

Feathery Friends



Audubon Center
of the North Woods

Purpose: We have all seen birds before, whether we live on a farm or in a city, but what do these feathery friends do all day long? Take a peek into the secret lives of birds and find out what birds actually are, why they sing such beautiful songs, and where they call home. You may even discover that you have feathery friends living in your own backyard...and that they need your help!

Concepts:

- Birds have unique characteristics that distinguish them from other animals.
- Birds communicate using songs and calls.
- Birds are an important part of our daily lives.
- There are many different ways that people can help birds.

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to

- Differentiate between birds and other animals.
- Demonstrate the function of birdsong for communication.
- Identify differences in beaks that help birds get food.
- Assess the quality of bird habitat.

Minnesota Academic Standards:

- 1.4.1.1.1: Describe and sort animals into groups in many ways, according to their physical characteristics and behaviors.
- 3.4.1.1.1: Identify how the living structures of plants and animals serve various functions of growth, survival and reproduction.
- 3.4.1.1.2: Identify common groups of plants and animals using observable physical characteristics, structures and behaviors.

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CLASS LENGTH: 1.5 HR

AGES: K-3rd grade

SEASON: F, Sp, S, W.

GROUP SIZE: 15-17 students

SAFETY: Students will be walking on and off trails outside for about 30 minutes.

MATERIALS: Rope, ball/beanie baby, bird photos, tarp, various animal parts, Identifier, blindfolds, clipboard, pencil, recycled paper, *Fill the Bill* materials, *Twitchers* materials, crayons, *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen, "Super Birds" cards, blanket.

PRE-CLASS PREP: Write the class outline on the whiteboard. Select various animal parts from the Wildlife Barn and arrange them on a tarp. Set up *Fill the Bill* stations.

CLASS OUTLINE:

- I. Introductions – 15 min
- II. What is a Bird? – 15 min
- III. Crazy Call Game – 15 min
- IV. Bird Detectives- 30 min
- V. Reflection