

BIRD TALES: *Adventures With Audubon*

What is your favorite wild bird?



Draw a picture of this bird in its natural habitat. Add a nest, eggs, and a picture of its young. Draw the differences between the male and female of this species.

On a separate sheet of paper answer as many of these questions as you can: What does it look like? What are the different

colors of male and female birds? Where does it live? Nest? Feed? Migrate? What does it do? How does it feed? Attract a mate? Tend its nest? Raise its young? What are its enemies? How does it survive? What does it do in each season? What is its role in the ecosystem? For the questions you cannot answer, either look them up in a book, surf the web, or better yet go outside and observe the bird to learn directly from your favorite bird! Imagine making an annual migration. Write a story or poem about the perils of the trip and the adventures you would have along the way.

Audubon spent many months living in the wildest places in America studying and drawing birds. Spend some time each day over the next few weeks collecting data about your favorite bird. Observe it at different times of day and take notes on its behavior. Ask yourself questions and then look for answers. What are your theories about what you observe? Keep a journal of your observations always noting the time, temperature and any weather conditions. How does weather affect behavior?

Use this information to write a biography of your favorite bird describing its life from egg to wing.

Read About Audubon's Birds: Visit The National Audubon Society to learn more about Audubon and to read some of his essays:

<http://www.audubon.org/birds-of-america>

Study the Birds at your feeders:

Put different kinds of bird feeders outside your classroom or living room window. Fill each feeder with a different kind of food. Keep a bird book next to the window with a clipboard and pencil. Make a chart so you can keep track of how many different types of birds come to your feeder and how many of each species. Keep notes on which types of birds prefer which types of seeds. Compare your charts over time to see which birds are seasonal visitors and which are year-round residents. Each year Cornell Labs conducts a bird feeder study and you can help scientists track long term population trends by sending your data to: <http://feederwatch.org>

Follow Bird Migrations:

Audubon was also the first scientist in America to band a bird. He put a small silver thread on the ankle of a phoebe before it left in the fall to see if it returned in the spring. It did. Use the map below to chart bird migrations. Draw a line from the nesting grounds to the winter home. Use a different color for each bird.

Bald Eagle: Nest in Canada, winters in the Mississippi Valley.

Veery: Nest in Delaware, winters along the Amazon River.

Ruby Throated Hummingbird: Nest in Illinois and winters in the Yucatan.

Whooping Crane: Nest in Northern Rockies, winters on the Gulf Coast.



Add your favorite bird to this map and begin to keep track of which birds pass through your neighborhood and where they are traveling to or from.

For more information about migration and to help with global monitoring check out

www.learner.org/jnorth/