

## Birds of A-Feather, Flock Together



You know spring has arrived once you hear the familiar sounds of "tweets" outside your window. Is it no wonder that **International Migratory Bird Day is Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>**...right at Mother's Day Weekend.

International Migratory Bird Day is always the second Saturday in May each year. To learn more about this American & Canadian eco-day of celebration, go to <http://www.birdday.org/imbd-faq.php>.

Why is this an important day? Not just because you should enjoy one of nature's creatures! While birds are on the move during their migrations, they make many stops along their journey. However, pollution, pesticides, and deforestation greatly impact birds, getting in the way by eliminating spots where birds might make a pit stop. While habitats are disappearing, & toxins are in the air, the bird populations can diminish.

## Bird Benefits



Birds are beautiful and a definite sign of spring, but did you know that they also:

- ✧ Control the insect population
- ✧ Controls rodent population (which carry disease)
- ✧ Can indicate signs of weather change
- ✧ Spread seeds
- ✧ Some even pollinate flowers! (Can we say hummingbirds?!)

## Sing a Song of Skylarks



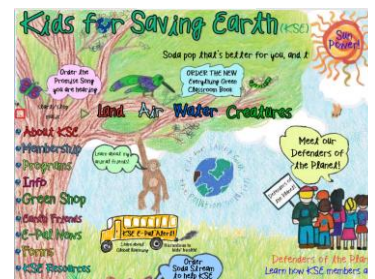
Whether it's the "cheer-ee-up, cheer-ee-up, cheer-ee-up" of the robin, the "jeet jeet" of the Baltimore oriole, or the "cork a ree" of the red winged blackbird, [www.learnbirdsongs.com](http://www.learnbirdsongs.com) will have you singing along with your favorite birds in no time! Not only does it put it in "Sing-lish," (or "feathered phonics" that you can easily pronounce), but it is a great resource. Use it to identify your neighborhood flyers by learning the songs, learning from your computer, or even downloading them to your Ipod. Plus, you can make your classroom sound like you're in a tree-top tree house by using the songs as background music to use while kids give bird reports!

## Bird Buddies

Join "Kids for Saving Earth" by becoming Bird Buddies.

Go to <http://www.kidsforsavingearth.org/programs/Birdbuddies.htm> for some

great activities like spreading the word, doing bird reports/drawings, and setting up bird monitoring programs.



## 40 is a Lucky Number

Just like this year was the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day, 40 tops the charts at the **American Bird Conservancy**. To see the Top 40 Bird Conservation Projects in the Americas, go to [http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/top\\_40.html](http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/top_40.html). Use this list for classroom discussion points, topics of debate, or inspiration for research or taking action.



## Winged Migration

To really see birds in action, a must-see would be Jacques Perrin's DVD Documentary "Winged Migration" (2001). The birds do most of the "talking" in the movie, with pictures speaking 1000 words!

It is amazing what 450 people, 17 pilots and 14 cinematographers can capture. This might be just the thing to make your study of migration truly take flight.

*The Green Team Gazette* is a publication co-sponsored by the founders of CynerGreen, CGKidz, and Eagle Cove School (formerly Gibson Island Country School), a Green School in Pasadena, Maryland. Our mission is to educate and share ways to "go green"—both big and small—and be environmentally-proactive at home, in school, and beyond. It is written by Vicki Dabrowka, third grade teacher & co-Green Team Leader at Eagle Cove School. To learn more visit [www.cynergreen.com](http://www.cynergreen.com), [www.cgkidz.com](http://www.cgkidz.com), and [www.gics.org](http://www.gics.org). You can also follow us at <http://greenteamgazette.blogspot.com/> or find us at "Green Team Gazette" on Facebook.



# The Green Team Gazette

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Migratory Bird Month May 2010



## More Rockin' Robin Resources

Check out these sites for some great activities to wrap your mind around migratory birds!

