The following list consists of selected resources on the general topic of Bird Education. Materials are organized in order by teaching material type and grade level. All materials are available for loan at the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WCEE) Resources Library for Wisconsin residents. Materials are also available for purchase from a variety of book stores, Acorn Naturalist, or Amazon.com. Please call or visit the WCEE for assistance or visit our web site at www.uwsp.edu/wcee/library for additional information on borrowing resources.

Teaching Activity Guides

Contains activities on bird adaptations, nesting, migration and lifestyles. Vocabulary lists and further information for educators is also included.
Grade levels: K-6
Length: 107 pages, 5 activities
Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: AC WL B 16)

This topic focuses on classification of birds, adaptation to habitat, and birds’ affects on human lives.
Grade levels: K-9
Length: 63 pages
Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: AC WL B 6)

**International Crane Foundation Activity Packs** by International Crane Foundation/Baraboo, WI.
Various activities, informational brochures and sheets, quizzes, annotated bibliographies, stories and legends, coloring pages, teacher instructions, field trip ideas and more! Organized by grades.
Grade levels: K-12
Length: 203 pages
Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: AC WL B 23)

**Journey North** by Hamline University, Journey North Program/Minneapolis, MN. (1995).
Beginning in February 1995, this internet-based learning program started to involve students in a global study of wildlife migration. Up-to-date news about migrating species is shared by students with scientists. Also observes the phenology of these migratory species. This notebook contains background information and examples of projects.
Grade levels: K-12
Length: 145 pages
Online resources can be acquired through their web site at http://www.learner.org/jnorth/.
Borrowing Complete Educator Guide: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: AC WL B 30)

An adventure guide to spotting, observing, understanding and identifying birds – complete with photographs, stories, helpful hints and background knowledge on birds.
Grade levels: 4-9
Length: 32 pages
Available for purchase from: AcornNaturalist.com ($9.95), Amazon.com ($9.85)
Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: BY WL B 45)
Crane Count in the Classroom by International Crane Foundation. (2005).
This curriculum focuses on the Annual Midwest Crane Count as a citizen science program. Included are lessons developed around the program, materials related to participating in the crane count, and reference materials.
Grade levels: 5-9  Length: 120 pages
Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: AC WL B 22)

The purpose of this guide is to provide activities that teach middle school students about birds, their migration, and what people can do to help birds and their habitats. There is a special section explaining how to organize a bird festival at your school or in your community.
Grade levels: 5-9  Length: 43 activities
Only available through Flying Wild Workshops – visit www.flyingwild.org
Borrowing: WCEE (call number: AC WL B 18)

One Bird, Two Habitats by Susan Gilchrist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. (1994).
This is a 3-6 week middle school unit on neotropically bird conservation with an emphasis on interconnectedness. The unit focuses on Wisconsin and Nicaragua. The goal of this unit is to bridge the gap between bird research and education.
Grade levels: 5-9  Length: 316 pages
Only available through Bird Education Workshops in Wisconsin through WIBC.
Borrowing: WCEE (call number: AC WL B 10)

Videos/DVDs
Into the Outdoors: For the Birds by Discover Media Works and the WI DNR. (2006).
In this episode, learn about birds, bird watching, bird dogging, what goose-banding is, and meet people who work with hawks and osprey. Also learn about how to camouflage yourself in order to make bird watching easier.
Grade levels: K-9  Length: 28 minutes
Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: AV DVD WL B 2)

In this amazing documentary from BBC, filmmakers travel all over the world to capture some of the most beautiful and inspiring footage of the Earth's last wilderness and the creatures that inhabit them. In their travels they've captured footage of some of the rarest animals known to man. (5-DVD set)
Grade levels: 4-Adult  Length: 11 ep. 55 min ea.
Available for purchase from: Amazon.com ($47.49) or AcornNaturalist.com ($89.95)
Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: AV DVD EG 20)

This is an absolutely amazing video following numerous species of birds as they migrate to and from their summer homes. Migrations range over all seven continents and the cinematography makes the viewer feel as if they’re flying alongside the birds. The stunning visuals and moving music make this a sensory masterpiece.
Grade levels: 4-Adult  Length: 90 minutes
Available for purchase from: Amazon.com ($10.49)
Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: AV DVD WL B 4)
Books for Youth

**Bird Calls: Play the Sounds, Pull the Tabs** by Frank Gallo, Innovative KIDS/Norwalk, CT. (2001).
Gives clues to help children guess different species of birds. Also includes bird calls and pull-tab instructions to engage the senses. After children guess the bird, they can lift a flap to find facts about each species.

*Grade levels: P-4*  
*Length: 9 pages*

Available for purchase from: Amazon.com ($12.91)
Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: BY WL B 37)

Illustrated introduction to all kinds of eggs and their sizes, shapes, colors, and where they stay until they hatch. Eggs are drawn to their actual size. The illustrations are accurate and well done.

