I taught Birdwatching for the Indiana Academy’s 2023 May Term. The latitude and flexibility of a standalone course provided opportunities for creative student expression. The focus was on recreational observation of birds with a modest introduction to the science of ornithology. Students gained skills in bird identification, interpretation of behavioral observations, and ecological study design. The only textbook was a field guide. Students were instructed to install and use the free mobile app Merlin. We met each morning for a total of 10 class sessions, each 3-4 hours long. Topics included binocular use, bird identification by sight and sound, the eBird project, avian physiology, notetaking, bird behavior, study design, North American birds, distribution ranges, bird nests, habitat, and subspecies. We took field excursions every morning, usually on foot but with two trips by van to nearby birding hotspots. Students demonstrated their identification skills every morning in field quizzes. Each student kept a journal of field observations. Students worked in pairs to design a study on behavior and one on ecology. The instructor developed a list of questions of interest, and students collected data to answer them by observing birds in the field. Each student wrote two research reports presenting the results of these investigations. On the last day, students completed a final examination. Scores on these assessments indicated that the student learning outcomes were achieved by most students. This course could be adapted as a unit at the end of a spring semester course in biology or zoology.