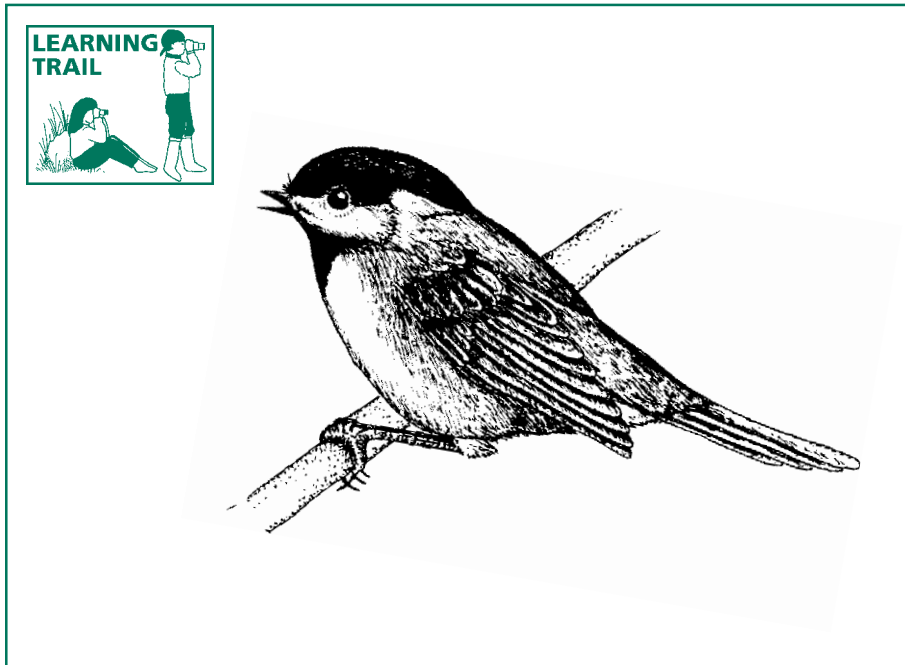


Forest Bird Song Tag

Section 3 FOREST ACTIVITIES



Grade Level: 2-12

State Standards: SA-12

Subjects: Language arts, music, physical education

Skills: Listening, memory, concentrating

Duration: 15 minutes in class; 15 in game

Group Size: Entire class

Setting: Indoors & outdoors

Objectives:

Students will practice listening skills and learn to recognize the songs of forest birds common in your area.

Complementary Activity:

"Forest Sounds" in this section.

Materials:

Tape recorder; tape recorded songs of forest birds. There are a variety of records and tapes of bird songs available. Check with local libraries, museums, or bird watchers to borrow a copy, or purchase a copy (see following *Curriculum Connections and Teacher Resources*).

Procedure:

IN ADVANCE, use or make a tape recording of 6-8 songs of common forest birds. Record the songs (see lists below) along with the announcements of the birds' names on the tape. This portion of the tape will be used to teach students the bird songs.

Make a second tape recording with several repetitions of these songs in mixed order, without the name

announcements. This portion of your tape will be used to play the game outdoors.

1. IN THE CLASSROOM, review the bird songs with students. Repeat the review immediately before going outside to play the game. You will want students to recognize the bird songs on your tape.

2. PLAY BIRD SONG TAG.

Divide the class into two teams, the Hawks and the Songbirds. Place markers showing the "Home Base of the Hawks," the "Home Base of the Songbirds," and a "Home Free" spot. Place these markers in a triangle at distances apart that are appropriate for your students. Have each team stand on or near its home base. Explain the **rules of the game**:

(a) Call out the name of a bird that is recorded on the tape.

(b) All students must listen carefully while you play the bird song tape. When the song of the bird you named is played, the Songbirds must run towards the "Home Free" spot, and the Hawks must chase them.



(c) If a Songbird gets to the “Home Free” spot without being tagged by a Hawk, he survives and returns to the Songbird home base. If he is tagged, he becomes a Hawk.

(d) If a Hawk catches a Songbird to eat, she remains a Hawk and returns to the Hawk home base with her prey (who becomes a Hawk). If a Hawk does not catch a Songbird, she dies; her minerals are returned to the soil and are taken up by a plant whose seeds are eaten by a Songbird. In other words, starved Hawks become Songbirds.

(e) If either a Songbird or a Hawk runs out at the wrong song, he returns to his home base and takes two big steps backwards (*that is, moves farther away from the “Home Free” base*).

(f) The team with the most players at the end of the game wins. The end of the game is whenever you decide it should end.

3. Remind students that when they are on the *Forest Learning Trail* or outside anytime, if they are quiet and listen, they may hear these birds.

NOTE OF CAUTION: If you are doing this activity in late spring as birds set up and defend nesting territories, be respectful if the tape draws an upset songbird trying to chase away the recorded competition.

Curriculum Connections:

(See appendix for full citations)

Books:

Guide to the Birds of Alaska (Armstrong)

Media:

Bird Songs of Alaska (CD) (Peyton)

Western Bird Songs (CD) (Peterson)

Teacher Resources:

(See appendix)

Suggested Songs

Suggested songs—Boreal Forest

Any woodpecker of Alaska
(chirp and drumming)
Gray Jay
Common Raven
Black-capped Chickadee
Common Redpoll
Pine Grosbeak
Great Horned Owl
Spruce Grouse

Suggested songs—Coastal Forest

Any woodpecker of Alaska
(chirp and drumming)
Common Raven
Northwestern Crow
Steller's Jay
Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Pine Siskin
Winter Wren
Blue Grouse
Varied Thrush

