

BIRD EDUCATION

Annotated Bibliography of K-12 Educational Resources

Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (6/18)

The following list consists of selected resources on the general topic of Bird Education. Materials are organized in order by teaching material type and grade level. All materials are available for loan at the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WCEE) Resources Library for Wisconsin residents. Materials are also available for purchase from a variety of book stores, Acorn Naturalist, or Amazon.com. Please call or visit the WCEE for assistance or visit our web site at www.uwsp.edu/wcee/library for additional information on borrowing resources.

Teaching Activity Guides

Wings n' Things: A Series of Programs for Amateur Ornithologists by Nicole Ardoin. (1997).
Contains activities on bird adaptations, nesting, migration and lifestyles. Vocabulary lists and further information for educators is also included.
Grade levels: K-6 Length: 107 pages, 5 activities
(UWSP Library Call Number: QL677.5 .A73)

Ranger Rick's Nature Scope: Birds, Birds, Birds by Judy Braus, National Wildlife Federation/Washington, DC. (1989).
This topic focuses on classification of birds, adaptation to habitat, and birds' affects on human lives.
Grade levels: K-9 Length: 63 pages

International Crane Foundation Activity Packs by International Crane Foundation/Baraboo, WI.
Various activities, informational brochures and sheets, quizzes, annotated bibliographies, stories and legends, coloring pages, teacher instructions, field trip ideas and more! Organized by grades.
Grade levels: K-12 Length: 203 pages
Available online for free download at <http://www.savingcranes.org/activitypack6ckets.html>.

Journey North by Hamline University, Journey North Program/Minneapolis, MN. (1995).
Beginning in February 1995, this internet-based learning program started to involve students in a global study of wildlife migration. Up-to-date news about migrating species is shared by students with scientists. Also observes the phenology of these migratory species. This notebook contains background information and examples of projects.
Grade levels: K-12 Length: 145 pages
Online resources can be acquired through their web site at <http://www.learner.org/jnorth/>.

Feathered Travelers – Neotropical Migratory Birds of the Americas by Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center (1996)
This bilingual reading activity book has a series of activities to learn about migratory birds in the Americas.
Grade levels: 4-9 Length: 70 pages
(UWSP Library Call Number: BY WL B 40)

Take a Backyard Bird Walk by Jane Kirkland, Stillwater Publishing/Lionville, PA. (2005).

An adventure guide to spotting, observing, understanding and identifying birds – complete with photographs, stories, helpful hints and background knowledge on birds.

Grade levels: 4-9 Length: 32 pages

Available for purchase at Amazon.com (\$29.99)

(UWSP Library Call Number: BY WL B 45)

Crane Count in the Classroom by International Crane Foundation. (2005).

This curriculum focuses on the Annual Midwest Crane Count as a citizen science program. Included are lessons developed around the program, materials related to participating in the crane count, and reference materials.

Grade levels: 5-9 Length: 120 pages

(UWSP Library Call Number: QL696.G84 B36 2005)

Flying WILD: an Educator's Guide to Celebrating Birds by Council for Environmental Education. (2004).

The purpose of this guide is to provide activities that teach middle school students about birds, their migration, and what people can do to help birds and their habitats. There is a special section explaining how to organize a bird festival at your school or in your community.

Grade levels: 5-9 Length: 43 activities-258 pages

Available for purchase at <http://www.flyingwild.org/guide.htm>

(UWSP Library Call Number: QL677.5 .F59 2004)

One Bird, Two Habitats by Susan Gilchrist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. (1994).

This is a 3-6 week middle school unit on neotropically bird conservation with an emphasis on interconnectedness. The unit focuses on Wisconsin and Nicaragua. The goal of this unit is to bridge the gap between bird research and education.

Grade levels: 5-9 Length: 316 pages

(UWSP Library Call Number: AV WL B 10)

Videos/DVDs

Into the Outdoors: For the Birds by Discover Media Works and the WI DNR. (2006).

In this episode, learn about birds, bird watching, bird dogging, what goose-banding is, and meet people who work with hawks and osprey. Also learn about how to camouflage yourself in order to make bird watching easier.

Grade levels: K-9 Length: 28 minutes

(UWSP Library Call Number: GE80 .I58 v. 109)

Planet Earth: As You've Never Seen It Before by BBC Worldwide. (2007).

In this amazing documentary from BBC, filmmakers travel all over the world to capture some of the most beautiful and inspiring footage of the Earth's last wilderness and the creatures that inhabit them. In their travels they've captured footage of some of the rarest animals known to man. (5-DVD set)

Grade levels: 4-Adult Length: 11 ep, 55 min ea.

