FOREST BIRD HABITAT

Bird Biologist Activity!

To see if you can hear any bird or animal sounds, set the timer for two minutes and listen very carefully.

- **Did you hear any birds singing or woodpeckers drumming?**
- **Can you imitate the songs/sounds you heard?**
- **How many different songs/sounds did you hear?**

In the spring and early summer you may hear lots of birds singing. Each species has their very own song. In the fall and winter, you may still hear birds calling to one another or woodpeckers drilling into trees to find insects hidden in the bark.

Chickadee

- **Did you know that only male birds sing?**
- **Does anyone know why birds sing?**

  Male birds sing to attract a mate for the breeding season and to establish territories.

Bird pairs (couples) need a certain amount of space to collect all the food and nest material they need to raise their families. Male birds use their song to let other birds of the same species know that the land is taken. Fights can break out between neighboring birds if boundary lines are crossed.

Pacific Wren

- **Did you hear more then one type of song when you were listening?**

Different species of birds can share the same space because they may prefer a different food type or nesting site. Some species like to live high in the tree tops (hermit warbler), while other species like to live down low near the forest floor (Pacific wrens). Other species (chickadees) like to live inside dead trees in holes that were made by wood-peckers. The forest is like a giant apartment building for birds.

Scientists learn a lot about birds by listening to them, just like you did. Many scientists who study birds can identify all the different bird species by song to discover who is living in the forest and where.

Some birds stay in Oregon all winter and survive our cold and wet weather. But some birds leave Oregon and fly South—to tropical forests in South America.

- **Does anyone know why?** Warmer climate, more food.

But the journey is dangerous. Not all birds survive migration. And those that do must learn to survive threats in both North and South America!

- **Can anyone name some of the dangers birds face?** Cats, hawks and other predators; buildings and windows, storms, starvation, habitat loss...

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Migration makes Conservation Science an International Affair

Bird Populations have declined in North America by 30% over the last 50 years (3 billion fewer birds) mostly due to human activities. **Can you name some of these threats?** (1) habitat loss, (2) climate change (3) domestic cats (4) glass windows (5) pesticides

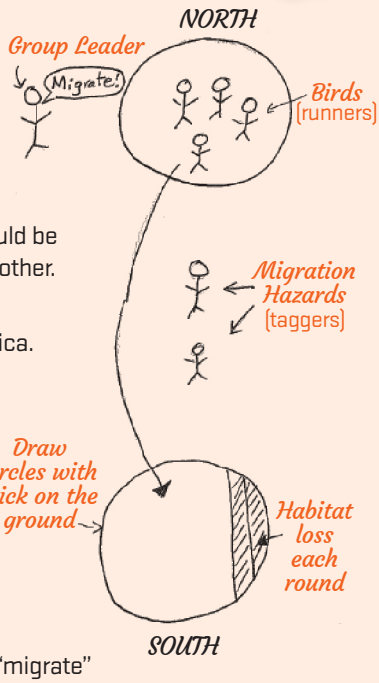
Scientists are learning about the important roles birds play in our forest ecosystems. **Can you name some benefits birds provide?** Reducing insect outbreaks, pollinating plants, dispersing seeds, making cavity homes for many other species.

Can humans learn how to protect bird populations? Because migratory birds use habitat in both North , Central and South America—scientists (like OSU's Dr. Matt Betts) are working with scientists, politicians, and conservation groups in Costa Rica, Brazil and many other regions in Central and South America to find solutions to declines in bird populations.

Activity!

Lets Play a Game!

(Similar to Sharks and Minnows)



1. Use a stick to draw two circles in the dirt big enough for your group to stand in and not touch another student. Each circle should be 50 giant steps away from one another.
2. Designate one circle as North America and one as South America.
3. Designate one or two students to stand between the two circles to act as "migration hazards" (a storm, a building with many glass windows, a cat or predator).
4. Have all the students start in North America.
5. When the group leader calls out "migrate" students "fly" to the South circle and try not to get tagged. If a bird is tagged they join the "migration hazards".
6. But habitat loss is shrinking both the Northern and Southern habitats . Make the circles smaller every turn. Birds need enough room to not touch any other birds. If birds do not have enough room in the circle they become a "migration hazard".

What happens to your population of "birds"?

Follow the trail to the next stopping point

...INTERSECTIONS