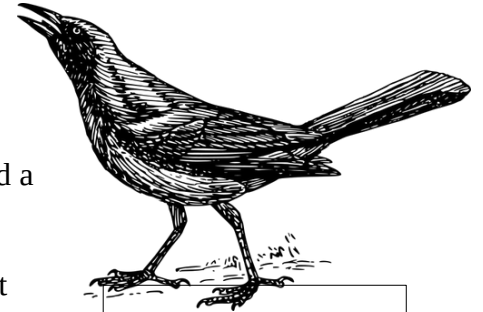


# Birds Love Dirt!

A short LARP by Emily Jankowski



You are a bird. You soar through the sky, the feathered embodiment of grace itself. And you have just spotted a patch of fresh dirt. And birds love dirt!

You need some space to move, preferably outside with some actual dirt (or dust, sand, mud, etc). The default game is considered to be a single player, outdoors. Tips on modifying this play can be found in Variations.

Remember, indoors or out, to be aware of your environment. No matter how you are playing, if at any time a player is injured or feels unsafe (physically or otherwise), stop play immediately and deal with the situation.

Play is in three phases.

## Exploration

Begin by taking a moment to remember what kind of bird you are. Species may not be important to you, but you should embody your traits.

Flap your wings, clack your beak, clutch your talons, chirp a song – do anything that connects you to your avian form. Spend a little time enjoying being a bird and exploring the space you are in, but do not go to the dirt yet.

## Declaration

When you are ready, declare the following, filling in the blanks as you go:

I am a bird. I am \_\_\_\_\_. I am \_\_\_\_\_. I am \_\_\_\_\_. And I LOVE DIRT!

No more delays! Get in that dirt!

## Dirt

Do you want to take a dust bath? Build a nest cup? Jump in and out of the dirt? Dig a burrow? Forage for bugs?

The dirt is yours to enjoy!

When you tire of the dirt, step away. Admire anything you have built or simply how dirty you are.

To end the game, just say “I love dirt” one last time.

## Declaration Ideas

Bird words include:

Amazing  
Baby  
Chaotic  
Diabolical  
Exuberant  
Flighty  
Gorgeous  
Haunting  
Iridescent  
Joyful  
Kingly  
Laughing  
Magnificent  
Nocturnal  
Outstanding  
Persevering  
(a) Quail  
Resplendent  
Soaring  
Terrific  
Unafraid  
Very beautiful  
Willful  
eXceptional  
Yelling  
Zippy  
(and all other words)

## Variations

You don't need special permission to change Birds Love Dirt! and play in a way you think will be more fun. However, the following suggestions may help you get the most out of the game in some common scenarios.

### **Caged Enrichment**

If you wish to play but are unable to go outside, you may explore a room instead. It is up to you whether your space represents a natural landscape or whether you have simply wandered into a building, as birds sometimes do.

Before you play, set up an alternative dirt patch. This should be an area you can manipulate in avian joy. A pile of blankets, pillows, or old newspapers perhaps. Get creative with things you have on hand! Once you are set up, play is the same as usual.

### **Flocks**

If you have a flock to play with, all the better! For our purposes, two or more birds of any kind are considered a flock.

Explore the space concurrently. Interacting through body language and bird sounds is encouraged, but do not speak. Make the most of your avian social life. But don't let potential conflict distract from keeping the experience of being birds who love dirt at the heart of your play!

When all are ready, circle up and take turns listening to each other's declarations. Then, enter the dirt together. Again, leave human speech behind, but otherwise interact freely.

Birds may step back and say "I love dirt" in their own time, but if possible should remain in the area until all birds are done. The game ends when the last bird says "I love dirt." Feel free to talk about your birds and the dirt afterward.

### **Chicks**

Young birds love dirt too! Often even more so! Play should be the same, but small chicks may need guidance throughout the game.

Follow the fun; free-form games that break with the three-phase structure are encouraged if that's what players want.

And of course, adults are extra responsible for the safety of chicks.