

What is a Zine and How to Make a Zine

Ready to make your own bird zine?! Here you will find information on what is a zine and how to make one. There are some great examples of zines in the Zines Around the World section below.

What is a Zine?

Zines (pronounced *zeen*) are *simple*, **self-published** booklets. They are an easy and fun way to share your ideas with the world. If you are passionate about something and want to make your voice heard, zines are a great way to do this!

Zines tend to be a collage of different images, text, and messages put together by writing, drawing, and/or cutting and gluing content into a booklet. The booklet can be reproduced through photocopying and hand-binding, or shared online via a PDF or flip booklet. Zines can also be created on your computer. Because they are informal and colorful, they are an engaging way to learn and accessible to different types of learners.



Pages from the "Field Notes" zine that was created by Amy Sardarsingh.

Zines encourage scientists and conservationists to think of different ways to present their work and reach new audiences. For example, they can be used to share complex ideas, such as how hummingbirds use sensory information to control flight. Zines can also be helpful in provoking emotional responses and inspiring conservation actions, for example persuading people that wild birds belong in the wild, not kept in cages as pets.

How are they used?

Zines are excellent for sharing information and perspectives in a creative way. They facilitate discussions and transformative learning. They are also helpful for sharing perspectives that are underrepresented in traditional media. There are no rules in creating your zine - you are limited only by your imagination!

What do you need to make a Zine?

You will need a pen, letter sized paper (construction paper works well too), stapler or paper hole puncher and string.

Optional extras: coloured pencils, pens, markers or paint, tape, scissors, glue, old leaflets or magazines you can cut up, digital materials you can print and cut up, anything else you can use to stick flat on to paper.

How do you make a Zine?

First select a topic! Ideas for zines are endless but some topics work particularly well with students: for example, their personal area of expertise, favorites list (top 10 books, favorite birds, best songs) and “how to” guides (how to bake a cake, how to complete an assignment).

CEBF Bird Zine Topics

For this year’s Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival we would like you to create a zine based on one of the following topics, which follow our [2023 theme Water: Sustaining Bird Life](#). We encourage you to do some research on your topic through online searches, reading books in the library, your own personal experience with the bird, and speaking with local experts. BirdsCaribbean will also feature an endemic bird each day on its website and social media accounts.

1. **WATER CONSERVATION.** You may choose to focus on
 - Importance of water to birds
 - Water pollution
 - Freshwater and marine habitats
 - Everyday action to conserve water in the home

2. **CARIBBEAN ENDEMIC BIRD SPECIES SPOTLIGHT.** You may choose to focus on one or more of all the 171 endemic birds (+ Bermuda Petrel) of the West Indies ([complete list](#)) using the following prompts:
 - How did (your selected) bird/s get their names?
 - How does it/ do they look? (physical description)
 - Are the bird/s threatened by habitat loss, predation, natural disasters etc.?
 - What action/s have been taken to protect the bird/s (current laws, conservation projects for example habitat restoration, conservation research)

3. **WHY CARIBBEAN BIRDS MATTER.** Select an endemic bird ([complete list](#)) and address why your bird matters using the following prompts:
 - What does your bird eat?
 - Where does it live?
 - What role or roles does it play in the food chain?
 - What ecosystem service(s) and/or values and economic benefits does it provide? (e.g., pollination, spreading seeds, human enjoyment, bird tourism, etc.)

Sketching and Planning

This is completely optional but will help you visualize what your completed zine will look like. Take time to learn about your topic and think about what you have learned. Then write or sketch the information about the topic, each page will contain including the front and back covers. Be mindful of the language you are using- is it clear enough for anyone to understand?

Binding Your Zine

There are many ways to put your zine together. It all depends on **how many pages your zine will have, how it will be shared and who will be reading it.** You can use a single sheet of paper or fold and bind multiple pages together to create a zine. We have provided step-by-step instructions below that will help you create an eight pages zine booklet.

