

Step one: Watch the birds interact for a few minutes to get familiar with how they behave. Do you observe either of the example behaviors below? If you see any other behaviors, decide with your group whether the behavior is aggressive or peaceful and add it to the list.

aggressive interactions	peaceful interactions
>> one bird chasing another away from food or off of its perch	>> flirting (males bob and shake their heads and fluff up their feathers in a mating dance to attract females)

Identifying finches:

The yellow, red, and black headed finches look like this: →



Females have slightly lighter colors than males, which is easiest to see on the purple patch on the chest:



Step two: Select one individual finch and watch it for five minutes. Use the chart below to record your bird's interactions with other finches. If you lose track of your bird or if it flies out of your view, stop recording data and make a note of how long your data collection lasted.

Identify your bird:

Head color (circle one): Red Black Yellow

Sex (circle one): Male Female I can't tell

Length of observation: _____

Data collection:

Make a tally mark for each interaction your bird has, and take notes about what you observe happening. For aggressive behaviors, mark the "aggressor" column if your bird is being aggressive towards another. Mark the "receiver" column if another bird is acting aggressive towards yours.

	aggressive interactions		peaceful interactions
	aggressor	receiver	
tally:			
notes:			

Observer's name: _____

Date and time: _____

Here is an extra data table in case you need it.

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