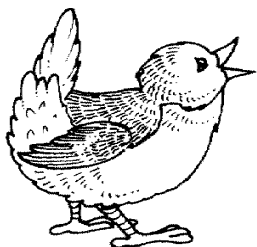




Kentucky's Outdoor Classroom Newsletter

Department of Forestry

January 2002



This issue is chock full of time saving resources for educators who wish to teach about birds. Birds make great educational tools for the same reasons that they are good indicators of environmental health and change: birds are easy to study, well known, high in the food chain, accumulate environmental stress, reflect the stability of an ecosystem, and hold widespread public interest.

Still working on developing your outdoor classroom?

Here are some resources to get you on your way:

- U Outdoor Classroom Enrichment Programs offered by the KY Bluebird Society provides bird boxes, programs, a person to assist, and more at <http://www.biology.uky.edu/kybluebirds.html>.
- U The National Wildlife Federation's web site has a step by step guide to creating schoolyard habitats and a list of Kentucky schools who have at <http://www.nwf.org/habitats/schoolyard>.

Take a field trip to study birds at one of Kentucky's wildlife facilities:

- F **Buckley Wildlife Sanctuary** in Franklin County, contact Tim Williams at 859.873.5711.
- F **Salato Wildlife Education Center** in Franklin County, through KDFWR, call 800.858.1549.
- F **Robinson Forest** in Breathitt County, contact Laurie Taylor at 606.666.2438 ext. 236.
- F **Eastern Kentucky Bird Club** can suggest locations, email ghrobe@tiusa.net.
- F **Raptor Rehab of Kentucky** focuses on birds of prey, email raptors@aye.net.

If you can't get away ; , have a bird program come to you (:

-) Buckley Hills Audubon will present programs on birds and habitats that draw specific birds to your schoolyard, contact Barry Atkins at 859.271.3022.
-) Live bird cams from around the world, <http://birding.about.com/cs/camsworld/index.htm> .
-) Schedule an outreach program with Raptor Rehab by email at raptors@aye.net, or Kentucky Bluebird Society, contact 270.442.1712 or kybluebirds@hcis.net.
-) Audubon Adventures is an environmental program for grades 4-6 in their classroom, contact Karen Hughes, or the Education Committee at 859.271.3022.

Want to utilize birds in your outdoor classroom while preparing for National Wildlife Week?

READ ON FOR ACTIVITIES AND TIME SAVING RESOURCES !

AGRICULTURE • HOME ECONOMICS • 4-H • DEVELOPMENT

Educational programs of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND KENTUCKY COUNTIES, COOPERATING.



Bird Activities By Subject:

MUSIC

! Recognize and remember **bird songs and calls**, like the oven bird's, "teacher-teacher," at <http://birding.about.com/cs/songsandcalls/index.htm>.

SCIENCE

! Participate in inquiry-based science through the **Classroom FeederWatch** program. Information is at <http://birds.cornell.edu/cfw/>.

MATH

! Help scientists in the **Great Backyard Bird Count on Feb. 15-18, 2002**. It's easier than you imagine and you can recruit a volunteer if needed. Expand the project by measuring the area you are working in and determine the total number of birds or species per square foot. Information and last years table of results are at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>.

ART



! **Grow Gourds** in the outdoor classroom, then create a birdhouse. For info see <http://www.americangourdsociety.org/FAQ/birdhouse.html>.

VO. TECH.

! Find projects for basic and species specific **nesting boxes** through www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/tools/birdhouse/birdhous.htm
<http://www.birding.com/BackyardHouses.asp>.

HOME EC.

! Try some easy **bird food recipes**. For humming birds, add 1 part sugar, to 4 parts boiling water and put cooled solution into feeder (caution: change weekly to avoid bacteria buildup). Or, mix bird seed with peanut butter then fill the cracks of a pine cone and string it from a tree branch.

LANGUAGE



! Compose reports, stories, or poems about birds on The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission's list of **endangered birds in KY** (www.nr.state.ky.us/nrepc/dnr/ksnpc/species/birds.htm). Then, **perform a play**, *One Bird Short Of A Flock: The Strange Mystery Of the Mutating Habitat*, (<http://birding.about.com>).

HISTORY

! Research and report on **historically significant birds** such as the homing pigeon, 31 of which were honored with the Dickin Medal in World War II, or the American eagle, a nationally revered bird and a success story of the Endangered Species Act, or the Peregrine Falcon, whose populations are actively being restored in urban and rural KY.

Prepared Bird Activities:

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Great Backyard Bird Count:

February 15-18, 2002

www.birdsource.org

Arbor Day:

April 5, 2002

www.arborday.org

Earth Day:

April 22, 2002

National Wildlife Week:

April 22-28, 2002

www.nwf.org

International Migratory Bird Day:

May 11, 2002

<http://birds.fws.gov/imbd.html>



FUNDING! FUNDING! FUNDING!

The Kentucky Ornithological Society has limited funds available for bird projects through the Anne Stamm Memorial Fund. Contact Marilee Thompson at marileetom@aol.com and visit <http://www.biology.uky.edu/KOS/> before their board meeting in April for details. Also, check into local pet food stores for possible donations of bird supplies for your project.

! Project WILD activities include, “Birds of Prey” and “Here Today, Gone Tomorrow”.

! National Wildlife Federation has an Educator’s Guide and an Interactive Games page at

www.nationalwildlife.org/nationalwildlifeweek/

! Illinois Dept. Of Natural Resources provides 12 prepared teacher and student plans, and materials for K-8 subjects at www.inhls.uiuc.edu/chf/pub/virtualbird/educational.html

MAILING LIST

Know someone who would like to be on the mailing list or need to make an address correction? Please fill out and return to Laurie Taylor at address below or email your information.

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