*Grade levels: P-4*  
*Length: 36 pages*

Available for purchase from: AcornNaturalist.com ($16.95), Amazon.com ($11.55)
Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: BY WL 101)

A father takes his daughter out to search for owls on a cold, moonlit winter night. Beautiful illustrations and simple text designed to evoke feelings of awareness, sensitivity and appreciation for nature. Excellent story to be read out loud.

*Grade levels: P-6*  
*Length: 32 pages*

Available for purchase from: AcornNaturalist.com ($16.95), Amazon.com ($11.04)
Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: BY WL B 6)

This book helps explain the migration of birds: how far they go, how high they fly, and how scientists believe they use the sun, stars, and magnetic fields to find their way.

*Grade levels: K-4*  
*Length: 32 pages*

Available for purchase from: Amazon.com ($5.99)
Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: BY WL B 15)

Robins are one of the easiest birds to observe anywhere. This book gives a wonderful description of a robin’s life using a story.

*Grade levels: K-4*  
*Length: 27 pages*

Available for purchase from: Amazon.com ($15.99)
Borrowing: Check your local library or the IMC (call number: QL 696.P288 W23 1996)

**Whistling Wings** by Laura Goering, Sylvan Dell Publishing/Mt. Pleasant, SC. (2008).
Marcel, a young tundra swan, stays behind as his mother, father, and the rest of the flock fly south for the winter. He asks for advice on how to survive the winter from other animals but the ideas don’t work for him. The book includes a “For Creative Minds” section, complete with fun facts on tundra swans, migration, and an animal adaptation matching activity.

*Grade levels: K-4*  
*Length: 30 pages*

Available for purchase from: Amazon.com ($16.95), Sylvan Dell Publishing ($16.95, $8.95)
Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: BY WL B 46)
*This is the story of a young wood thrush’s first migration from Maryland to Costa Rica. On this journey, he encounters many of the perils that threaten song birds.*

Grade levels: **K-6**  
Length: **29 pages**  
WCEE call number: **BY WL B 20**

Available for purchase from: Acorn Naturalist.com, ($16.95), Amazon.com ($9.87)

Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: BY WL B 20)

*Striking illustrations and lively storyline follow a ruby-throated hummingbird as it hunts for food, faces its enemies, and interacts with humans.*

Grade levels: **K-6**  
Length: **29 pages**

Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: BY WL B 31)

**Jacob and Owl** by Ada and Frank Graham, Coward, McConn & Geohegan/New York, NY. (1981)
*A lonely young boy nurses an owl back to health then must make the difficult decision about the bird’s future.*

Grade levels: **K-6**  
Length: **63 pages**

Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: BY WL B 11)

**Loon at Northwood Lake** by Elizabeth Ring, Soundprints/Norwalk CT. (1997).
*This is a story of a loon and his mate who protect their chicks from curious people, egg-hunting eagles and hawks, and ferocious pike throughout a summer at Northwood Lake. The birds are portrayed realistically and the book contains accurate natural history.*

Grade levels: **K-6**  
Length: **31 pages**

Available for purchase from: Amazon.com ($4.95)

Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: BY WL B 42)

*This book delivers elaborate, descriptive poems on birds of the wild. Included with each poem is a bird painting as a visual depiction.*

Grade levels: **K-6**  
Length: **46 pages**

Available for purchase from: AcornNaturalist.com ($9.75), Amazon.com ($7)

Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: BY WL B 28)

*You might have heard about the first red-tailed hawk who nested in New York City. This book tells the story.*

Grade levels: **K-6**  
Length: **30 pages**

Available for purchase from: Amazon.com ($11.55)

Borrowing: Check your local library or the IMC (call number: QL  696 .F32  S38  2008)

*Based on a true story, a girl’s triumph during China’s Sparrow War. This is a great book to share cultural issues and bird education with young learners.*

Grade levels: **K-6**  
Length: **38 pages**

Available for purchase from: Amazon.com ($13.25)

Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: BY WL B 47)
The introduction gives basic etiquette for bird watching. The core of the book gives physical descriptions
for each bird: what it eats, nesting habits and information on the eggs. Beautiful illustrations and craft
ideas make this book fun.  
**Grade levels: K-9**  
**Length: 41 pages**  
Available for purchase from: Amazon.com ($7.95)
Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: BY WL B 23)

Discusses the habitat, life cycle, appearance and habits of 21 water birds and examines the risks exposed
to them by technological civilization.  
**Grade levels: K-9**  
**Length: 77 pages**  
Available for purchase from: Amazon, Powell’s Books ($9.95)
Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: BY WL B 14)

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boys’ attempt to save a
colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.  
**Grade Levels: 5-12**  
**Length: 292 pages**  
Available for purchase from: Amazon.com ($6.99)
Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: BY WL B 2)