Available for purchase from Amazon.com (\$30.32)

(UWSP Library Call Number: QB631.2 .P53 2007)

Winged Migration by Sony Pictures. (2001).

This is an amazing video following numerous species of birds as they migrate to and from their summer homes. Migrations range over all seven continents and the cinematography makes the viewer feel as if they're flying alongside the birds. The visuals and moving music make this a sensory masterpiece.

Grade levels: 4-Adult *Length: 90 minutes*
Available for purchase from Amazon.com (\$12.99)
(UWSP Library Call Number: QL698.9 .W55)

Books for Youth

Bird Calls: Play the Sounds, Pull the Tabs by Frank Gallo, Innovative KIDS/Norwalk, CT. (2001).

Gives clues to help children guess different species of birds. Also includes bird calls and pull-tab instructions to engage the senses. After children guess the bird, they can lift a flap to find facts about each species.

Grade levels: pK-4 *Length: 9 pages*
Available for purchase from Amazon.com (Used \$2.42)
(UWSP Library Call Number: BY WL B 37)

Birds by Kevin Henkes, Greenwillow Books/NY (2009)

Simple book showing the beautiful diversity of birds.

Grade levels: pK-4 *Length: 33 pages*
Available for purchase from Barnes and Noble (\$14.21)
(UWSP Library Call Number: PZ7.H389 Bg 2009)

An Egg is Quiet by Dianna Aston, Chronicle Books/San Francisco, CA. (2006).

Illustrated introduction to all kinds of eggs and their sizes, shapes, colors, and where they stay until they hatch. Eggs are drawn to their actual size. The illustrations are accurate and well done.

Grade levels: pK-4 *Length: 36 pages*

Feathers for Lunch by LoisEhlert, (1990)

An escaped houscat encounters twelve birds in the backyard but fails to catch any of them and has to eat feathers for lunch.

Grade levels: pK-4 *Length: 30 pages*
Available for purchase from Amazon.com (\$6.39)

Owl Moon by Jane Yolen, Philomel Books/New York. (1987).

A father takes his daughter out to search for owls on a cold, moonlit winter night. Beautiful illustrations and simple text designed to evoke feelings of awareness, sensitivity and appreciation for nature. Excellent story to be read out loud.

Grade levels: pK-6 *Length: 32 pages*
Available for purchase from Amazon.com (\$14.39)
(UWSP Library Call Number: PZ7.Y78 Ow 1987)

How Do Birds Find Their Way? by Roma Gans, Harper Collins Publishers/New York, NY. (1996).

This book helps explain the migration of birds: how far they go, how high they fly, and how scientists believe they use the sun, stars, and magnetic fields to find their way.

Grade levels: K-4 *Length: 32 pages*
Available for purchase from Barnes and Noble (\$5.99)

Olivia's Birds – Saving the Gulf by Olivia Boulter, an Audubon book by Sterling Publishing, (2011)

Written in her own words, this unique introduction to backyard and endangered birds features Olivia's (an 11 year old girl) hand-drawn illustrations, bird facts, and full-color photos celebrating Olivia's campaign. Olivia's Birds supports Audubon's conservation mission, including Gulf Coast cleanup efforts.

Grade levels: K-4

Length: 32 pages

Available for purchase from Barnes and Nobles (\$11.98) and Amazon.com (\$9.98)

(UWSP Library Call Number: BY WL B 67)

The Robins in Your Backyard by Nancy Carol Willis, Birdsong Books/U.S. (1996).

Robins are one of the easiest birds to observe anywhere. This book gives a wonderful description of a robin's life using a story.

Grade levels: K-4

Length: 27 pages

Available for purchase from Barnes and Nobles and Amazon.com (\$7.95)

(UWSP Library Call Number: QL696.P288 W56 1996)

Whistling Wings by Laura Goering Sylvan Dell Publishing/ South Carolina. (2008)

A story of a young tundra swan afraid of his first long migration. He attempts to stay as the winter arrives and realizes he is not adapted to do so. Winner of several awards including the Gold Mom's Choice Award. The book includes a teacher guide and ideas.

Grade levels: K-4

Length: 30 pages

Available for purchase from Barnes and Noble and Amazon.com (\$8.49-8.95)

The BLUES Go Birding by Carol L. Malnor and Sandy F. Fuller, Dawn Publications, Nevada City, CA (2011).

The BLUES Go Birding is a series of books that are guaranteed to inspire youngsters to appreciate birds. The BLUES are five little cartoon bluebirds, each full of personality, who love to travel, and everywhere they go they discover new birds. Bird facts and birding tips are scattered throughout.

