



TRUCKEE MEADOWS PARKS FOUNDATION

AWARENESS • APPRECIATION • STEWARDSHIP

Student Stewards Program: *Truckee Meadows Bird Count*

Location: *[Name of]* School and *[Name of]* Park

Duration: 3-5 hours per semester or season

Grade: 5th

Students learn to identify and count the different species of birds at Virginia Lake. Their observations are recorded and graphed to establish a baseline to be presented to the City of Reno and Lahontan Audubon Society.

Question: *Is the number of bird species or individuals going to change when the City of Reno's Water Improvement Project is implemented?*

Key Concepts

- Biodiversity, species richness, and abundance of birds
- Bird habitat and how it might change once the island is removed or altered
- How birds change the environment of the lake and park

Activities

- Learning how to identify different birds
- Counting and recording the number of birds
- Recording observations in Nature Journal
- Using Nature Journal and hand outs to write a short essay
- Graphing and analyzing the collected data
- Pre and post evaluation

During the introductory classroom lesson the TMPF member explains who they are, administers a pre-survey, explains the vocabulary words and concepts, and presents how to identify the different birds. The lesson in the park involves students identifying and counting the number of birds they see in a designated area. The concluding hour entails graphing and analyzing data, meeting a local scientist, and post-survey.

Standards:

NGSS

- 5-ESS2-1
- ESS2.A

ELA

- 5RI4
- 5W2

Math

- 5.OA2
- 5.NBT5
- 5.G1
- 5.G2

Vocabulary:

- Species richness
- Habitat
- Niche
- Biodiversity
- Abundance
- Biogeology
- Ecosystem
- Climate Change