



Courtship Behavior Cards Use the this information to make the front of your cards.

When this male bird sings its courtship song, it often rises several feet off its perch, as if propelled by the passion of its song.

(Action: Sing your school song while jumping up and down.)

Flashing its handsome black and white crest, this bird swims around and around the females, then he leaps into the air and does a somersault before coming to rest on the water.

(Action: Run around in a circle, then do a somersault.)

This male bird makes loud drumming noises by tapping its beak on hollow branches or other objects, like telephone poles or the drainpipes on a house.

(Action: Tap two sticks together to make loud drumming noises.)

This male bird flaps its wings rapidly to make a muffled drumming sound. This is often done while standing on a log or large rock.

(Action: Stand on a sturdy stool or chair while quickly moving your arms up and down. Tap your legs with your arms to make a drumming sound.)

This male bird has a brilliant red throat patch that it inflates during its courtship display.

(Action: Tuck a red balloon under your chin and walk around showing it off.)

This male bird struts, bows, and makes a loud whistling sound by blowing up orange air sacs on its neck.

(Action: While holding an orange balloon on each side of your neck, walk with a strut, then take a bow. Try to whistle while you do this.)

This male bird brings special treats like thistle seed to win over a female bird.

(Action: Collect and offer some seeds to a "female bird.")

This domesticated male bird has a long tail of green and bronze feathers that it fans and shakes during courtship.

(Action: Hold up a fan of long green paper "feathers" behind your back.)



Courtship Behavior Cards Use the this information to make the *back* of your cards.



Hooded
Merganser



Orchard
Oriole



Ruffed
Grouse



Downy
Woodpecker



Greater
Prairie-
Chicken



Magnificent
Frigatebird



Common
Peafowl
(Males
are called
Peacocks)



Lesser
Goldfinch

Following Up

Avian Antics

What Did You Learn?

1. Describe why courtship displays are important to birds.
2. What are some examples of a courtship display?

Wanted: Your Feedback

1. What do you think participants learned from the “Avian Antics” activity?
2. What would you change about this activity?

Question for Reflection

Do you think animal behaviors, such as courtship displays, are learned or instinctive?

(For example, many scientists believe that flying is instinctive, but that learning to fly in heavy winds may be a learned behavior.)

