

Art week 15

The return of the migratory birds

“Kuu kiurusta kesään,
puoli kuuta peipposesta,
västäräkistä vähäsen,
pääskysestä ei päivääkään!”

Finnish poem:

“One moon from the lark til the summer,
Half a moon from the finch,
A little bit after the wagtail,
Not a day from the swallow!”

Sit for a while by an open window and listen to the noises that you hear from outside. You can also take a walk and pause to listen to sounds from your surroundings. Perhaps you will hear some birdsongs. You may recognise different birds by their song. Sometimes, the concert is so rich that it may be difficult to separate the sounds of different birds from each other.

Try to picture what kind of bird could be singing this symphony!

You can first draw your imaginary bird with oil pastels. Is the bird large or small? What shape beak does it have? Does it have a long or a short tail? Is it like a chicken? Or is it related to the eagle? Draw the wing, too.

Don't colour your bird in with the crayons, but rather, colour it in using watercolours. Is it a master of camouflage, or does it proudly display its colourful feathers?

Do you know how to mix the colours that you want? In what kind of environment does your bird sing? In the background, draw the place where the bird lives

You can also click on this link to listen to birdsong if the weather is too cold to open the window: [Birds singing in the morning mist / Linnunlaulua aamu-usvassa](#)

You can get some ideas from this online nature portal: [Birds](#). If you want to know what birds you really heard outdoors, at this site, you can listen to the sounds of birds.



Ferdinand von Wright: Barn Swallow, Childhood work, 1830,
8,2 × 7,4 cm, paper, water colour, guache
Picture: National Gallery



Magnus von Wright: Finch (male) (1820-1868),
15 × 20 cm, watercolour
Picture: National Gallery

What you need

Paper, oil pastels, watercolours, paint brushes, a cup for water, water
If you don't yet have the school's materials package, you can use any colours you find at home.

Goal

Observing nature using your sense of hearing
Describing your own imagination, developing painting skills, mixing colours through trial and error.

Background information

You can try on a scrap piece of paper how oil pastels and watercolours work together. Oil pastels are fascinating because watercolours won't cover them!

