

# **Beaks & Feet**

## 1st Grade Program

**Description:** Come soar into the world of birds and find out what structures they have to help them survive. Students will get to experiment with “beaks” and learn to use binoculars.

### **Objectives:**

- Students will know that birds have different types of beaks to help them eat different types of food.
- Students will use binoculars to identify bird species on the refuge
- Students will be able to describe at least 2 different beak types and explain how that beak is specialized for its food
- Define watershed and introduce how water flows through a watershed, how the movement of water is affected by vegetation, and erosion.

## Birdwatching Station:

1 pair of binoculars per student.

Mark the behavior of birds in the ethogram on worksheet. Use the field guides to identify at least one species – students may not get a close/clear enough look to ID all the birds, and that's ok!

At the end of time, ensure all binoculars are collected and returned to the box.

### Binocular Instructions:

Always keep string around your neck, so the binoculars don't get lost. Never walk while using binoculars! Look through the small holes so that birds look bigger. Have a staring contest with the bird, slowly raise your binoculars until they just touch your eyelashes, and use the focus to make the bird clear.

### Talking Points:

- What is that bird doing? (looking for food, flying, calling, etc.)
- Do you notice any unusual body parts on that bird? (ex. Long legs/neck/beak, bright colors) - How do you think that body part might help them survive?
- If we're having trouble seeing a bird, can we find any evidence that birds were here before? (ex. Feathers, footprints, scat, birdsong)

## Foot Quest Station:

Explore Raptor Row and Shorebird Aviary and discover how many different feet type there are on our birds! Students use their worksheets to keep track of the different types of feet that they find throughout these exhibits. Students can use binoculars, if it is easier for them to see the birds' feet.

### Binocular Instructions:

Always keep string around your neck, so the binoculars don't get lost. Never walk while using binoculars! Look through the small holes so that birds look bigger. Have a staring contest with the bird, slowly raise your binoculars until they just touch your eyelashes, and use the focus to make the bird clear.

### Talking Points:

- What food do you think birds with each different type of foot eats?
  - How do those feet help this bird catch/eat their food?
    - What habitats do you think they would live in?
- How would each foot type help a bird survive in these different habitats?