

## Activities for Middle and High School Students

### Discussion- Sense of Place

Ask students to think of their favorite place (a town, a house, the forest, etc.). Then have the students write down what they love about that place. As a class discuss what the students wrote and what makes a place special. Is it the people? The plants and animals? The scenery? Ask students how they would feel if the special elements of their favorite place were removed. Then transition to a discussion about habitat loss. Talk with students about the causes of habitat loss and how it is having a negative effect on bird populations.

### Interpreting Data- Range Maps and Charts

eBird is a great resource to use in the classroom because it provides easy access to bird range maps and charts. Split the class into groups of two or three and assign each group a bird species from the list provided at the top of this page. Then have each group explore the eBird data related to their assigned species. Make sure they look at each form of data. Have students find two interesting patterns in the data that they can share with the class. Then have the whole class discuss the benefits of mapping and charting ranges and what patterns each group found with its specific bird.

Extension: Have the groups research their species and create a paper or presentation using the data from eBird as well as the information they found elsewhere.

### U.S Fish and Wildlife, Change the World Kids, and FCC Exploration Project

Have students go to the following website and explore the different categories for about 5 minutes. <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/science/> Then, using the website, have students answer the following questions:

- 1) Name two conservation actions and explain the goal of conservation.
- 2) What are representative species? How does this reduce the burden of conservationists?
- 3) Read the following article and write down three interesting facts:  
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/climatechange/stories/warbler.html>

Next, have students go to the “Change the World Kids” website:

<http://www.changetheworldkids.org/>. Change the World Kids is a non-profit, teen-run group in Woodstock, VT, dedicated to making a positive difference both locally and globally. After exploring a little, watch the video about Change the World Kids alumna, Phebe Myers at the bottom of this page:

<http://www.changetheworldkids.org/global-work/bosque-para-siempre/>. Talk to students about the conservation efforts of the Change the World Kids. Why does planting locally in Vermont work symbiotically with planting in Costa Rica?

Finally, have students explore the following website about Costa Rican bird habitat restoration: <http://66.147.244.232/~fccmonte/category/bellbird-conservation->

[project/](#). Encourage students to write down two to three facts, and then go around the room and have every student share something they learned from this website.

To conclude this activity, emphasize the idea of conservation, and the positive efforts of groups like the Change the World Kids. Encourage everyone to become stewards of the environment by getting involved with groups that promote conservation, or by going outside and planting a native tree!