

Backyard Birds By Kumu Cariaga



Aloha e nā hāumana! I hope you are healthy and safe as you continue to learn from home. I miss you and our science learning time together!

As you know, scientists kilo (observe) the world around them, nīnau (ask questions) based on what they observe and are curious about, make predictions, test things out, research to learn more, and share what they have learned with others.

While working from home, I have enjoyed being a "backyard" scientist. All of the activities I have created for you are based on the phenomena (anything that can be observed) I have been able to kilo in my own backyard...plants, animals, weather, light and shadows, rocks...the topics are endless!

At the same time, I have been able to mālama 'āina by removing invasive plants from my yard to make space for native and helpful plants to grow. I even started a garden to grow some of my favorite vegetables (which is more like a BIG experiment because I have a "brown" thumb - my plants don't usually survive well...I give them too much water or not enough water)!

The good news...my pepper plant has produced 3 peppers and my tomatoes, carrots, and lavender plants have germinated. I'm hopeful to see my onions, swiss chard, and marigolds germinate soon. But, I "spied" a mynah bird walking around my garden bed. Though I didn't see him eat the seeds, I'm wondering if he has taken some onolicious treats for himself...?

My backyard is filled with amazing learning opportunities. In this book, you will first learn about the Spotted Dove. One of several birds in my backyard that I was curious to research and learn more about.

I hope your own backyard has been an exciting learning environment for you as well. I look forward to reading about the great learning and exploring you have been doing, in your backyard, as a kid scientist.

E mālama pono!
Kumu Cariaga

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Bird Watching

Watch the video with these questions in mind:

What do you observe?

What do you wonder?

What are some predictions you have?



What do you notice about bird behavior in this video clip?



As I was cleaning my yard, I could hear the faint sound of rustling leaves in my avocado tree. Looking up, I noticed something moving in the tree. At first, I thought it might be a cardinal. I had spied one in this tree a few days earlier. It took some time, BUT then I spotted it. I grabbed my camera and ZOOMED in to take a closer look...a Spotted Dove. It was looking right at me.



Hurry up and take my picture! I don't sit still very long!!!



Yup! I see you
over there!

I wanted to take a closer look. Slowly, and trying to move quietly, I walked towards my avocado tree. I thought the Spotted Dove would fly away as I moved near, but it didn't even flinch.



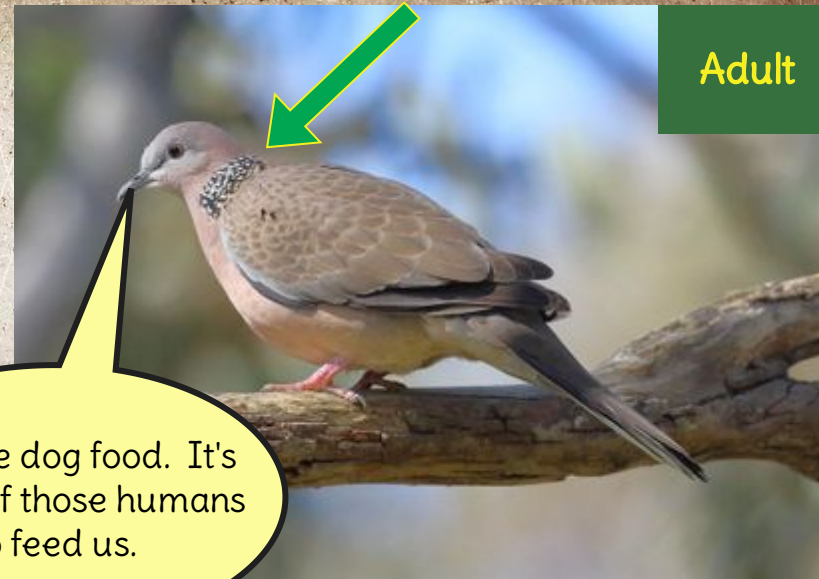
Can you spy the two Spotted Doves in my avocado tree? I was so focused on taking a picture of the one on the right side that I didn't even notice the one on the left side. What a pleasant surprise! What might be some of the advantages of "hanging out" in the avocado tree?

Fun fact: When the Spotted Doves heard a noise, they moved their heads in unison (at the same time and in the same direction). Pretty cool, huh?!?

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Habitat

Originally from Asia, Spotted Doves were introduced to Hawai'i in the 1800's. They may be found in woodland areas, open forests, fields, and parks. Spotted Doves may forage for food alone, in pairs, or in small groups. Some foods they eat are grains and seeds.



Adult

I spy the dog food. It's so nice of those humans to feed us.

Juvenile



Physical Traits

An adult Spotted Dove grows to about 12 inches long. Its plumage is grayish brown in color. It has a black band with white spots around the sides and back of its neck. The adult Spotted Dove's breast is rosy in color. Both males and females look alike.

Unlike an adult Spotted Dove, a juvenile mostly has a darker gray collar neck band and its plumage is duller in color.

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Parents and Offspring

A female spotted dove will have a clutch of 1 - 2 glossy eggs. Both parents share in the responsibility of incubating the eggs and rearing their young chicks.



Photo original source treearth.com



Photo by Bird Ecology Study Group



Photo by Arnabsaha2212
en.wikipedia.org

Have you ever observed a Spotted Dove in your backyard? If not, take a closer look to see if you can find one. What other birds have you noticed?

Coming Soon...House sparrow
Watch the video to see the House Sparrow
I observed in my yard.



Click on the link below to learn more about the House Sparrow and hear its different calls. Does the call sound like the one I observed in my tree? You might be able to research other birds you kilo, in your back yard, on this site.

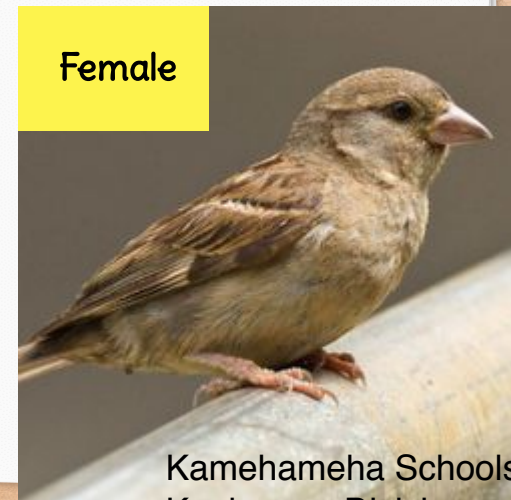
<http://hawaiibirdingtrails.hawaii.gov/bird/house-sparrow/>

Male



Male and female House Sparrow
photos by Eric VanderWerf.

Female



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Coming Soon...Cardinal
Watch the video to see the Cardinal
I observed in my avocado tree. The same
tree the Spotted Dove photos were taken.



Coming Soon...Mynah bird.
AKA...backyard dog food eater.



Photo by Shutterstock

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