

Migratory Bird Hats

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 signs, laminated
- Explanation/ What to Do sheet, laminated
- Sample Bird Hat
- Pattern for Beaks
- Pattern for Head, Wings & Tail

What you will need to provide for this activity station:

- Tape to attach sign
- Staplers and extra staples
- 6-8 pair Scissors
- Copies of Beak on Yellow paper
- Copies of Head, Wing, Tail patterns on colored paper (brown for Broad-winged Hawk, red for Summer Tanager, etc.)
- Strips of colored paper ~2" wide for hat bands

MIGRATORY BIRD HATS

Explanation/Background:

In North America there are 350 species of birds that migrate, or move from one place to another. Of these, 250 species migrate between the forests of Latin America and North America. These birds are called neo-tropical migrants. There are 10 neo-tropical migrants highlighted by the Our Shared Forests program that are found in both Ecuador and Georgia. They spend their winters in South America where it is warm and food is plentiful and return to North America to nest in the spring and summer. These are birds that you and someone in South America could both see in your own backyards! These birds are:

Acadian Flycatcher	Black-and-White Warbler
American Redstart	Canada Warbler
Swallowtail Kite	Red-eyed Vireo
Summer Tanager	Eastern Wood Pewee
Blackburnian Warbler	Broad-winged Hawk

By learning what these birds look like and their habits, we may be able to recognize them when they come to visit.

What You Will Do:

Students will make a simple hat to wear at Science Night. It is suggested to provide materials for a minimal number of bird choices to mimic for hats. Suggested birds with simple colorings are the summer tanager, the Blackburnian Warbler, and the Broad-winged Hawk. Other birds and colors may be chosen and instructions adjusted. Simpler is better with a large group of people.

What You Will Need:

- Construction paper - red, black, yellow, brown, orange (for suggested birds above)
- Hat bands cut from construction paper
- Template for cutting out wings, tails, and heads and template for beaks.
- Tape or about 4 staplers and staples
- Pen
- Descriptions and/or pictures of migratory birds

What To Do:

Set-up:

1. Activity leaders should choose two to three birds after which to fashion bird hats. Good examples are Summer Tanager, Blackburnian Warbler, and Broad-winged Hawk. (Different birds can be chosen for hats requiring different colors of paper, or students can be allowed to design their own hat after pictures of migratory birds).

2. For hat bands, cut construction paper of each color (red, white and /or brown) into 2 inch wide strips. Depending on length of paper, two strips may need to be joined to reach around the head. Join the strips on one end with a stapler or tape. Leave the other end unconnected until it is put on the student's head.
3. Cut out wings, tails, and heads using templates. (All red for tanager, all brown for hawk, and black wings and tail with yellow head for warbler.)
4. Cut out beaks (orange) and attach head stapler or tape.
5. Complete one hat of each type to be examples.

Activity:

1. Allow students to read descriptions and look at pictures of migratory birds. Ask them choose a bird.
2. Fit the hat band around the student's head and staple or tape.
3. Remove from student's head.
4. Attach the head, tail, and wings by stapling or taping.
4. Attach the beak with staple or tape.
5. Draw eyes with pen.
5. Encourage student to be that migratory bird for the science festival.

DESCRIPTIONS OF OSF MIGRATORY BIRDS

Summer Tanager - *Piranga rubra*

Summer Tanagers males are red, and females have olive backs with yellow underneath and gray wings and tail.

They live in the treetops and eat mostly insects caught in the air.

Blackburnian Warbler - *Dendroica fusca*

This warbler is boldly black and white striped with a white wing patch. The male has an orange throat, and the female has a yellow throat.

Blackburnian Warblers are usually found high in trees. At times they may be seen at the ends of branches, looking in leaves for bugs or caterpillars. Its song sounds like “zip, zip, t, t, t”.

Broad-winged Hawk - *Buteo platypterus*

The Broad-winged Hawk is a stocky, pigeon-sized hawk. It is brown above, with a rusty color below, and has broad black-and-white stripes on its tail.

This hawk lives high in the treetops of woods. It migrates in large numbers, sometimes thousands at a time, into Central and South America. Its food consists mainly of snakes, mice, frogs, and insects.

Acadian Flycatcher - *Empidonax virescens*

The Acadian flycatcher is an olive-green songbird with a long and slightly forked tail, white wing bars, and a yellowish belly. It has a triangular head and white rings around its eyes. It is less than 5 inches long, slightly larger than a house sparrow.

This bird needs large areas of mature undisturbed forest. It avoids forest edges. The bird lives in the understory of woods. Today, there is relatively little habitat remaining for this species.

Red-eyed Vireo - *Vireo olivaceus*

This bird is olive and gray above and has white underparts. It has a white eyebrow and a red eye.

It eats mostly insects in the summer in the United States and fruit in the winter in Central and South America. Its call sounds like “myahh”, like a cat.

Canada Warbler - *Wilsonia canadensis*

The Canada male is solid gray above and yellow below. It has yellow rings around its eyes and a black-spotted "necklace". The female is similar but duller, with only a trace of necklace.

It eats mostly flying insects, including mosquitoes, flies, moths, and beetles, and also small caterpillars and spiders. It is active and alert and hops and climbs along branches. When one male is not in agreement with another male, it exhibits a "wing display". The males face each other with their necks forward and their wings held out to the side.