Grade levels: K-6

Length: about 40 pages

Flute's Journey: The Life of a Wood Thrush by Lynne Cherry, Harcourt Brace & Company. (1997).

This is the story of a young wood thrush's first migration from Maryland to Costa Rica. On this journey, he encounters many of the perils that threaten song birds.

Grade levels: K-6

Length: 29 pages

Available for purchase from Amazon.com (\$19.94)

(UWSP Library Call Number: QL696.P288 C48 1997)

A Hummingbird's Life by John Himmelman, Children's Press/New York. (2000).

Striking illustrations and lively storyline follow a ruby-throated hummingbird as it hunts for food, faces its enemies, and interacts with humans.

Grade levels: K-6

Length: 29 pages

Available for purchase from Amazon. On (Used \$2.00)

(UWSP Library Call Number: BY WL B 31)

Jacob and Owl by Ada and Frank Graham, Coward, McCann & Geohegan/New York, NY. (1981)

A lonely young boy nurses an owl back to health then must make the difficult decision about the bird's future.

Grade levels: K-6

Length: 63 pages

(UWSP Library Call Number: BY WL B 11)

Loon at Northwood Lake by Elizabeth Ring, Soundprints/Norwalk CT. (1997).

This is a story of a loon and his mate who protect their chicks from curious people, egg-hunting eagles and hawks, and ferocious pike throughout a summer at Northwood Lake. The birds are portrayed realistically, and the book contains accurate natural history.

Grade levels: K-6 Length: 31 pages

Available for purchase from Amazon.com (\$6.69)

On the Wing: Bird Poems and Paintings by Douglas Florian, Harcourt Brace & Company/Orlando, FL. (1996).

This book delivers elaborate, descriptive poems on birds of the wild. Included with each poem is a bird painting as a visual depiction.

Grade levels: K-6 Length: 46 pages

Available for purchase from Barnes and Noble and Amazon.com (\$7.00)

Pale Male: Citizen Hawk of New York City by Janet Schulman, Random House Children's Books, Alfred A. Knopf. (2008).

You might have heard about the first red-tailed hawk who nested in New York City. This book tells the story.

Grade levels: K-6 Length: 30 pages

Available for purchase from Amazon.com (\$8.74)

(UWSP Library Call Number: QL696.F32 S38 2008)

A Place for Birds by Melissa Stewart, Peachtree Publishing. (2009).

Introduction to several birds and their habitats. There are nice facts and descriptions included on each page.

Grade levels: K-6 Length: 30 pages

Available for purchase from Amazon.com (\$7.95)

Sparrow Girl by Sara Pennypacker, Disney/New York, NY. (2009).

Based on a true story, a girl's triumph during China's Sparrow War. This is a great book to share cultural issues and bird education with young learners.

Grade levels: K-6 Length 38 pages

Available for purchase from Amazon.com (\$14.29)

(UWSP Library Call Number: BY WL B 47)

Take-Along Guide: Birds, Nests, and Eggs by Mel Boring, Northword Press/Minnetonka MN. (1996).

The introduction gives basic etiquette for bird watching. The core of the book gives physical descriptions for each bird: what it eats, nesting habits and information on the eggs. Beautiful illustrations and craft ideas make this book fun.

Grade levels: K-9 Length: 41 pages

Available for purchase from Amazon.com (\$13.53)

WILD About Wisconsin Birds: A Youth's Guide to the Birds of Wisconsin by Adele Porter, Adventure Publications, Cambridge, MN. (2009).

This book has fun, engaging pages full of information about common Wisconsin birds. It has an easy to use format arranged by habitat and size. The photos are large to help with identification.

Grade Levels: 4-12 Length: 200 pages

Available for purchase from Amazon.com (\$14.36)

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen, Alfred A. Knopf/New York, NY. (2002).

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boys' attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

Grade Levels: 5-12 Length: 292 pages
Available for purchase from Amazon.com (\$11.16)

Reference/Background Books

Everything You Never Learned about Birds by Rebecca Rupp, Storey Communications Inc., Pownal, VT (1995).

This book is full of fun lore and legends, factual information, illustrations, and hands-on project ideas to engage learners aged 9-99 years old. It is a wonderful book that won a Ben Franklin Award.

Grade levels: 4-Adult Length: 138 pages
Available for purchase from Amazon.com (\$12.00)
(UWSP Library Call Number: BY WL B 21)

Sharing the Wonder of Birds with Kids by Laura Erickson, Pfeifer-Hamilton/Duluth, MN. (1997).

