

Class Summary

Quick Facts

Outside: 1 hour 45 minutes

Grade: 4-8th

Offered: Year-round

Physical Activity: 1 mile walk

Other: No special skills required

Concepts

- Characteristics • Migration
- Human Impact • Awareness

[Minnesota Academic Standards >](#)

- Science
- Language Arts

[Classroom Activities >](#)

- Pre-Activity: *Bird Books / Silent Sit*
- Post-Activity: *MN Birds / Feeder Watch*

STEM Components

- Examine
- Observe
- Identify / Classify
- Manipulate
- Summarize / Explain

IB Profiles

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inquirers | <input type="checkbox"/> Open-minded |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Knowledgeable | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caring |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thinkers | <input type="checkbox"/> Risk-takers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communicators | <input type="checkbox"/> Balanced |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Principled | <input type="checkbox"/> Reflective |

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Outcomes, students will:

1. Be able to list several characteristics of birds that make them unique to their own taxonomic Class called Aves.
2. Use careful observations to identify local birds and be able to name several species observed during class.
3. Observe birds residing and interacting in their habitats.
4. Understand why observing birds is an important way of learning about local species and how human actions have an impact on these populations.

Brief Synopsis:

This class visits feeders for a close-up view of songbird species, explores the woods for a glimpse of canopy dwellers, sits quietly as wild chickadees approach, and enjoys a view of soaring eagles, hawks, or vultures high above the Root River valley.

Outline:

Bird Parts (30 minutes)

As the students enter the classroom they are greeted by several hands-on stations about what makes birds unique from other animals. Everyone is given the chance to explore the items and experiments to learn about different adaptations and to discover what makes birds special creatures. The class then creates a bird on the chalkboard using multiple ideas and sharing their discoveries made about birds while exploring the room.

Birding Equipment (20 minutes)

Bird identification books designed for beginning birders are handed out and used in a game to help familiarize students with this valuable tool for birding. Binoculars are also handed out with instruction on how to focus them and tricks for viewing birds. Each student is given their own pair of binoculars for use during class.

Birding (1 hour and 30 minutes)

The class hikes the trails of Eagle Bluff making many stops to observe and identify birds in their different habitats. These stops may include visiting feeding stations, the overlook to watch soaring raptors, or *Chickadee Central* where wild birds may eat out of quiet students' hands.

Hummingbird Hustle (15 minutes)

On extremely cold or quiet days, the class may play a game to learn more about the perils of migration for birds who spend their summers in Minnesota and their winters near Central America. Students become Ruby-throated Hummingbirds that have to find enough food as they migrate between their two seasonal homes. Even if a bird can find enough food, it may face an unpleasant surprise at one of its habitats that sends it to the *avian afterlife!*