

Migration Mapping

Please use this checklist to confirm that all of the parts of this station are in this bag both when it is unpacked before the OSF Science Night AND when it is re-packed after your event.

- Table sign, laminated
- Explanation /What to Do sheet, laminated
- 16 data cards, laminated (8 yellow-edged for Canada warbler, 8 black-edged for Summer Tanager)
- 16 disks, laminated with Velcro on the back (8 yellow-edged with picture of Canada Warbler, 8 black-edged with picture of Summer Tanager)

You will need to set up the Passport Question with Blackburnian Warbler at this station. It can be found in the PASSPORT bag.

The "Migration Mapping" display board with its title board should also be placed at this station. The map in the center of the display board has Velcro at 14 locations marked with city, state or country names.

What you will need to provide for this activity station:

- Tape to attach table sign

MIGRATION MAPPING

Background/Explanation:

Some birds live in North America during the warm months of spring, summer, and fall. They build nests and raise their young here. When the weather starts to turn cold in the winter, they migrate to Central and South America where it is warm and food is plentiful. In order to get where they are going they must travel very long distances, sometimes tens of thousands of miles!

During their travels, migrating birds encounter many obstacles, such as power lines, predators, and storms. Before they begin their journeys, they must stock up on fuel (food), enough to last them for much longer distances than they normally fly. They are able to make stops to eat along the way, however, sometimes they fly over large bodies of water where there is no place to stop.

Sometimes scientists catch birds and “band” them. This means that they put a very lightweight loose-fitting band on one of the bird’s legs. It doesn’t hurt the bird at all, but it helps scientists learn more about migration. Another scientist in another part of the world may see a banded bird and know from where it came.

What You Will Do:

Participants will choose a Data Card for one of two bird types (yellow or black). Using the information on the card, they will track the migration route of that species of bird by putting a bird badge of the same color on the map at the geographic location mentioned on the card. Each participant can follow the entire route of a bird or participants can work together. By participating in this activity, they will get a better understanding of just how far neo-tropical migrants get to their destinations. Amazing!

What You Need:

- o Display with map of western hemisphere
- o Data cards (set of yellow and set of black)
- o Bird disks (set of yellow and set of black)

What To Do:

1. Explain concept and rules of the game.
2. Have participant choose yellow or black Data Cards and badges.
3. Participant should read one card and locate on the map the geographic location mentioned on the card.
4. Ask participant to stick a badge of the same color as Data Card onto the Velcro on the map at the correct geographic location.
5. When participants are finished, remove Data Cards and badges from the map.