

PREPARING YOUR STUDENTS FOR SCIENTISTS IN ACTION: BIRD BRAINED

1. Watch one or both of these videos featuring ornithologists from Bird Conservancy of the Rockies and the Denver Museum of Nature & Science.
 - Feathers of the Future (18 minutes): <https://vimeo.com/257024783>
 - Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (10 minutes): <https://vimeo.com/50148985>
2. Have your students work in small groups to develop questions for ornithologists Meredith McBurney and Dr. Garth Spellman. Use these tips to encourage critical thinking:
 - Explore your reaction to the videos. What surprised you? What new questions arose?
 - Ornithologists use many different methods to study bird bodies and behaviors. Think of questions about these strategies and tools.
 - Think about a time you saw a bird in your neighborhood, at your school, or somewhere else. How did that bird look? What was it doing? Think of questions about your experience.
 - Avoid questions that can be answered with *yes* or *no*.

IF YOU WANT TO DIG DEEPER...

1. Visit <https://www.3billionbirds.org/7-simple-actions> to see what simple steps you can take to help birds thrive!
2. Get outside and go birdwatching, or find a bird banding station near you to observe ornithologists in action. Check out these links to get started:
 - For students in Colorado and Nebraska: <https://birdconservancy.org/what-we-do/education/bird-banding/>
 - For students elsewhere, look for an Audubon Society chapter near you: <https://www.audubon.org/about/audubon-near-you>
3. Download a free app to identify birds in your area and learn where they migrate. Try these!
 - Merlin Bird ID from Cornell University: <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>
 - The Audubon Bird Guide from National Audubon Society: <https://www.audubon.org/app>
4. Try some of these activities to learn more about migration:
 - Take part in a citizen science project and explore educational resources at <https://www.birds.cornell.edu/k12/>.
 - (For younger groups) Play this migration game from PBS Kids: https://pbskids.org/plumlanding/educators/activities/pdf/MigrationChallenge_FAA_Eng_Span.pdf
 - (For older groups): check the migration forecast at <http://birdcast.info/> and see what birds might pass through your town tonight.