Folio (half- fold)

You will need **2 sheets of letter sized paper, stapler or paper hole puncher and embroidery thread/ twine/ ribbon or other material to tie pages together**

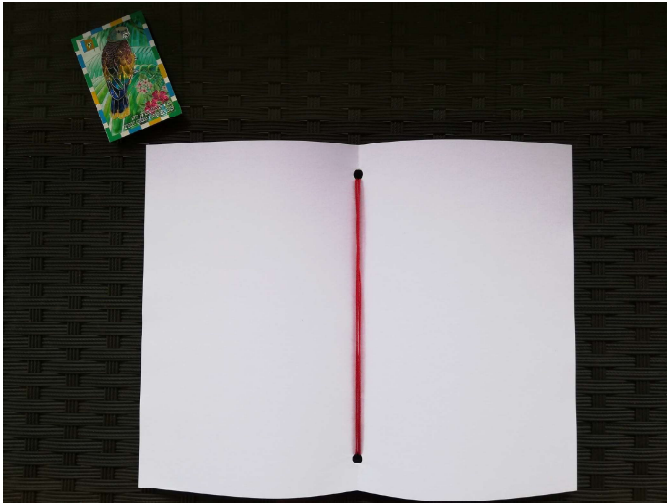
1. Lay your sheets of paper one on top the other.



2. Fold in half. *Consider each side of the sheet of paper as two pages.*



3. Staple the middle or tie together using the paper hole puncher and string.



4. Your zine is now a booklet with eight (8) pages, two of which will be used as front and back covers.



Your zine is ready to be filled with your creativity!... But how?

By drawing. You may illustrate the message or information you want to share.

By cutting & pasting. You can also cut words or images from other sources (newspapers, magazines, brochures) and paste them into your zine.

By writing. Tell a story or write your own poems and songs!

Or you can be super creative and combine your handwriting and/or artwork and photos with images from other sources!

Digital zines

Zines can also be made on the computer using Microsoft Word, [Canva](#), [Adobe Spark](#) or other free design software online. But please save as a PDF file if you plan to submit to the BirdsCaribbean Bird Zine library.

Printing instructions (2 pages per sheet; double sided):

1. Before printing rearrange pages in the following order:
Back cover, Front cover, Page 1, Page 6, Page 2, Page 5, Page 3, Page 4
2. Print on both sides, flipping on the short edge
3. OR manually print on both sides. You will have to flip the printed pages on the short edge and place on the printer tray.
4. Staple in the middle or tie with strings (as above)

Zines Around The World

A quick online search for 'Zines' can provide you with endless examples and tutorials. Here are some zines, many environmental, to look at to get your creative juices flowing.

[How to make a zine](#) - helpful blog article

[All about Zines](#) - helpful blog and video on the history of zines

[The Small Science Collective - Ecology Zines](#)

[Pigeonary by KS Whittle](#)

[Owillustration by KS Whittle](#)

[Berea College's Environmental Zines collection](#)

[White Oak Bayou Association Bird Zines](#)

[Art and poetry zines on Pinterest](#) - lotts of fun ideas

St Lucia Parrot Zine Example

We have created a zine featuring St Lucia's endemic and national bird- the St Lucia Parrot *Amazona versicolor*. It's not easy living in a wild and dense forest. So how does the St Lucia Parrot survive without hands to pick fruits or a telephone to call for help? Click on the link below to find out!

The St Lucia Parrot's Rainforest Survival Guide ([PDF](#) and [Flipsnack](#)).

Submitting your Zine

Note if submitting a handmade zine like the folio above you will need to scan the individual pages of your zine and combine into one PDF document.

Save the PDF as (first name-last name-age-topic) for example:

"Sandra-Johnson-14-WaterConservation." Finally email the PDF to info@birdscaribbean.org with copy to Aliya.Hosein@BirdsCaribbean.org. Please include the zine creator's full name, age and country of residence. Use subject line: Bird Zine Contest.

Both physical (scanned copies) and digital zines will be added to the BirdsCaribbean website. These will be made available for viewing, downloading and printing.

NB: You do not need to be from the Caribbean to have your zine added to the library, but the zine must focus on Caribbean endemic, native or migratory species. Zines will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis.

Your own Zine library (NGOs, artists, researchers and educators)

Once the zines are completed you can easily publish and share by photocopying and folding as many copies as you like. You can also establish a Caribbean bird zine library at home, on your website or, in your classroom or organization. You can ask that for every zine borrowed, five copies of an original zine are donated. This rule helps the library grow over time with information on native and migratory species in the region.