

Birds: Nesting & Courtship

Synopsis

K, 1st—6th, upper



Summary

Explore basic bird biology, identification, and binocular use, and learn about seasonal bird behaviors through observation and outdoor activities.

Nesting and Courtship will include an introduction to the 5 Ws of nesting and courtship (what, who, where, when, why), as well as a visit from a live bird.

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 various ways that birds establish mates, nests, and territories for raising their young.

Students will be able to:

- Use binoculars to observe wild birds.
- Explain birds' unique adaptations.
- Identify some common bird species by sight or sound.
- Summarize the process of bird courtship and nesting.

Activities

In the classroom:

- Students will list adaptations that make birds different from all other animals.
- Stories or interesting examples of bird species will be used to illustrate bird behavior in spring.
- Bird banding will be discussed in relation to nesting. For example: a band on a bird we trap at HNC can be looked up to find a history of that bird.
- 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 possibly field guides to observe and identify species seen in Hartley Park. Field marks and calls will be pointed out.
- Students will play "Nests and Robbers" to demonstrate the difficulties of providing for their young while simultaneously protecting their nests.
- Other bird signs and information can be discussed during the hike. What materials or locations will birds use for nest construction? If nests, cavities, or feathers are found, what do they tell us about the birds that left them?

Bad Weather Alternative

- Microscopes—look at feathers up close and see how they are built to be strong and light.
- I-flyer—use this electronic device to listen to bird songs while seeing pictures of bird species that make those songs.
- Build A Nest—natural materials will be brought indoors and students will attempt to build a nest as a bird would.

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 birds and their spring behavior in Hartley Park. Bird species seen and/or heard are recorded and contribute to ongoing data collection at HNC.