IT'S FOR THE BIRDS

AFTER 2: Community Science- share your bird data with the world!

After your visit to review the birds that students observed, share data with the science community, and to learn about world citizen science projects.

VA Standards Addressed

English/Language Arts (2017): 2.12, 3.10, 4.9

Science (2018): 2.1, 3.1, 4.1

NOTE: Standards will vary depending on the focus on the schoolyard habitat choices your school makes. Mathematics can be incorporated in designing the garden. English and language arts can be addressed if students choose to write letters requesting materials from businesses or submitting proposals to their administration.

Materials

- Bird observation sheets from Blandy's bird watching or list sent by Blandy educators
- Tablets or computers with internet access

Lesson Preparation

1. Contact Blandy educators to obtain bird checklists if your class did not make a checklist.
2. Create a login for https://ebird.org/home to enter data.

Instructional Strategy

1. Recap: Ask- what did we study outside at Blandy? What are things that we noticed and observed about the birds we saw?
2. What is citizen science? It is the collection and analysis of data relating to the natural world by members of the general public, typically as part of a collaborative project with professional scientists.
3. Sharing data: explain to students that you are going to enter data into a big file that can be shared with hundreds of scientists.
4. On your Smartboard, navigate to ebird.org to login and then go to "Submit" tab at the top. Choose "Blandy Experimental Farm" from your list then click "continue". Choose the observation date, the purpose, and enter information about time of day and distance on bird observation walk. Then click "continue" to enter data.
5. After data is entered, explore Blandy Experimental Farm as a birding hotspot. Ask students: Did we see birds that others saw in the same day/week/month? Was there anything unique that we saw? Anything unique that others observed?
6. Extend: What can we do if we want to continue to make bird observations? Can we make feeders?

Specials Extension

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PreK-12 Programs at Blandy Experimental Farm
The State Arboretum of Virginia
https://blandy.virginia.edu/

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STEM engineering challenge! https://www.pinterest.com/diyboards/diy-bird-feeders/ Gather materials and supplies to create bird feeders. Students can choose from materials they bring in from home or gather materials from the cafeteria to reuse.

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