

It's for the Birds

AFTER 1: 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.

Estimated time: 30 minutes

VA Standards Addressed

English (2024): 2.R.1, 3.R.1, 4.R.1

Science (2018): 2.1, 3.1, 4.1

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 on 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?