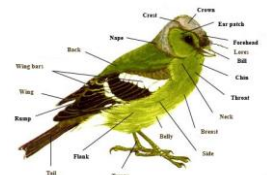
- ✧ **Bird IQ:** <http://www.birdiq.com/learn/index.html> & [http://www.birdiq.com/learn/Resource\\_Dir/index.php](http://www.birdiq.com/learn/Resource_Dir/index.php)
- ✧ Check the **Watch List of Endangered Birds on the Audubon Society's website**. Be sure to check out their Education Links too. <http://web1.audubon.org/science/species/watchlist/>
- ✧ Zip over to the **Smithsonian National Zoological Park's Migratory Bird Center** where you can find tons of information, including a **Migration Game** where you try to get Wanda the Wood Thrush safely from Costa Rica to summer next in Maryland. Only right answers will get you and Wanda there! [http://nationalzoo.si.edu/SCBI/MigratoryBirds/Education/Kids\\_Stuff/Woth\\_game/default.cfm](http://nationalzoo.si.edu/SCBI/MigratoryBirds/Education/Kids_Stuff/Woth_game/default.cfm). The Smithsonian site is also a good place to learn why **shade grown coffee & shade grown chocolate** can benefit migratory birds!
- ✧ **Another migration game** is located at <http://www.georgiapta.org/documents/MigrationGame.pdf>. Players get to discover what it would be like to be a migrating bird, and why 2 homes are better than one in this case. It also addresses not only their environmental needs, but also the many hazards they face along the way (windows, buildings, communication towers, predators, and exposure to environmental dangers such as pesticides & diseases).
- ✧ You'll find a 12 page online resource called "The Mysteries and Perils of Migratory Birds" at [http://www.fcps.edu/FairfaxNetwork/resources/student\\_guides/migratory\\_birds.pdf](http://www.fcps.edu/FairfaxNetwork/resources/student_guides/migratory_birds.pdf)
- ✧ For a great 11 question **True or False quiz** to turn you into a real "bird brain" (but in a good way!) go to [http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/education.cfm?id=sixth\\_11](http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/education.cfm?id=sixth_11). There you'll learn whether or not most northeastern US birds migrate or not, whether penguins migrate, what season truly is the hardest on migratory birds, and more!

## Bird Maps

The US Fish & Wildlife Service has a 119 page document entitled "Migration of Birds: Circular 16." You can find it at <http://www.fws.gov/birds/documents/MigrationofBirdsCircular.pdf>. Rather than use up the paper to print ALL those pages, it might be worth it to peruse the site online to find several migration maps (some including the breeding range, winter range, and migration limits). This is a great way to get your students to take a look at to sharpen their comparing/contrasting skills. What conclusions can they make? Some of my favorites:

- ✧ Any of the Migration maps from pages 18–30 (like the Black & White Warbler on p. 18; the Blackpoll Warbler on p. 22; the Cliff Swallows on p. 23; or the Gray-cheeked Thrush on p. 28)
- ✧ The Arctic Terns on p. 41
- ✧ The Scarlet Tanager on p. 58
- ✧ The Rose-breasted Grosbeak on p. 59
- ✧ The American redstart p. 60
- ✧ The Bobolink p. 64
- ✧ The Ross' goose p. 69
- ✧ Western Tanager p. 70

This bird map from <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bird.parts.jpg>



## A Bevy of Bird Books

**The Flight of the Snow Geese** by Deborah King (1998)

**Flute's Journey: The Life of a Wood Thrush** by Lynne Cherry (2001)

**How Do Birds Find Their Way? (Let's-Read-and-Find... Science 2)** by Roma Gans and Paul Mirocha (1996)

**Julie and the Eagles (An American Girls Book)** Megan McDonald (2007)

**Migrating Animals of the Air (On the Move: Animal Migration)** by Jacqueline A. Ball, Susan Nations, and Debra Voegelé (2007)

**Pie Leads the Migration** by Titi Ola Diallo (2008)

**Whistling Wings** by Laura Goering and Laura Jacques (2008)

**Why Do Geese Fly South in the Winter? A Book About Migration (First Facts)** by Kathy Allen (2006)