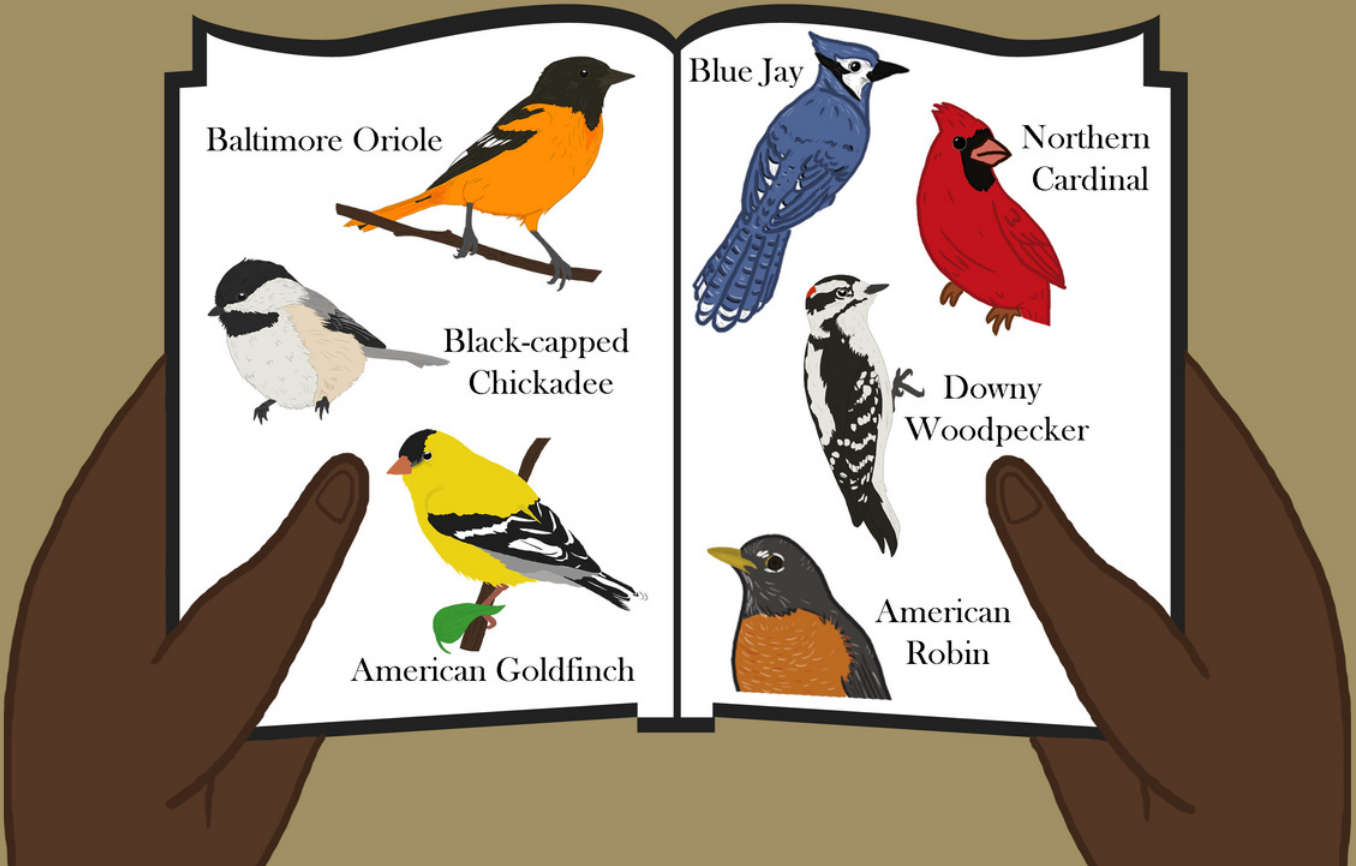


Joanna shows Maggie how to use the binoculars and when Maggie looks through them, she sees so many different birds!

Orange ones, yellow ones, blue ones, and even white ones! All up close!



Each bird Maggie sees, Joanna uses her book to figure out what type it is!



Baltimore Oriole



Black-capped Chickadee



American Goldfinch

Blue Jay



Northern Cardinal



Downy Woodpecker



American Robin



Looking through the binoculars, Maggie spots lots of birds. She watches them fly, eat, and even take care of their nests!"



It's all so exciting, and suddenly Maggie decides that she can't wait to see more birds in the future!

Maggie turns back to Joanna, smiles wide, and says, "with all of the wonderful things I see, I think birdwatching is for me!"



Birdwatching Resources:

Want to learn more about birdwatching, how to get started, and its benefits? Check out these resources!



"How to Start Birding" by the National Audubon Society:
<https://www.audubon.org/birding/how-to-start-birding>



"Getting Started in Birding" by Bill Thompson, III, from *Bird Watcher's Digest*:
<https://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/solve/get-started-in-birding.php>



"Birdwatching with Children" by Andrea Miller, from *Birdwatching* magazine:
<https://www.birdwatchingdaily.com/beginners/getting-started/birdwatching-with-children/>



"Why Your Kids Need to Go Birding" by Childhood by Nature:
<https://childhoodbynature.com/why-your-kids-need-to-go-birding/>



"Citizen Science" by Birds Canada:
<https://www.birdscanada.org/you-can-help/citizen-science/>
(citizens can share their bird observations during national events to help bird conservation efforts!)

About the Author:

Madison Trozzi is currently a fourth year Biology student at the University of Windsor. She has been an avid 'birder' (aka 'birdwatcher') for two years now. While she has loved birds her whole life, and has had a few parrots as pets, her passion for birdwatching started when she took an Ornithology class in university. Since then, she takes every opportunity to go on her own birdwatching adventures.

She hopes that with this book (her final project for a Science Communication course), she will be able to expose kids and their families to birdwatching in hopes of getting them interested in the hobby!

