Join CNC to celebrate Earth Day 2020 learning all about raptors

Video: Learn about raptors and the Red-shouldered Hawk

Description: Learn about the unique characteristics of raptors and the Red-shouldered Hawk. You will learn why they are called Red-shouldered Hawks and how they are different from a Red-tailed Hawk, plus you will see raptor adaptations up close.

Share the video with your students, along with the activity guide, to enhance their learning experience and keep them connected to nature.

Raptors
- Look at several bird feet and match with the raptor (see Matching Sheet attached).
- Spring has sprung and raptors have babies in their nests. See if you can help the baby raptors find their adults.
- Learn more about Red-shouldered Hawks
- What to do if you find a baby animal

How to get started backyard birding - you don’t have to be an expert.

Steam Activities:

The first Earth Day was April 22, 1970. Visit the Earth Day website to learn how and why Earth Day started.

Here are some activities to do to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

1. Spend 20 minutes outside to observe some birds around you. You can use binoculars if you have them. Identify some different colors, sounds and even flight patterns.
2. How can you make the area around you healthier for birds? Create a nesting box and put in soft materials to make a nest: Laundry lint, hair from a hairbrush, pet hair. Or simply put these supplies outside for birds to find to make a nest.
3. Leave some piles of leaves or pine straw and decomposing sticks or natural debris. Animals need small hiding places and birds often catch and eat these smaller animals.
Look at the photos below of raptor feet. Match the feet to the photo of the bird by drawing a line to connect them.
Crafting a Birdhouse from a Milk Carton

Making a birdhouse is a great way to use your imagination, practice fine motor skills, and work with your hands. For an inexpensive activity you can construct a birdhouse out of recycled materials found around the house. Consider repurposing and upcycling items like a milk carton or clean plastic container. Instructions and links are below for help in constructing a birdhouse.

https://kinderart.com/art-lessons/crafts/milk-carton-birdhouse/

How to Make a Milk Carton Birdhouse - YouTube

What You Need:

- Milk carton
- Stapler and staples
- Masking tape
- A soft cloth, rag or chamois
- Brown paint (acrylic is best) watered down
- Scissors or a knife (and adult assistance)
- Twine

What You Do:

1. Clean and dry the milk carton thoroughly.
2. Staple the top of the carton shut.
3. Tear off small pieces of masking tape and cover the entire carton with the pieces of tape.
4. Using a soft cloth, rub brown paint all over the tape-covered carton. This will give the carton a rough, bark-like finish.
5. Cut a hole (WITH ADULT ASSISTANCE) about 4” above the bottom of the carton. The hole should be approximately 1” to 1 1/2” in diameter. This hole is for the birds to get in and out of the house.
6. Poke a few drainage holes in the bottom of the carton and two ventilation holes in the top of the carton.
7. Poke a hole on opposite sides of carton and stick a twig through both sides for a perch.
8. Poke a hole through the top of the feeder, string a piece of twine through the hole and hang your feeder on a tree.