



Connecticut Audubon Society
Center at Fairfield & Birdcraft Museum
Environmental Education Programs

January – June 2010

Center at Fairfield

2325 Burr Street Fairfield, CT 06824 203-259-6305 Ext. 109

*Programs are offered at the Center at Fairfield or at your school unless otherwise noted.
All programs held at the Center include an outdoor component.*

ANIMAL GROUPS (Grades PreK - 5)

Introduce your students to the various characteristics of vertebrate and invertebrate animal groups. Using live animals (mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird and invertebrate) and props students identify, compare, and contrast specific characteristics and classify the animals. *A4, A6, A12, A14*

EXPLORING THE SEASONS (Grades PreK - 3)

Explore the way plants and animals adapt to conditions of the current season and how they prepare for the next one. Live animals, mounted specimens, and props reinforce and enhance the lesson. *Fall, Winter & Spring themed units available. A4, B3, B4*

LIFE IN THE WOODLAND (Grades PreK - 5)

Piece together the clues of animal and plant activities to solve the mysteries of woodland life. Discover the interdependence of living organisms in the layers of the woodland community. Live animals, mounted specimens and props are used to tell the story. *A12, A14, B3, B10*

NATIVE AMERICANS (Grades PreK - 6)

Students learn about the Native American's reliance and respect for natural resources in every day life long ago. Hands-on activities allow students to practice daily life skills such as game playing and food preparation. During an outdoor walk students visit a replica of an Algonquin wigwam and experience the forest as a traditional resource for daily needs: grocery store, medicine source, home improvement center and more. *Program may also be offered at your site. A9, A24, B7*

WHAT MAKES A BIRD A BIRD? (Grades PreK - 3)

Learn the characteristics common to all birds. Identifying different types of beaks, feet, and feathers enables students to determine how these features relate to behaviors and habitats. Students practice identifying birds by sight and sound. Program may include live birds, feathers, and mounted specimens. *Suitable for assembly programs. A4, A12, A14, B3, B4*

DOWN BY THE SOUND (Grades PreK- 6)

What's it like to live in Long Island Sound? Discover the unique features and behaviors of organisms that call this aquatic habitat home. Students observe a variety of live creatures and non-living artifacts, explore adaptations for survival and determine how organisms meet their basic needs. Program will conclude with a grade-level appropriate discussion of the challenges and threats Long Island Sound organisms face in their daily lives.

Offered seasonally: late spring through fall.

Offered in the classroom. Off-site Long Island Sound locations by prior arrangement.

BUTTERFLIES! (ARACHNIDS AND MORE) (Grades 1 - 5)

What has six legs, eight legs, and even more legs? Explore the characteristics of insects, arachnids, and invertebrates through an up close look at animals without backbones. Discover the unique characteristics of these animals' life cycles and learn the special relationship between butterflies and plants throughout their life cycles.

Offered seasonally: late spring and early fall.

A5, A15, A16, B3, B10

MARSHES, PONDS & STREAMS (Grades 2 - 6)

Explore a variety of aquatic habitats in the Larsen Sanctuary. Students compare and contrast plant and animal adaptations for survival in these habitats. Through examination and identification of organisms and their habitats, students learn about the natural dynamics within freshwater ecosystems.

Offered as a 90 minute or 2 hour program only at the Center. A15, B4, B10, B11, C11

GOING, GOING, GONE? ENDANGERED SPECIES (Grades 3 - 6)

Learn how human actions impact the animals with which we share the planet. Students will be introduced to live animals illustrating the challenges they face (habitat loss, invasive species, and more) then students draw their own conclusions based on the information presented and brainstorm ways they can make a difference. *B7, B10, B11*

ROCK & ROLL (Grades 3 - 5)

Learn basic skills of rock and mineral identification. Working in small groups students examine five mystery samples noting color, luster, streak, and hardness. After recording their data students use a field guide to identify the sample to determine if it is rock or mineral. *B5, B6*

BIRDS OF PREY (Grades 3 and up)

