Text Passage: The History of Birdwatching

Birdwatching, also known as birding, is a popular recreational activity that involves observing and studying birds in their natural habitats. This fascinating hobby has a rich history that dates back centuries. The origins of birdwatching can be traced to the late 18th century when the practice of studying birds for scientific purposes began to gain momentum.

One of the pioneers in the field of birdwatching was John James Audubon, an American ornithologist, naturalist, and painter. In the early 19th century, Audubon embarked on a mission to document and illustrate all the bird species in North America. His monumental work, "The Birds of America," featuring detailed illustrations and descriptions of hundreds of bird species, sparked widespread interest in bird observation and identification.

As time went on, birdwatching evolved from a scientific pursuit to a recreational activity enjoyed by enthusiasts worldwide. The advent of binoculars and field guides in the late 19th century made it easier for birdwatchers to identify and study birds in the field. Organizations such as the Audubon Society and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) played a significant role in promoting birdwatching as a hobby and advocating for bird conservation.

In the 20th century, birdwatching gained even more popularity with the advancement of technology and the establishment of national parks and wildlife reserves. Birdwatchers began to organize group outings, participate in bird counts, and contribute to citizen science initiatives. The development of digital photography and online platforms further revolutionized the way birdwatchers document and share their sightings, creating a vibrant and interconnected community of bird enthusiasts.

Today, birdwatching continues to captivate individuals of all ages and backgrounds. It offers a chance to appreciate the beauty and diversity of avian species, connect with nature, and contribute to conservation efforts. With its deep-rooted history and ever-growing community, birdwatching remains a cherished pastime that allows people to explore the world of birds while fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for the natural world.

Instructions:

1. Read the provided text carefully, paying attention to the details, main ideas, and structure.
2. Apply the active reading techniques discussed below while reading the text.
3. Answer the questions or complete the tasks based on your active reading.

Active Reading Techniques:

- **Underlining or Highlighting:**
  - While reading, underline or highlight key information, important details, or main ideas in the text. Use different colors or symbols to represent different types of information.
- **Summarizing**:
  - After reading a paragraph or section, write a brief summary in your own words. Focus on capturing the main idea and key supporting details. Be concise and specific.
- **Making Margin Notes:**
  - Write short comments or questions in the margins of the text. These notes can include your reactions, reflections, questions, or connections to other ideas or experiences.
- **Asking Questions:**
  - Formulate questions about the text as you read. Consider questions about the content, author's purpose, or any points that are unclear to you. Write down these questions in the space provided.
- **Making Predictions:**
  - Based on the information presented in the text, make predictions about what might happen next, or what the author's conclusion or main point might be. Write down your predictions in the space provided.

Your Responses:

1. **Underlined or Highlighted Information:** [Write down the key details or important information you underlined or highlighted.]
2. **Summary:** [Write your summary of the paragraph or section.]
3. **Margin Notes:** [Write down your margin notes or comments.]
4. **Questions:**
   a. [Write your first question.]
   b. [Write your second question.]
5. **Prediction:** [Write your prediction about what might happen next or the author's main point.]

— Maryam Farooqi, founder of Rise4Education