

BIRDS

LESSON PLAN



WOLF RIDGESM
ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER

BIRDS



CLASS DESCRIPTION: An Animal Ecology Class

With an emphasis on field observation, we will study the amazing diversity of birds. Students will investigate different bird habitats using binoculars and digital bird identification guides provided. Migration and other bird lifestyles are explored through games and directed observation. Wolf Ridge's ambassador chicken, Chickadee Landing and/or bird banding give students a chance to encounter live birds close-up. We take advantage of seasonal variation in bird activity so focus on migration, winter flocks, or nest-building. The main goal of class is to help students feel comfortable with the skill of bird watching, so they can better appreciate the role of birds in the ecosystem.

Total time: 3 hours (2 hours outdoors)

Audience: 6-20 students, 4th grade through adult

Activity level: easy

Travel: 1/4 mile

Total uphill travel: 50 feet

GUIDING QUESTION

What tools and techniques help us discover the story of birds here and now?

CONCEPTS

1. Observing birds is a fun & life time activity.
2. Observing birds can provide answers about the natural history of birds and the broader ecology they are a part of.
3. Physical tools and observation techniques increase the effectiveness of bird observations.
4. Bird diversity & health depends on the health and integrity of the habitat they live in.
5. Birds provide an accessible way to observe physical and behavioral adaptations.

OUTCOMES

Upon completion of Birds class students will be able to:

- Show willingness and interest in observing birds at home.
- Seek out answers to questions through investigative observation.
- Demonstrate proficiency with a digital bird field guide and binoculars.
- Demonstrate good observational techniques.
- List ways people influence bird populations.
- Describe adaptations that make birds unique.



Our mission is to develop a citizenry that has the knowledge, skills, motivation and commitment to act together for a quality environment.

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Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center and the USDA are equal opportunity providers and employers.



Equipment

- posters
- bird parts in cabinet
- bird books
- follow the falcons game
- binoculars in drawers
- stereoscope
- CD player
- bird seed (room 12 & bag)

Appendices

- Glossary
- Additional Information
- Optional Activities
- References
- Sources
- Spiral Learning Sheet
- Planning Outline

Set-up (10 min.)

- Classroom/class prep description
- Safety Management

I. What do we notice about birds? (30 min.)

- A. Observations at Feeders
- B. Bird Artifacts and Characteristics

II. What tools and techniques help us discover? (20 min.)

- A. Identification Books
- B. Binoculars
- C. Observation at Feeders
- D. Keeping Track

III. What are birds doing here and now? (90 min.)

- A. Trail Birding
- B. Seasonal Highlights
 1. Sept-Oct: raptor migration
 2. Nov-April: chickadee packs and chickadee landing
 3. May-June: bird songs
 4. July-August: nesting
- C. Meet a Live Bird
 1. Chicken Encounter OR
 2. Raven Enrichment
 3. Humans and Birds

IV. What can help us discover more? (40 min.)

- A. Bird Banding
- B. Bird Populations
- C. Think, Puzzle, Explore

Clean-up (10 min.)