

EYES IN THE SKY (EITS) – Meet Your Wild Neighbor (MYWN)
Santa Barbara Audubon Society

BACKGROUND INFORMATION



Eyes in the Sky (EITS) is a **Santa Barbara Audubon Society (SBAS)** community outreach program, started in 2001. It presents wildlife ambassadors - 5 birds of prey native to our area - to children and adults throughout the greater Santa Barbara area. The birds' live presence and their unique stories of survival following conflict with human activities, educate about impacts of human actions, good and bad, and foster respect and understanding for wild species and their habitats.

EITS' 23 volunteers - community members from all walks of life – assist with the bird care, programs, lessons, school field trips, and take birds to public locations throughout the week.

Meet Your Wild Neighbor (MYWN) is a special EITS program developed to reach families in the lowest-income neighborhoods, but has also been taught at Marymount, Laguna Blanca and Orca private schools. The five-week science series adheres to State Science Standards.

Students and teachers receive packets of colorful cards with information about birds, habitats, adaptations, life cycles, and a sound CD. The cards can be played like a game, and children share them with siblings, friends and other family members at home.

The lessons include 4 live birds of prey visits, a schoolyard/neighborhood bird walk and a three-hour family field trip around Lake Los Carneros. Students learn how to identify birds by sight AND sound, and become informed about actions they can take to assist their future survival.

PLAN AND EXPECTED RESULTS

Students take pre- and post-tests that measure learning results. Of the 68 classrooms (1,350 students) that have participated with MYWN, all have met and/or exceeded projected goals. Family members join bird walks and assist during classroom programs/bird presentations.

CONSERVATION OUTCOMES

"...Our McKinley first grade students participated in the program. The program was exceptional! Gabriele Drozdowski was professional, organized, knowledgeable, and presented the curriculum at the level of the children. The materials she developed were outstanding! The field trip was a perfect culmination for the program. This was truly a worth-while educational experience. It has had a lasting effect on our students and their families." ... "It was contagious. Pretty soon everyone at the school was watching birds."

Overall program rating: 10, 10, 10

Classroom control 10+

Organization: 10+

Quality of materials: 10+

10+

Teacher/Student enthusiasm: 10

Integration into state science curriculum requirements for your grade: 10

Communication skills: 10+

Teaching skill: 10+

Subject Knowledge: 10+

Accessibility for second language learners:

10+

Learning: 10 – WOW!

Dee Bluitt, Elizabeth Brooks, Dana Gallagher, Lois Hill, first grade teachers at McKinley School.



“The five-week unit on local birds was well received by students, teachers, and parents. As we had expected, this unit met and exceeded the California State Department of Education’s life science standards for first grade...Gabriele’s five-week unit includes all of the objectives of a complete environmental education program. Her program enhances students’ knowledge, awareness, environmental values, skills, and participation. Her presentations include live birds, recordings of bird sounds, flash cards that are particularly helpful to English language learners, and field trips to Lake Los Carneros and the schoolyard...”

MichaelVail, Principal, Cleveland School



Students matching picture cards with clue cards, Sounds with picture cards Feet or beaks with picture cards, etc.



Field trip at Lake Los Carneros

PARTICIPATING BIRD AMBASSADORS



Pictured from left to right: Red-tailed Hawk “Ivan”; American Kestrel “Kachina”; Western Screech Owl “Tecolita” and Great Horned Owl “Max”.

STUDENT MATERIALS (1ST GRADE)

Name-Match

Name _____ Grade _____ Room # _____

1. Acorn Woodpecker
2. American Crow
3. Anna's Hummingbird
4. Brown Pelican
5. Great Horned Owl
6. House Finch
7. House Sparrow
8. Mallard Duck
9. Pigeon
10. Red-tailed Hawk
11. Scrub Jay
12. Western Gull

Picture: McKelby School

Pre- and Post Tests:
Students draw lines from bird pictures to bird name, and from sound number to bird picture.



Bird Sound CD

Sound Match

Name _____ Grade _____ Room # _____

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

Picture: McKelby School



Student Materials Folder

Name _____ Grade _____ Room # _____

Review—Adaptations—Feet

Great Horned owls have **talons** for catching **prey**—animals they eat.

Acorn Woodpeckers have special **climbing feet** that help them walk up trees. They also use their tails to balance on their way up or down.

American crows, House finches and Anna's hummingbirds have **perching feet** for sitting on tree branches and holding things.

Brown Pelicans have **webbed feet** for swimming.

Weekly Reviews, Work sheets and Coloring Pages

4 Envelopes containing 32 different Cards



Species Picture Cards

12 Bird Picture Cards



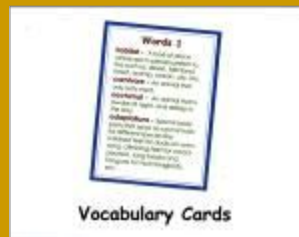
Clue Cards

12 Matching Clue Cards



Reference Library Cards

5 Reference Library Cards



Vocabulary Cards

3 Vocabulary Cards

Not shown:

- Neighborhood Species Check List
- Lake Los Carneros Species Check List
- Nature Journal
- Teacher Materials (large versions of all cards plus supplementary learning materials)
- 2nd-grade version of MYWN (SB Birds of Prey)
- 3rd-grade version (SB Seabird/Shorebird Families)

For more information, please contact Gabriele Drozdowski at 805-898-0347 or email eyes-in-the-sky@cox.net

