

Activities for All Ages

Field Trip- Bird Counts

Bring students to the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park (MBRNHP) for a lesson about point counts. Choose one student to be the designated recorder. Give this student a clipboard, data sheet (attached below) and a pencil. Give the rest of the students each a pair of binoculars and a field guide. Take the students on a hike around the park, stopping to listen for birds along the way. When a student sees or hears a bird, have the class stop so everyone can see or listen. Have the spotter identify the bird. The recorder can then place a checkmark next to the species name on the data sheet. When you have finished your bird count, return to the classroom to enter the data. Show students how to enter the data into eBird. Notes: MBRNHP may have field guides and binoculars for student use on the day of your visit. Call ahead to confirm. Attached at the end of this page is a bird count checklist. Have the recorder put a checkmark next to the species name each time students see or hear it.

Field Trip- Habitat Tour

In the classroom, talk with students about different types of habitat and how different bird species prefer different habitats. Then bring students to the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park for a habitat tour. Show students the different types of habitat in the park and discuss what species live there.

Notes: A park ranger or employee may be available to join the class on the tour. Call ahead to arrange.

Extensions: Have students compare the habitat they saw in the Park to photographs of Costa Rican habitat if available. What are the similarities and differences?

Mapping Migration

Hang a large map of the Western hemisphere on the classroom wall. Throughout the year have students move a picture of a bird species along its migration route on the map. Use the range map on eBird to help decide where the bird flies each month.

Notes: The Blackburnian Warbler is the best species to use for this activity because students will easily be able to see the movement of migration on the eBird range maps.

Extensions: At the end of each month, print the range map from that month and year and hang it on the wall. By the end of the school year students will be able to see the full progression of migration from that year.