

Climate Change Connections to Flying WILD Activities

Correction: Flying WILD page 320: Just above the “Gulf Oil Spill Impacts Birds,” the correct link for the affects of climate change on birds is:

<https://abcbirds.org/threat/climate-change/>

A good summary of climate change effects on birds: *Shifting Skies: Migratory Birds in a Warming World* (go to www.nwf.org and search for “Shifting Skies”)

Teacher-Led Flying WILD Activity

Migratory Mapping p. 120

This activity involves making maps of migratory bird routes. Here are some non-fiction sources that use maps to explain climate change impacts on birds:

- See p. 28 of the *Shifting Skies* report listed above.
- Information and a video on the Bird Genoscape Project on the MAPS website: <http://www.birdpop.org/pages/maps.php>
- *Silent Spring: A Sequel?* <http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/National-Wildlife/Birds/Archives/2003/Silent-Spring-A-Sequel.aspx>
 - The article includes maps showing the current and projected ranges for two common species found in WNY: the Baltimore oriole and American goldfinch.
- Video regarding changes in black-capped and Carolina chickadee ranges linked to climate change: https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/chickadee-study-shows-climate-change-affecting-distribution/#_ga=1.222095632.982132747.1423768779

Student-Led Activities

Food for the Brood p. 212

This relay race demonstrates how hard it is to feed young birds. To add a climate change component to the activity:

- 1) Hold the relay race once so students get the hang of it.
- 2) Explain that for one of the bird teams, spring arrived early to their winter home to due to climate change. This “tricked” the birds into migrating north to nest and lay eggs earlier than usual. Because the berries they normally feed the babies aren’t ready yet, they have to forage further from their nest to find food. Move that team’s water bucket farther from the finish line than the other teams’ water bucket. Hold the relay race again.
- 3) How did this change affect the team’s ability to get food? What might really happen to birds in this situation?

Bird Hurdles p. 216

Climate change can cause storms, including hurricanes and snowstorms, to be more severe. Add this “Fate Card” to the other cards:
“Your Fate...

At night you started to migrate toward your winter home (many birds migrate after dark). After a few miles you encountered a “Superstorm” caused by climate change. The extremely high winds blew you toward a cliff. Sorry, you didn’t make it through the day.”

Volunteer-Led Activity

Jeop-Birdy p. 181

Add a "Climate Connections" category to both regular and double jeep- birdy rounds.

	"ANSWERS"	"QUESTIONS"
\$100	Humans contribute to climate change by burning these.	What are fossil fuels?
\$200	The three R's that can help birds & help the environment.	What are reduce, reuse and recycle?
\$300	We can help birds by using less of this.	What is energy?
\$400	Birds that live on the ocean shore may be harmed by this climate change impact.	What is rising sea levels?
\$500	As the climate changes, migrating birds may arrive too early at their nesting grounds to find this.	What is food?

Double Jeop-birdy:

	"ANSWERS"	"QUESTIONS"
\$200	A long period of reduced rainfall or snowfall, made more severe by climate change and a threat to ducks	What is drought?
\$400	If steps aren't taken to slow climate change, this may happen to many bird species	What is extinction?
\$600	The geographic area in which a bird species lives, which may change as the climate warms.	What is range, or distribution?
\$800	People help birds by purchasing this kind of energy from their utility.	What is green energy or renewable energy?
\$1000	Purchasing this kind of coffee can help protect bird habitat	What is shade-grown coffee?

Additional Resource:

Changing Climate, Greening Energy: An Eagle's Eye View written by Laury Zicari and Kristen Randall of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. This activity book aimed at grade 4 and up includes information about wind turbines and birds.

<https://www.fws.gov/northeast/pdf/coloringactivity.pdf>