Reference/Background Books

Sharing the Wonder of Birds with Kids by Laura Erickson, Pfeifer-Hamilton/Duluth, MN. (1997).
For use at home or school, this resource reveals the magic of birds through suggestions on attracting
birds, indentifying them, planning bird outings and learning about different bird adaptations and
behavior. An excellent section titled, “Helping Children Save Birds” is included as well as craft projects
and a list of additional reading materials.  
**Grade levels: 4-Adult**  
**Length: 195 pages**  
Available for purchase from: Amazon.com ($16.95), Barnes and Noble ($16.95)
Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: BA WL B 8)

Wild About Birds: The DNR Bird Feeding Guide by Carol L. Henderson, Minnesota Department of
This book contains information about bird feeding, the types of bird food to use and how to build bird
feeders. Contains beautiful photographs and clear illustrations/figures/diagrams for how to build your
own bird house. Included are a glossary, supplemental information on birds, and the scientific names of
plants and wildlife used in the text.  
**Grade levels: 9-Adult**  
**Length: 267 pages**  
Available for purchase from: Amazon, Minnesota’s Bookstore ($19.95)
Borrowing: Check your local library or the WCEE (call number: BA WL B 12)

Websites

**Audubon Society**
For over 100 years, Audubon's mission has been working to protect birds and other wildlife and
their habitats. They host programs like the Backyard Bird Count and the Christmas Bird Count.  
Web link: [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)
**Bird Education Alliance for Conservation**
*BEAC is a group of committed individuals who have formed a free network to allow educators to share ideas and organize to help educate about bird conservation.*
Web link: [www.birdedalliance.org](http://www.birdedalliance.org)

**Bird Education Network**
*BEN provides information and ideas on bird education. Like BEAC, you can also join their network for free.*
Web link: [www.birdeducation.org](http://www.birdeducation.org)

**Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin**
*BRAW aims to monitor and increase the production of Eastern Bluebirds and other native cavity-nesting birds through coordinated nest box construction and monitoring.*
Web link: [www.braw.org](http://www.braw.org)

**International Migratory Bird Day**
*Celebrating IMBD is a perfect way to excite and involve students in bird education. This web site offers information and resource ideas to engage students.*
Web link: [www.birdday.org](http://www.birdday.org)

**Journey North**
*Choose a species and have your students virtually journey with them. This outstanding web site offers a number of projects to do with students. It is not limited to birds.*
Web link: [www.learner.org/jnorth](http://www.learner.org/jnorth)

**Partners in Flight**
*Learn what scientists are doing to protect and study migratory birds.*
Web link: [www.partnersinflight.org](http://www.partnersinflight.org)

**Project Beak**
*An easy to use web site to help educators teach about birds. There are several lesson plans available from their teacher resource section, a section on rare birds, a wonderful section on adaptations, and so much more!*  
Web link: [http://www.projectbeak.org/index.htm](http://www.projectbeak.org/index.htm)

**Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative**
*This section of the web site provides many fact sheets and general information on Wisconsin birds.*
Web link: [www.wisconsinbirds.org/publications](http://www.wisconsinbirds.org/publications)

**Field Trips and Outdoor Sites**

**Bird Trail Maps of Wisconsin**
*Developed by the WI Department of Natural Resources, these maps provide information of trails throughout the state ideal for bird watching.*  
Web link: [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/birds/trail.htm](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/birds/trail.htm)
**Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory**  
This nature reserve located in Duluth, MN provides one of the best wild viewing opportunities for birds of prey and other migratory birds. It is a research and education facility.  
Web link: [www.hawkridge.org](http://www.hawkridge.org)

**International Crane Foundation**  
Located in Baraboo, WI, ICF is the only place where one can view all the crane species of the world. It serves as a crane breeding, conservation, research, and education facility.  
Web link: [www.savingcranes.org](http://www.savingcranes.org)

**Raptor Education Group, Inc.**  
Starting as a raptor rehabilitation center in Antigo, WI, REGI has expanded their services to provide raptor education to school or community groups.  
Web link: [www.raptoreducationgroup.org](http://www.raptoreducationgroup.org)

**Guest Speakers**  
**Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc. Speakers Bureau**  
Updated periodically, this list connects you to bird experts throughout the state willing to serve as a guest speaker for classrooms or community groups.  

**Bird Identification and Supporting Resources Online**  
**Birding Guide**  
This web site is full of information on birds including pictures, viewing equipment, bird clubs, etc.  
Web link: [www.birdingguide.com](http://www.birdingguide.com)

**Cornell Lab of Ornithology**  
One of the international leaders in bird research, Cornell offers education, identification, resources, etc. to enhance any bird education lesson.  
Web link: [www.birds.cornell.edu](http://www.birds.cornell.edu)

**What Bird?**  
This instant field guide helps you identify a bird quickly and learn interesting facts about it. There is a free downloadable toolbar to help ID birds. Download IBird onto your IPod to take to the field for easier and quicker bird ID.  
Web link: [www.whatbird.com](http://www.whatbird.com)