



## Create Your Own Bird

**John James Audubon:** famous artist who was also an ornithologist (a person who studies birds) and created pictures of birds found in America.  
(Great Horned Owl, Plate 61, *Birds of America*)

### Materials:

Colored pencils, markers, or crayons, paper

### Instructions:

1. Look up the birds listed below and ask your child what the bird looks like. (Use <https://www.audubon.org/bird-guide>) Then tell them the name of the bird and ask why they think the birds are named the way they are.

- Great Horned Owl
- Black-Capped Chickadee
- Red-Winged Blackbird

2. Now look up the following birds and notice how they are named based on their behavior.

- Red-headed Woodpecker
- Gray Flycatcher
- Black Oystercatcher

3. Create your own bird from your imagination. Your bird is entirely up to you and does not need to look a particular way. Just make sure your bird has feathers, two wings, a beak and two feet...everything else is up to you.

4. Time to name your bird! Is your bird named based on something that it does or how it looks? Maybe a combination of both? Once you have decided on a name, write it below your picture.



**Take it further:** Look at the illustrations for Audubon's large book called "Birds of America" by visiting:  
<https://www.audubon.org/birds-of-america>

Lesson adapted from audubon.org, image: deepspacesparkle.com

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