



Activity: Imaginary Birds

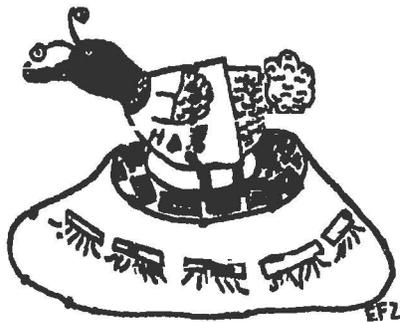
Objective: Students will investigate and illustrate ways birds are adapted to their environment.

Materials: Crayons, markers, oil crayons, and paper

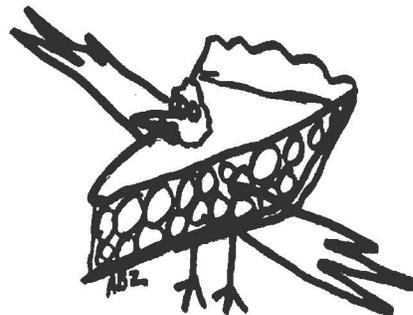
Background: As the students think about the characteristics of birds, show them examples of birds as drawn by wildlife artists such as John James Audubon, Louis Agassiz Fuertes, Peter Parnall, and some of Iowa's own artists such as Maynard Reece, Larry Zach, Jack Hahn, and John Bald. Two books of fanciful birds have been published by Peachtree Publishers in Atlanta, Georgia. *Field Guide to Little-known and Seldom-seen Birds of North America* (1988) and *Another Field Guide to Little-known and Seldom-seen Birds of North America*, (1990) were written by Cathryn, Ben, and John Sill. Another fun book is *Ice Cream Cone Coot and Other Rare Birds* (1971) by Arnold Lobel published by Parents May Press in New York.

Have the students review the activities "What Makes a Bird a Bird," "Where Would a Bird Be Without Its Bill?" and "Discovering Behaviors." Have the students organize the information and compare the various features of birds. Using the characteristics from the activities mentioned, have the students draw or construct imaginary birds, incorporating different adaptations.

For example:
a bird that
flies twice as
fast as an
airplane



Name: *Faster Than Light Saucer*



For example:
a bird you
might want
to eat

Name: *Pie-d Peeper*

Procedure: This activity can be done with students working in groups or individually. Cut out the suggestions and have students draw their imaginary bird from a hat. The students should label their paper with the name of the bird, what it eats, how it eats, how it gets water, what animal will eat the bird, where it lives, how it moves, how it defends itself, and what special adaptations it has to survive. Backgrounds can be added to demonstrate the relationships between the bird and its environment.

After the drawings are completed, ask the students to share them with the class and discuss their bird's characteristics and adaptations.



Activity: Invent a Bird That:

1. You might want to eat
2. You wouldn't want to eat
3. Doesn't look like a bird
4. You wouldn't want to touch
5. Is good at attracting girlfriends or boyfriends
6. Lives on another bird
7. Moves backwards as fast as it moves forwards
8. Weighs more than you do
9. Doesn't lay eggs
10. Flies north for the winter
11. Doesn't fly
12. Makes sounds like the wind
13. Can see both in front and in back of itself
14. Is active only at night
15. Lives in the mud
16. Lives in the desert
17. Lives in the snow
18. Lives underground
19. Flies twice as fast as an airplane
20. Has no feathers
21. Can outrun you
22. Moves very slowly
23. Lives in a large group
24. Eats other birds
25. Eats plants
26. Lives alone
27. Smells good
28. Smells awful