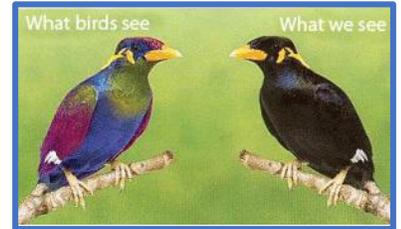


At Home Science – Celebrating Birds!

Science for Families: using what you have at home

This week with **Be Outside With Brevard Zoo**, we visited the Lorikeets and witnessed all their beautiful colors. Did you check out the papilla on the lorikeet? CRAZY COOL! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gvMm64AN9B8&feature=youtu.be> On our website, you learned birds see color we never will. We have 3 cones in our eyes, but they have 4 cones, allowing them to see in ultraviolet! Colors really pop for them! Check out this comparison! Understanding how birds see color can help us create beautiful backyard habitats, for both your family and birds.



Fun With Learning

Bird bath's make your yard exciting! Having a bird bath may attract birds that are not interested in using your bird feeders, giving you the opportunity to see birds that might not usually frequent your yard. Birds love them and it provides much needed water during those long droughts in Florida.

Bird Baths and Splashes!



Give it a try!

You can create your own bird bath out of just things around the house! Grab an old plate or large bowl and add rocks, wood, shells, or any natural item. Have fun decorating and making an oasis for the birds. Add something special for the birds and yourself, by adding a solar powered fountain. Super Easy!

Check out this site **Project Feeder Watch** <https://feederwatch.org/learn/common-feeder-birds/> – it's so much fun and easy to use! It will give you all you need to know about WHAT to FEED your new backyard friends.



Bird Houses

This is a great video to learn all about bird houses. There are so many types of bird houses and it turns out, as long as they give shelter and the location is right, you can use just about any shape or size. <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=578886322138802>



Lantana camara is an invasive aggressive plant that will hybridize with native lantana.

Cool Science - Citizen Scientists!

How often do you visit your local nature areas: Scrubs, wetlands, and parks? Have you been or are you planning a trip to a National or State park? We go to these places, looking for nature. **Did you know 83% of the land in the contiguous US is privately owned?** Nature exists right here, in our privately owned, back yards!

Our native animals, including carnivores, omnivores, and herbivores depend on healthy food webs. A healthy food web consists of native plants and animals. **A yard full of native plants** is a yard full of well-fed birds. Why are native plants important for our yards? Native plants bring native bugs, which attract native birds to eat those bugs. Do we have to rid our yards of all non-native plants? No, but we do need to remember these non-native plants will bring non-native insect, which may not have a natural predator.

Let's give it a try! Download the **iNaturalist** app and make a list of your backyard plants. You can use the app to identify the plants. Use a magnifier to find insects. You are also able to use the app to identify the insects, as well. **What did you find?** Now use this website to input your zip code and discover what native plants could replace the non-native. Creating a native habitat will help balance the food web in your yard and make maintenance and upkeep easier. <https://www.regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/zipcodes.asp>



Lantana depressa is a Florida native plant.