

AVIARY TOUR

- Elementary, Middle
- 30 minutes
- Park Aviary

OVERVIEW

In this experience, students will tour the park aviary, read and report about each bird, discuss bird facts, and identify lingering questions for an expert. Students may see live example of birds in their protected park habitat.

All birds in the park aviary serve as animal ambassadors.

SAFETY + SETTING

1. Protect yourself by keeping a safe distance from all live animals
2. Protect the birds by keeping hands and items out of the aviary
3. Use calm voices and self-managed movements around the aviary
4. Respect others using the space



ACADEMIC STANDARDS

3.LS4.1 Explain the cause and effect relationship between a naturally changing environment and an organism's ability to survive.

5.LS4.2 Use evidence to construct an explanation for how variations in characteristics among individuals within the same species may provide advantages to these individuals in their survival and reproduction.

AVIARY TOUR

STEPS

1. Have students be Science Reporters and read/report information about each bird in the aviary

Information about birds is located on permanent park signs as well as laminated cards from Park Ranger

2. Lead a discussion about information reported

3. Identify the group's top 3 questions for an expert

4. Spend 10 minutes asking a Park Ranger your top 3 questions or submit them in writing after your field trip

5. Return laminated info cards

RETURN MATERIALS

After you have finished your teacher-led experience, return all supplies to the park's Visitor Center.



DON'T FORGET!

- Use calm voices around the birds
- Keep a safe distance from all live animals
- Report your favorite fact to a friend



RED-TAILED HAWK

Red-tailed Hawks are the largest hawk species in the area.

Their eyesight is up to 8 times more powerful as a human's.

Their call is used for bald eagle calls in movies.

HABITAT

Scrub deserts, plains, fields, and woodlands.

Often seen on highest tree, post, or powerlines near fields.

RANGE

Found throughout the United States, Canada, and into Mexico and Central America.



BLACK VULTURE

Vultures are scavengers - nature's clean-up crew.

Their long hooked bills are designed to tear pieces of food.

Vultures mude (excrete waste) on their legs. This helps them stay cool in the summer. Vulture waste is very acidic. Having waste on their feet helps keep their feet germ free when eating rotten meat.

HABITAT

Vultures like to roost (sleep) in nests in forests, but forage (hunt for food) in open country.

RANGE

Found in Southeastern United States, Central America, and much of South America.



AMERICAN KESTREL

Smallest falcon in North America

Kestrels can see UV light! This allows them to easily find prey by tracking fresh urine from mice and voles.

Kestrels hide food to eat when they are unable to locate prey.

Kestrels are often called Sparrow Hawks.

HABITAT

Kestrels are found in pastures, plains, meadows, and fields that have cavities for nesting and perches for hunting.

RANGE

Found in North America, Central America and many areas of South America.



GREAT HORNED OWL

Have a terrible sense of smell and will even eat skunks!

They only weigh about 5 pounds, but can carry up to 3 times their weight!

Often steal nests from squirrels, hawks, herons or even eagles!

HABITAT

Great Horned Owls live in deserts, wetlands, forests, grasslands, backyards, cities, and more!

RANGE

Found in North America, Central America and many areas of South America.



EASTERN SCREECH OWL

These owls come in 2 color phases: red and gray. Over 70% of Screech Owls in TN are red phase.

When threatened, they will stretch out their body and tighten their feathers to look like a branch snag.

They are fast fliers and have a steady wingbeat of 5 beats per second!

In the wild they have the most varied diet of any owl in North America! They will eat insects, crayfish, earthworms, reptiles, fish, amphibians, and small mammals.

HABITAT

They prefer woodlands that are near open clearings, meadows, and fields to hunt.

RANGE

Eastern Screech Owls are found east of the Rocky Mountains all the way to the East Coast!



TURKEY VULTURE

They have an extraordinary sense of smell! The large opening on their beak helps them bring in large amounts of air to smell.

Turkey Vultures are the only scavenger birds that can't kill their prey.

They prefer fresh meat and will not eat extremely rotted carcasses.

HABITAT

They are found in a variety of open and forested habitats, but unlike Black Vultures, they avoid cities and towns.

RANGE

Found in North America, Central America and South America.



BARRED OWL

Their hatching order often determines chick size. The first to hatch will be the largest and the last will be the runt of the clutch.

Barred Owls mostly eat mice and voles, but they also enjoy fish and crayfish!

Barred Owls get their name from their bar pattern on their chest and abdomen.

HABITAT

Barred Owls prefer mature forests that have trees with cavities for nesting.

RANGE

Typically found on the east half of North America, but have begun to spread across Canada to the Pacific Northwest.