

Bird Watching - A Beginning



OSU EXTENSION
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Objectives

- Participants will learn about bird watching

Background

Bird watching is one of the largest and fastest growing leisure activities in the world. An estimated 80 million people of all ages and physical abilities are involved in some manner of bird watching. Bird watching is second only to gardening as a favorite leisure activity in North America. In fact, bird watching is rated as the number-one spectator sport in North America!

Bird watchers range from those who simply enjoy viewing birds at their backyard feeder to those that plan extensive trips to increase the number of birds that they have seen and identified. Regardless of the level of involvement, bird watching provides an economic benefit as the average bird watcher spends an estimated \$1,000 annually in pursuit of their hobby.

Many people who get into bird watching may not start out with the idea of being a bird watcher. They may see a bird in their backyard and want to be able to identify what kind of bird it is. Or maybe someone hands them some binoculars and points out a beautiful bird to them. Now they are hooked and want to learn more and more!

The following lesson are intended to serve as an introduction to bird watching. In these lessons you will learn about binoculars, methods and techniques used to identify birds, and where to look for certain birds.

Whether this becomes a backyard hobby or develops into a full blown obsession, we hope you find these lessons useful in your bird watching endeavors!

Materials:

- Handout

Life Skill:

- Learning to Learn

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