Swallow-tailed Kite - *Elanoides forficatus*

The Swallow-tailed Kite has long pointed wings and a deeply forked tail. Its head and underparts are white. Its back, wings, and tail are black.

The Swallow-tailed Kite is the most aerial of our birds of prey. It catches much of its food while flying. It snatches lizards from the trunks of trees, eats what it has caught while flying, drinks by skimming the surface of ponds and marshes, and even gathers nesting material by breaking dead twigs from the tops of trees as it flies past.

Black-and-white Warbler - *Mniotilta varia*

This warbler is black with white streaks. The male has a black throat, and the female has a white throat.

It creeps up and down tree trunks to catch insects in the cracks of the bark. Its song sounds like "we see, we see, we see".

American Redstart - *Setophago ruticilla*

The American Redstart males are black with bright orange patches wings and tail and a white belly. Females and young birds are dull olive-brown above, white below, with yellow wing and tail patches.

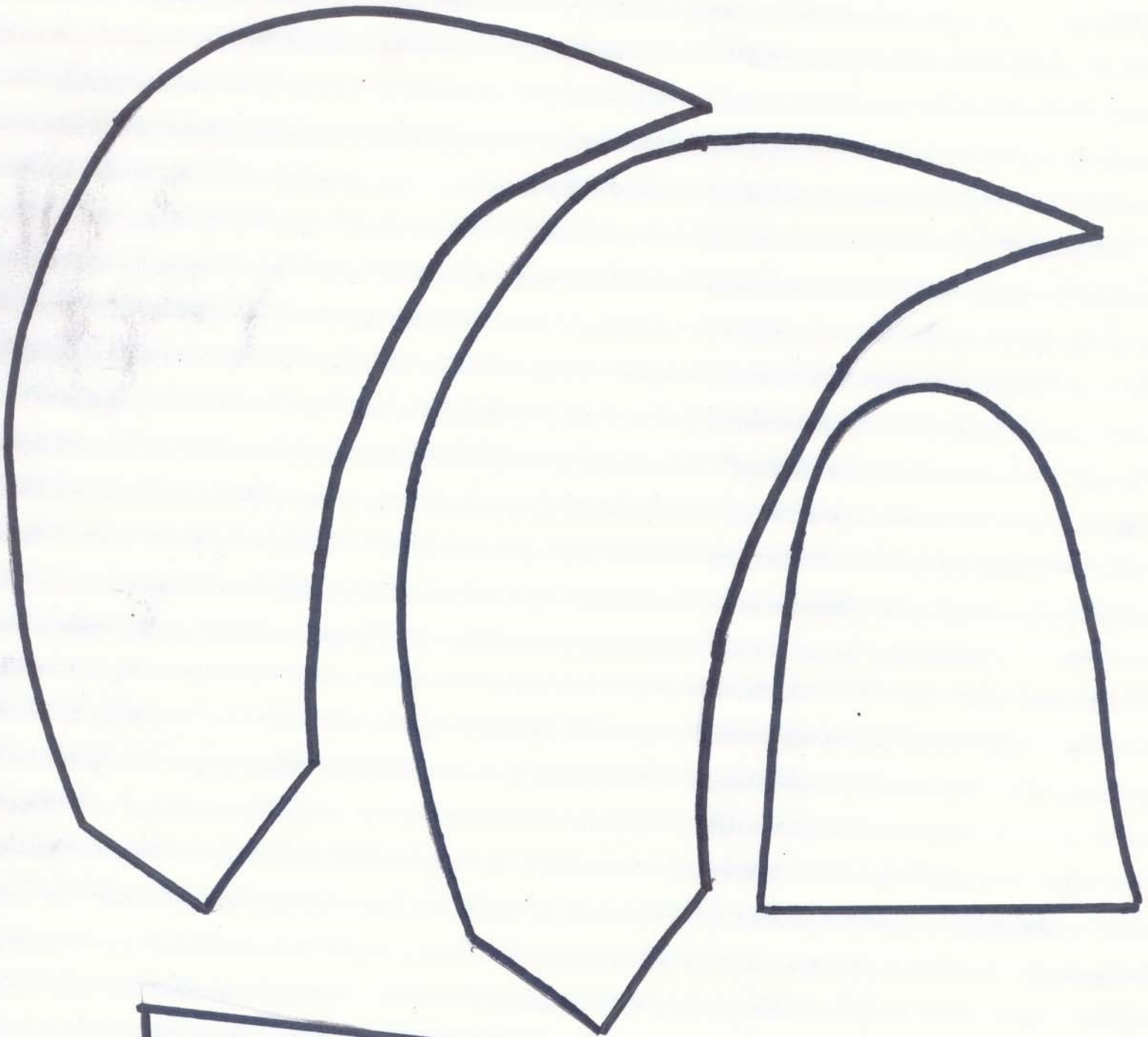
This bird likes second-growth woods which covers much of the land, so it is one of the most numerous warblers in North America. The American Redstart has a distinctive habit of dropping down suddenly in pursuit of a flying insect, then fanning its brightly marked tail from side to side.

Eastern Wood-pewee - *Contopus virens*

This bird is grayish-olive. It has a triangular head, and its lower beak is bright yellow. It has two white stripes on its wings.

It lives high in the treetops and eats insects. Its song sounds like "pee-ah-wee".

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BEAKS



HEAD, TAIL, WINGS