



**School Program Name:** Backyard Birds  
**Name of Sanctuary:** North River Wildlife Sanctuary  
**Grade Level:** PreK-2  
**Location Options:** At sanctuary or school  
**Time:** 1-2 hours  
**For more info:** [southshore@massaudubon.org](mailto:southshore@massaudubon.org) or  
781-837-9400

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### Program Description

Students will learn how birds meet their basic needs in order to survive through pictures, models, and observing them in the wild.

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### Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks

**Framework:** Science and Technology  
**Strand:** Life Science  
**Topic:** Characteristics of Living Things  
Living Things and Their Environment

### Learning Standards

#### Characteristics of Living Things

PreK-2 Life Science #1: Recognize that animals (including humans) and plants are living things that grow, reproduce, and need food, air, and water.

#### Living Things and Their Environment

PreK-2 Life Science #6: Recognize that people and other animals interact with the environment through their senses of sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste.

PreK-2 Life Science#8: Identify the ways in which an organism's habitat provides for its basic needs (plants require air, water, nutrients, and light; animals require food, water, air, and shelter).

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### Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks

**Framework:** English Language Arts  
**Strand:** Language  
**Topic:** Questioning, Listening, and Contributing

### Learning Standards

#### Questioning, Listening, and Contributing

PreK-12 Language #2: Students will pose questions, listen to the ideas of others, and contribute their own information or ideas in group discussions or interviews in order to acquire new knowledge.



## Lesson Objectives

What will students know and be able to do? These objectives must be observable and measurable.

Students will know and be able to:

- Recognize that birds are living things that grow, reproduce, and need food, air, and water.
  - Recognize that birds and people interact with the environment through their senses of sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste.
  - Identify the ways in which a bird's habitat provides for its basic needs (food, water, air, and shelter).
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## Vocabulary

bird feeder	habitat
beak	migration
feather	shelter
feet	wings

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## Assessments

How will you know that the students have met the standards?

- Mass Audubon Educator will observe students making careful observations and recording what they see.
  - Students will record examples of birds meeting their needs in their habitat.
  - Students participate in discussions and Mass Audubon Educator-prompted questions.
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## Summarizer

How will the Mass Audubon Educator close the lesson to see if students met the objectives?

Students will draw themselves and their homes, showing how they get what they need (this might involve drawing the store where they buy food). Students then draw a bird in its habitat, showing how they get what they need. Younger students can dictate and the Mass Audubon Educator can draw one example for the class.



## Mass Audubon School Programs

At Mass Audubon we strive to create learning experiences that are enriching, innovative, meaningful, and engaging. All our school programs are aligned with Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Our network of wildlife sanctuaries and nature centers located in urban, suburban, and rural communities around the state enable us to have strong relationships with local schools.

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## Our Education Foundations

- Place-based education is an educational philosophy that connects learning to what is local for an individual. We help build conservation communities, working with students and teachers in cities and towns to develop place-based environmental education that is linked directly to their home community.
  - Inquiry-based learning is focused on teamwork, being learner-centered, questioning ourselves and the world around us, providing a more focused, time-intensive exploration, promoting lifelong learning, communication, and learning as fun.
  - We are fully committed to creating a positive and supportive environment for all learners.
  - We strive to be culturally sensitive, recognizing and embracing cultural differences.
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## Differentiated Instruction

- We strive to create a positive learning environment that is inclusive, supportive to all learners, and sensitive to cultural diversity.
  - Outdoor classroom experiences are structured to meet the needs of the particular learners.
  - Students work in small groups using hands-on materials.
  - A variety of educational media are used, including colorful illustrations.
  - With advance notice, efforts will be made to accommodate all learning styles and physical needs.
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## Notes

- Nature exploration is dependent upon the weather and other conditions. A class might observe different wildlife than they expected to see. An outdoor lesson can sometimes provide unexpected, but enriching teachable moments on a natural history topic that was not planned.
- Mass Audubon nature centers each have a unique landscape and will customize programs to work best at their particular site.
- Our lessons can be adapted to incorporate a classroom teacher's needs.