Students learn about the special adaptations of raptors and the role they play in ecosystems. Includes live raptors, and props. *Offered at the Center or your site.*

Suitable for assembly programs. Please note special program pricing. B3, B11, C5

OWLS (Grades 3 and up)

Uncover the truth behind the myths as we explore the world of owls and their special adaptations for nighttime living. Working in small groups students dissect an owl pellet to aid in the understanding of the dynamics of a food web and the challenges these nocturnal birds face in their quest for food and survival. *B3, B10*

FOOD CHAINS & FOOD WEBS (Grade 3 - 6)

Live animals bring the food chain to life. Students will distinguish omnivores, herbivores and carnivores. By observing live animals students uncover the unique adaptations animals have for their place in the food chain/web. Students will create a food chain and then a food web using examples from the live animals presented during the program.

Suitable for assembly programs.

B10, C6

ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS (Grades 4 - 6)

Using live animals, mounted specimens, and props students discover the unique adaptations of various vertebrates and invertebrates. Through observation, group work and critical thinking skills students explore how these animals are adapted to obtain food, water, air, protection and avoid predators.

Suitable for assembly programs.

B3, B4, C5

Birdcraft Museum

314 Unquowa Road Fairfield, CT 06824 203-259-0416 Ext. 403

*Programs are offered at the Birdcraft Museum or at your school unless otherwise noted.
All programs held at Birdcraft include an outdoor component.*

WHO'S MAKING TRACKS? (Grades K – 6)

Tracks tell a story. You can tell how an animal moves by the tracks that it leaves; and it's up to you to "read" the tracks and tell the story. Using our track patterns students learn the art of identifying the runners, hoppers, crawlers, walkers. Interpret the foot shape and track sequences of various animals found in our sanctuary.

WHAT'S THE DIRT ON SOILS? (Grades 2 – 5)

What's the difference between dirt and soil? Are they the same thing? Students will study different properties of soil samples: particle size, texture (wet & dry), color and composition; perform basic experiments, record results, and predict which soils will best support the growth of plants.

SIGNS OF THE SEASON (Grades PreK- 3)

Students go on a sensory scavenger hunt to discover natural events of each season. Emphasis varies with the season. Discover what's happening in the sanctuary and search the museum for further signs of the season. Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer units available. *Offered only at Birdcraft Museum.*

A4, A6, B3

NOCTURNAL ANIMALS

Discover special sensory adaptations for being awake at night. Through role-playing, games, and tests of their own senses, students learn about the adaptations and behaviors

of nocturnal animals. Puppets, animal mounts and props provide examples of nocturnal animals.

A4, A12, A14, B3

TREE-MENDOUS TREES! (Grades PreK - 3)

Hands-on activities and examination of tree parts teaches students the anatomy, and life cycle of trees. Students will observe, measure, compare and contrast the sizes, shapes, textures, and colors of trees and leaves. Students assess various habitat areas to determine the importance of trees for wildlife.

A4, A13, A17, B10

PLANT POWER (Grades K - 3)

Observe, compare and contrast plant parts (flower, stem, leaves and roots) while learning about the basic needs of a plant. Students will examine seeds for signs of growth, then plant seeds to take back to school so they can predict, observe, and record the changes that occur as a seed grows into a seedling.

A13, A4, A19, A20

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH? (Grade 1 - 5)

You can tell what birds eat by their beaks and their feet! Students must solve the mystery of which of the six tools, and by analogy, which type of bird beak is best suited to obtain particular types of food. Based on their findings students predict which habitat area these birds call home. Bird mounts provide real examples of different beak adaptations.

A12, B3, B4

OUR WATERY WORLD (Grades 3 - 6)

Water, water everywhere! Where does it go and how does it get there? Students journey through the water cycle as a drop of water to gain a better understanding of the importance of water in our ecosystems. Following the water cycle game students use a watershed model to understand how human actions impact water resources.

