

CHICO CREEK NATURE CENTER– BIRDS OF BIDWELL PARK

Focus: In this program, we conduct a bird survey, like scientists do to monitor bird populations. We are doing “citizen science” that shows trends in the health of bird communities.

We will listen and look for birds, identify them, count how many are in an area, and write that information down on a list. (There will be one list taker.) That information will be loaded into a database to track bird populations. They will spend time in the lab learning how to identify some common birds of Lower Bidwell Park’s rich creekside habitat by identifying marks and voice. Each student will have a pair of full sized binoculars, which we will learn how to use. Then we’ll go into the field and search for our “target birds,” in various habitats. This is a great trip year-round, especially for the winter with fewer leaves on the trees.

Pre/Post-visit Activities:

Pictorial guide to Birds of the Chico Creek Nature Center to familiarize students with the most common birds. Research/reports on birds they saw (allaboutbirds.org is a good resource). Exploration of e-bird data, uploading of bird lists.

Science Content Standards:

Grade 3	Grade 4
<p>Life Sciences</p> <p>3. Adaptations in physical structure and behavior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) different structures serve different functions b) examples of diverse life in different environments c) living things cause changes in their environments <p>Science Investigation and Experimentation Skills: Observing, comparing, relating form and function.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. All organisms need energy and matter to live and grow. b) Producers and consumers are related in food chains 3. Living organisms depend on one another c) many plants depend on animals for pollination and seed dispersal

Grade 5	Grade 6
<p>Investigation and Experimentation</p> <p>6. Asking questions and conducting careful investigations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) classification 	<p>Life Sciences</p> <p>5. Ecology: Organisms in ecosystems exchange energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) matter is transferred from one organism to others c) organisms can be categorized by the functions they serve e) number and types of organisms an ecosystem can support depends on the resources available

