

Birds: Fall Migration

Synopsis

K—6, upper



Summary

Birds class makes a great 3-season course! Explore basic bird biology, identification, and binocular use. Learn about seasonal bird behaviors through observation and outdoor activities.

Fall migration is a significant time to bird watch. This class will address bird survival during this eventful time of year, including how and why birds make such strenuous migratory journeys.

MN Academic Standards

supported during HNC program. More standards can be supported with pre- and post lesson activities.

Science

0.1.1.2.1, 0.4.1.1.1, 0.4.1.1.2, 1.1.1.1.1, 1.1.1.1.2, 1.4.1.1.1, 1.4.2.1.1, 1.4.2.1.2, 3.1.1.1.1, 3.4.1.1.1, 3.4.1.1.2, 3.4.3.2.1, 3.4.3.2.2, 5.4.1.1.1, 5.4.4.1.1

Language Arts

0.8.1.1, 0.8.3.3, 1.8.1.1, 1.8.3.3, 2.8.1.1, 2.8.3.3, 3.8.1.1, 3.8.3.3, 4.8.1.1, 4.8.3.3, 5.8.1.1, 5.8.3.3

Social Studies

V.D.5

Authenticity

Students will observe actual migration happening as birds travel through Hartley Park. Bird species seen and/or heard are recorded and contribute to ongoing data collection at HNC.

Goals & Objectives

This program will:

- Highlight the major adaptations that set birds apart from all other creatures.
- Expose students to live birds and their behaviors in their natural habitat.
- Discuss the advantages and dangers experienced by birds that migrate and those that remain year-round.

Students will be able to:

- Use binoculars to observe wild birds (3rd grade and up).
- Explain birds' unique adaptations.
- Identify some common bird species by sight or sound.
- Summarize why and how birds migrate.

Activities

In the classroom

- Students will list adaptations that make birds different from all other animals.
- Students will discuss how and why birds migrate.
- Maps or a globe will be used to discuss migration in terms of distance and direction.
- Bird banding will be discussed in relation to migration. For example: a bird band on a dead bird found in Florida can be traced back to Minnesota based on its band number.
- Hartley educators may trap a wild bird to give students an up-close view of bird adaptations.

In the field

- Students will use binoculars and/or field guides to observe and identify birds seen in various habitats in Hartley Park. Field marks and calls will be pointed out.
- Students will play the fast-paced Migration Headache or Follow the Falcon games to highlight dangers migratory birds might face.
- Other bird signs and information will be discussed during the hike. What foods might Hartley Park provide for migrating species? If nests, cavities, or feathers are found, what do they tell us about the birds that left them?

Bad Weather Alternative

- Live bird handling, banding, and release
- Binocular and field guide use at windows
- Up-close look at preserved bird species
- An exploration of how a beak's structure can determine the foods a bird eats.