



SeaWorld/Busch Gardens Bird Biology

4-8 Classroom Activities

My Backyard Buddy

OBJECTIVE

Using library and Internet resources and by observing birds, students will create a bird journal on a species' life history.

ACTION

1. Divide class into student groups of 5 or 6. Students within a group may elect to work individually on their own birds or choose one bird for the group.
2. Using a local bird guide, have each group choose two or three birds they think live in the area (parks, backyards, ponds, etc.). List these bird species on the board or overhead and make a master list for the class.
3. During the next few days or over the weekend, have students watch for the birds on the list. If students spot a bird, have them record the day, time, and location of sighting.
4. In class, modify the bird list by removing those birds not found in the area. Have groups choose a bird or bird(s) for their journal(s).
5. Distribute construction paper. Have students cut paper lengthwise to make four sheets of 11" wide by 4 ¼" high. Fold these in half to make an 8-page booklet that is 5 ½ " wide by 4 ¼" high.
6. Ask students to organize their journals with the following information.
 - cover: name of bird, photo or drawing, author of journal
 - pages 2 and 3: distribution of bird (winter, summer, year round)
 - pages 4 and 5: nesting and chicks
 - pages 6 and 7: conservation issues or past uses
 - back cover: references, credits, and dedication
7. Student may use library or internet resources. They may take photos of their bird and its habitat.
8. Students should present completed journals to the class.

MATERIALS

Per student or student group:

- paper
- scissors
- pencil
- markers
- access to library or Internet
- camera (optional),
- 2 sheets of 8.5" x 11" construction paper
- local bird ID guide



Hummingbirds are common visitors to backyard feeders. In the United States, two hummingbird species come north to breed east of the Rocky Mountains while 15 species appear west of the Rockies.