For use at home or school, this resource reveals the magic of birds through suggestions on attracting birds, indentifying them, planning bird outings and learning about different bird adaptations and behavior. An excellent section titled, "Helping Children Save Birds" is included as well as craft projects and a list of additional reading materials.

Grade levels: 4-Adult Length: 195 pages
Available for purchase at UMN.edu (\$16.95)

Wild About Birds: The DNR Bird Feeding Guide by Carol L. Henderson, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. (1995).

This book contains information about bird feeding, the types of bird food to use and how to build bird feeders. Contains beautiful photographs and clear illustrations/figures/diagrams for how to build your own bird house. Included are a glossary, supplemental information on birds, and the scientific names of plants and wildlife used in the text.

Grade levels: 9-Adult Length: 267 pages
Available for purchase from Amazon.com (\$18.56)
(UWSP Library Call Number: QL676.5 .H363 1995)

Wisconsin Bird Watching – A Year-round Guide by Bill Thompson, III. (2004)

A guide book and resource specifically for Wisconsin. Find commonly found birds, information on how to build various bird houses for different species and common plants youi can plant in your backyard to attract birds.

Grade levels: 9-Adult Length: 176 pages
Available for purchase from Amazon.com (Used \$4.00)
(UWSP Library Call Number: QL684.W5 T49 2004)

Websites

Audubon Society

For over 100 years, Audubon's mission has been working to protect birds and other wildlife and their habitats. They host programs like the Backyard Bird Count and the Christmas Bird Count.

Web link: www.audubon.org

Bird Note

Stories and sounds of the natural world. Great resources for teachers too.

Web link: www.birdnote.org

Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin

BRAW aims to monitor and increase the production of Eastern Bluebirds and other native cavity-nesting birds through coordinated nest box construction and monitoring.

Web link: www.braw.org

International Migratory Bird Day

Celebrating IMBD is a perfect way to excite and involve students in bird education. This web site offers information and resource ideas to engage students.

Web link: <http://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org/>

Journey North

Choose a species and have your students virtually journey with them. This outstanding web site offers a number of projects to do with students. It is not limited to birds.

Web link: <https://journeynorth.org/>

Partners in Flight

Learn what scientists are doing to protect and study migratory birds.

Web link: <https://www.partnersinflight.org/>

Project Beak

An easy to use web site to help educators teach about birds. There are several lesson plans available from their teacher resource section, a section on rare birds, a wonderful section on adaptations, and so much more!

Web link: <http://www.projectbeak.org/index.htm>

Smithsonian's National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute

The Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center is dedicated to understanding, conserving and championing the grand phenomenon of bird migration.

Web link: <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds>

Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative

This section of the web site provides many fact sheets and general information on Wisconsin birds.

Web link: <http://www.wisconsinbirds.org/>

Field Trips and Outdoor Sites

Bird Trail Maps of Wisconsin

Developed by the WI Department of Natural Resources, these maps provide information of trails throughout the state ideal for bird watching.

Web link: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/EndangeredResources/BirdTrail.html>

Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory

This nature reserve located in Duluth, MN provides one of the best wild viewing opportunities for birds of prey and other migratory birds. It is a research and education facility.

Web link: <https://www.hawkridge.org/>

International Crane Foundation

Located in Baraboo, WI, ICF is the only place where one can view all the crane species of the world. It serves as a crane breeding, conservation, research, and education facility.

Web link: <https://www.savingcranes.org/>

Raptor Education Group, Inc.

Starting as a raptor rehabilitation center in Antigo, WI, REGI has expanded their services to provide raptor education to school or community groups.

Web link: <http://www.raptoreducationgroup.org/>

Guest Speakers

Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc. Speakers Bureau

Updated periodically, this list connects you to bird experts throughout the state willing to serve as a guest speaker for classrooms or community groups.

Web link: <https://wsobirds.org/speakers-bureau>

Bird Identification and Supporting Resources Online

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

One of the international leaders in bird research, Cornell offers education, identification, resources, etc. to enhance any bird education lesson.

Web link: www.allaboutbirds.org and www.birds.cornell.edu

What Bird?

This instant field guide helps you identify a bird quickly and learn interesting facts about it.

There is a free downloadable toolbar to help ID birds. Download IBird onto your iPod to take to the field for easier and quicker bird ID.

Web link: <http://whatbird.com/>

Bird Cams & Fun Stuff

Hummingbird Cam in California

bellahummingbird.com

Eagle Cam

<http://www.berry.edu/eaglecam/>

Haida-Manga Animation “Flight of the Hummingbird”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=naj6zZakgEg>