

 Mass Audubon

# April Vacation Virtual Camp

**Tuesday – Spring is for the Birds!**  
Grades 3 to 5

## MIGRATION HOPSCOTCH

### What you Need

Sidewalk chalk

Pavement

Small object to toss – Stones, ball, etc.

Paper and pencil

### Staying Safe

Make sure to do this in a place with no cars.

### Jump Start the Exploration

Why do some birds migrate?

Where do birds migrate to and from?

What are some challenges birds must face during migration?

**In the fall**, birds migrate to warmer climates because of food. Birds that depend on insects, nectar, and fruit need to move to warmer places where the food is available all year.

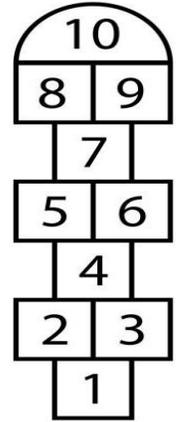
**In the spring**, why would birds make the exhausting and treacherous journey back to the north if there is still food in the south? Competition for food. Birds fly north in the spring to mate and raise young in a place where there is less competition for food. The long journey is worth it to avoid sharing space and food sources with birds in warmer climates.

Migration is long and filled with obstacles. Birds stop throughout the journey to rest and find food. Places that they look for are: marshes, open bodies of water, fields, and forests. Migration routes have been the same for generations of birds, and they require rest stops along the way to survive.

Challenges include predators, finding food, weather, and human impact. Human impact includes buildings in flight paths, development and pollution in resting areas, and the biggest predator of all: household cats! People can help by planting bird friendly plants, protecting wetlands by not pouring household chemicals into street drains, picking up litter that may be mistaken for food or nesting material, and keeping cats indoors.

## DIRECTIONS

1. Print or write out the different migration scenarios. Fold them and put them in a bowl/bag so you can grab them at random.
2. Use sidewalk chalk to make a hopscotch grid. Adjust the board to your skill level or ability. Number 1 is the winter habitat and Number 10 is the spring habitat.
3. You will each pretend you're a bird migrating from the winter habitat (#1) to your summer habitat (#10). You must safely get from one end to the other by hopping on one foot in each square. If you don't make it all the way, you need to go back to one and start again.
4. Pick a migration scenario. Adjust the grid to the scenario if necessary.
5. Throw the stone to the #2 spot in the grid (each turn you will try throwing the stone in the next numbered spot). If your stone lands outside the hopscotch throw it again. If it lands in the wrong number, your turn passes to the next player.
6. Begin hopping. The square where the rock landed you will skip over unless otherwise specified.
7. Continue until you go through all the scenarios.



## Talk About Your Learning

Was it hard to migrate? Do you think it's worth it for birds?

Where their scenarios that surprised you?

What scenarios would you add?

What would happen to the insects if birds didn't return in the spring?

How are birds affected by ecosystem changes?

What can people do to help birds during migration?

Are there other animals that migrate?

## Additional Resources

Mass Audubon: [Blackpoll Warbler: an impressive sprinter](#)

PBS: [Bird Migration Short](#)

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology: [The Basics Of Bird Migration: How, Why, And Where](#)

Mass Audubon: [Migratory Bird Tracking](#)

Mass Audubon: [Landscaping for Birds](#)