

BAYOU CITY BIRDING

How to Print and Fold a Zine

Start by printing the zine two-sided on one sheet of legal-size paper (8.5" x 14"). If you don't have legal paper, you can set your printer to scale the image down for regular-size copy paper. Note that you may have to adjust your printer's "print quality" and/or "brightness" settings to make the photos sharp and clear.

Next, cut off the white border around the photos using a ruler and a craft knife, a paper-cutter, or scissors. Please be careful and don't cut your fingers!

And now to the folding...

#1 Fold the paper in half so that the long ends meet, then unfold and fold a second time so that the short ends meet. Keep the photos on the outside and make the creases sharp.

#2 Fold one of the short ends back to the center crease, and then flip over and fold the other short end back to the center crease.

#3 Unfold the two folds you made in step #2, and then use a craft knife or scissors to cut along the middle crease. Cut through both layers and stop at the exact point where the vertical and horizontal creases meet. These creases should line up with the photos' edges.

#4 Now for the fun step (kids might have to help their parents with this one...) Unfold and then fold the paper in half the other way, so that the long ends touch. Push the sides toward the center until the zine looks like an "X." Then rotate the pages behind the cover and your zine is done! Turn the pages like a book, and if you want to read the notes inside, just unfold and then refold by repeating this step.

Now go outside and see what birds you can find! And once you learn to recognize one set of birds, download the next Bayou City Birding Zine at WhiteOakBayou.org and learn about another set. Want to do more? Take photos and/or draw pictures and make your own nature zines to share with friends. Your zines can feature birds, turtles, insects, wildflowers, trees or whatever else you want.

And don't worry if your first attempts aren't perfect (my first tries were kind of scary...), since you'll learn as you go. You can do it!

