



School Program Name: Backyard Birds – Nest Box Workshop
Name of Sanctuary: North River Wildlife Sanctuary
Grade Level: P-2
Location Options: At sanctuary or at school
Time: 1 - 1.5 hours
For more info: southshore@massaudubon.org or
781-837-9400

Program Description

Come explore the life of a cavity nesting bird and discover what all the chirping is about! Students will become familiar with some common backyard birds, learn about their nesting habitats, and find out different ways to identify them. Construction of a nest box for their own yards will allow students to continue their learning and make further observations at home. All supplies are included.

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 #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).

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 the basic needs of birds.
- Name characteristics used to identify birds (color, size, beak type, song, etc.).
- Name at least one type of bird that relies on the use of a nest box.



Vocabulary

Adaptation

Cavity

Habitat

Migrate

Nest

Assessments

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

- Mass Audubon Educator will observe students exploring, observing, and identifying bird nests and songs.
- Students will participate in answering Mass Audubon Educator-prompted questions.
- Students will properly construct a nest box to take home for their yard.

Summarizer

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

- Students will imagine where in their yard they will put their nest box and then share.



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.

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.

