



# Flying WILD

## Conceptual Framework

This framework serves as the conceptual basis for activities in this guide. Every activity contained herein supports the concepts directly or indirectly.

### I. General Biology

- A. Bird species share a set of anatomical and physiological characteristics.
- B. Birds are adapted to their environments in ways that enable them to survive and maintain their populations.

### II. Habitat

- A. Birds depend on forests, grasslands, wetlands, and other habitats for food, water, shelter, and space.
- B. Each habitat is suitable only to those bird species that are adapted to it.
- C. Birds, like all living things, need food, water, shelter, and a suitable space to live.
- D. Carrying capacity refers to the dynamic balance between the availability of habitat components and the number of animals a habitat can support.
- E. Birds play an important part in ecological systems, living in a web of interdependence in which all plant and animal species contribute to the functioning of the overall system.
- F. Birds may be used as an indicator of the environmental health of an ecosystem.

### III. Observation and Identification

- A. Participating in bird counts can provide enrichment in one's life while contributing to scientific knowledge and bird conservation.
- B. Common feeder birds, for the most part, are not Neotropical migrants.
- C. Observing bird behavior and identifying bird species contributes to a better understanding of the needs of birds and more effectively supports the conservation of bird species.
- D. Effective use of equipment for bird observation and identification requires basic knowledge and development of basic skills.

### IV. Conservation and Action

- A. People can act to help conserve migratory birds.
- B. Acting at a personal level to help migratory birds, people can establish or improve bird habitat in their local area, monitor bird populations, and educate others about birds and their conservation needs.

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- C. Many factors that threaten or help bird populations are the result of human actions.
  - D. Human management of the environment affects bird populations.
  - E. Citizens can become involved in the management of birds, habitat, and the environment by direct participation in the political process or through local, state, national, or international organizations.
  - F. Citizens, government, industry, and business are responsible for conserving natural resources, including bird species.

## **V. Migration**

- A. Many birds migrate to meet their habitat needs, including accessing seasonal food supplies, as well as specific climatic conditions.
- B. Migratory birds depend on habitat in more than one place, including breeding grounds, wintering grounds, and locations along migration routes.

## **VI. Research Techniques**

- A. A variety of techniques are used to gather data about birds.
- B. Scientific methods are used to understand the needs of birds and develop conservation plans to manage and protect birds.
- C. Student research on birds enhances their understanding of scientific processes through inquiry.

## **VII. Birds and People: Cultural Connections**

- A. Human and bird relationships are expressed through celebrations, legends, myths, religious teachings, literary writings, symbols, protocols, ceremonies, and other cultural and societal activities.
- B. Appreciation of birds is often portrayed through creative expressions of human relationships with wildlife in historic and contemporary times.
- C. Our appreciation of birds' attributes will ensure that they continue to play an important role in human culture.
- D. In North America, bird-related recreational activities, such as observation, photography, hunting, painting, and feeding, provide people millions of days of recreation each year.
- E. Bird-related outdoor recreational activities, such as observation, photography, hunting, painting, and feeding, as well as tourism associated with these activities, provide substantial economic stimuli to many communities.
- F. Historically, hunters and hunting groups have made significant contributions to the funding and political support necessary for the conservation and management of birds and other wildlife.