

Bird Migration Stamps

Stamp a flock of birds and explore spring migration!

Materials Needed:

Bird Template printable (or draw your own), sticky-back craft foam, cardboard, tempera paint, paintbrush, scissors, pencil, blank paper.



Instructions:

Step 1: Cut out the bird template, and trace it onto the back of a piece of sticky-back foam. Cut the foam in the shape of the bird. (Grown-up help may be needed.)

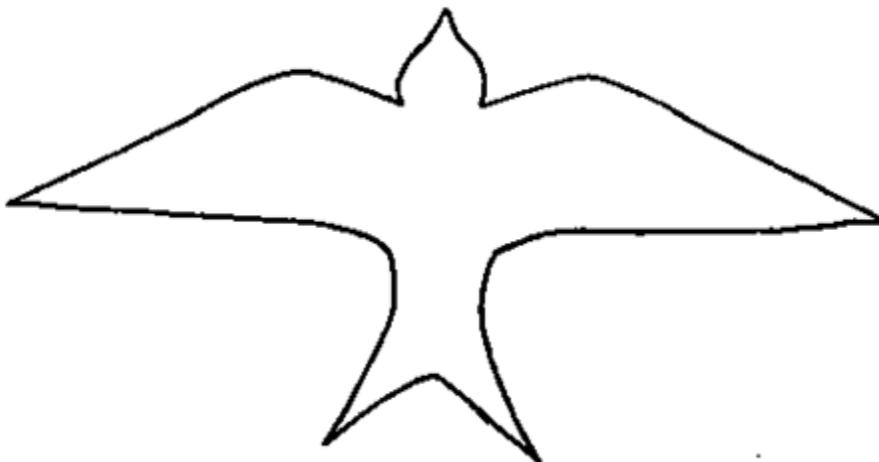
Step 2: Peel off the backing and stick the foam bird shape onto a piece of cardboard.

Step 3: Spread paint on the foam bird with a thick paintbrush. Paint a relatively even layer.

Step 4: Turn the stamp over and press it onto your blank paper. Try not to let the stamp move. Remove the stamp and you will see a printed bird shape!

Step 5: Repeat steps 3 & 4 to create a migrating flock of birds! If using multiple colors, wipe the paint off the stamp in between each color.

Bird Template Printable:



Hint: To make overlapping birds more visible, use several colors or add a little white paint to create different shades of the same color. Use a large piece of paper to create a larger flock.

Fun Facts about Bird Migration



Canada Goose. Image: Wikipedia Commons.

Many birds migrate!

Hundreds of bird species migrate to Alaska every year to raise their young in the summer and feast on the abundant and diverse plants and animals.

Why Do Birds Migrate?

Birds migrate to move from areas of low resources to areas of high resources. The two main resources they are looking for are food and nesting locations. In the winter they fly south to warmer places where more food is available. In the spring they return north to places like Alaska as the weather changes. Summer in Alaska is a great place to be if you're a bird. There's lots of insects, lots of daylight, and less predators. It's also a great place to lay eggs and raise chicks!

Migrating birds use the stars for navigation, as well as the sun, wind patterns, and landforms, all of which help guide them to the same locations each year.



Tree Swallow. Image: allaboutbirds.org.



Migrating geese. Image: pxhere.com.



Arctic Tern.
Image: allaboutbirds.org.

The **Arctic Tern** (*Sterna paradisaea*) has the longest known migration in the animal kingdom. It travels from its Arctic breeding grounds to Antarctica and back again, covering an average of 44,000 miles (71,000 kilometers) each year. Scientists estimate that over its lifetime, an Arctic Tern migrates about 1.5 million miles (2.4 million kilometers)—equal to three trips to the moon and back!

Discover more about birds: www.allaboutbirds.org