B12, B13, C11

FEATHERED FRIENDS (Grades 3 - 6)

A unique program that introduces students to bird banding and bird migration. Students role-play the scientific process of bird banding and use field guides to identify the birds. Programs at the Center include outdoor activities: binocular basics, then using binoculars students will evaluate the sanctuary as a stopover for migrating birds and habitat for year-round birds. Students will understand how human impacts cause changes to the habitats that these birds call home. *Offered as a 90 minute or 2 hour program.*

B3, B10, B11, C5

SKULLS & TEETH (Grades 3 - 6)

This lesson in animal adaptations allows students to explore the relationship between food preference and the teeth and skulls of herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores. Using observation, problem-solving and deduction skills, students determine which skull is which and which foods those animals eat.

B3, B10, C5



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HOW TO REGISTER

To schedule a program for one of the following locations, please call: 203-259-6305 Ext. 109.

- **Center at Fairfield**
- **Birdcraft Museum**
- **At-your-location**

Programs must be scheduled at least 2 weeks in advance; however we suggest you register early to increase your chances of reserving the programs and dates you prefer.

After registering, you will receive written confirmation and, if you are traveling to one of our sites, you will be sent field trip guidelines, a map and written directions.

Please have the following information at hand when you call:

- Name of the teacher responsible for the group
- E-mail address & direct contact phone number for the contact person
- School name, address, phone number, fax, e-mail
- Name of the program/s you wish to schedule
- Dates & alternate dates for scheduling
- Arrival and departure times
- Grade level of your students
- Number of students in your group
- Names of other teachers that will be participating
- Special educational or physical needs of your students

With advance notice, and within reason, staff may be able to adjust the indoor and outdoor portions of our programs to accommodate students with special educational and physical requirements.

CANCELLATIONS

Programs will be held rain or shine, although severe weather and school closing cancels.

In the event of inclement weather, outdoor activities may be replaced with an equivalent indoor activity.

We will make every attempt to reschedule programs cancelled due to severe weather. If you are unable to keep a scheduled program date, please notify us as soon as possible.

TYPES OF PROGRAMS

At-your-location programs:

45- 60 minutes and take place in the classroom.

Designed for one class per presentation.

This enables students a closer look at the hands-on materials.
Assembly-style presentations are offered on specified programs only as noted in guide.
Schedule up to four programs of the same topic per day, Monday - Saturday.

Programs at the Center at Fairfield & Birdcraft Museum:

All programs include an indoor and outdoor component.
All participants must dress for the weather and outdoor activities.
We suggest

- Sneakers or sturdy footwear, flip-flops or open-toed sandals are not appropriate.
- Rain coats for light rain and drizzle
- Coats, mittens, hats and boots for cold weather programs.

In the event of inclement weather, an outdoor activity will be replaced with an equivalent indoor activity.

All programs run rain or shine although severe weather and school closing cancels.

FEES

At-your-location programs: \$105/class/program + travel fee.

Discounts available for multiple same topic outreach programs scheduled for the same day.

Assembly program/s (up to 150 students): \$175 per presentation + travel.

Bird of Prey program/s (up to 50 students): \$150 + travel

Birds of Prey Assembly program/s \$250 + travel

Programs at the Center at Fairfield & Birdcraft Museum

60 minutes: \$5/student; \$50 minimum

90 minutes: \$6/student; \$60 minimum

120 minutes: \$8/student; \$80 minimum

Bird of Prey program \$150 (up to 50 students) offered as a 60-minute program.

SPECIAL REQUESTS/CUSTOM PROGRAMS

Looking for something else?

We will do our best to modify any of our programs to meet the interests of your group.

With advance notice, and within reason, staff may be able to adjust the indoor and outdoor portions of our programs to accommodate students with special educational and physical requirements.

Program content, modifications & special requests, please contact:

Carol Kratzman
Education Coordinator
203-259-6305 Ext. 112
ckratzman@ctaudubon.org

CONNECTICUT FRAMEWORK CODES

Our programs address the CT Science Framework standards as noted in the program description.