

## WHAT BIRD IS THAT?

### Objectives

For students to use a map and find 20 birds local to the Murray region.

### Duration

40 minutes

### Group Size

20-30 students

### Materials

- What Bird is That Worksheet (photocopied for each student)
- Bird signs
- Blue tack
- Pencil for each student (not provided)
- Clip board for each student (not provided in kit)
- A map of the school grounds or designated area (photocopied for each student, once numbered).

### Background

In this activity students learn how to read a map to find 20 different species of birds placed around their school grounds.

Birds can be commonly found in certain locations in the wild, depending on what they like to eat or where they live (habitat). Some of these locations can include: high up in trees, on a perch, in a small tree, near water, on the ground or in a shrub (short bushy plant).

The birds within this activity can be commonly found in the following locations:

- Kookaburra – on a perch or song post (perch to sing from)
- Eastern Rosella – In a small tree
- Little Egret – Near water
- Willie Wagtail – On the ground
- Grey Fan Tail – In a shrub
- Superb Fairy Wren – In a dense shrub
- Striated Pardalote – In a shrub or on the ground
- Nankeen Kestrel – Up high on a perch
- Blue-faced Honey Eater – In a small tree
- Rainbow Bee Eater – In a small tree (flowering if possible)
- Dollarbird – In a hollow or low in a large tree
- Brown Tree-creeper – On the side of a tree
- Peaceful Dove – On the ground
- Dusky Wood Swallow – In a small tree
- Black Shouldered Kite – Up high on a perch
- Scarlet Robin – In a shrub
- Bronze Wing Pigeon – Under a shrub (a wattle if possible)
- Rufous Whistler – Up high in a tree
- Magpie Lark – On the ground
- Tawny Frogmouth – Camouflaged in a dead tree

### Activity Set up

Before beginning the activity, source a map of the school grounds or the designated search area. Contained in this kit is an example of a suitable map from Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre.

Mount the bird pictures to a tree, or suitable object using blue tack. If possible, place the pictures in a location the bird would naturally be found (as of the information provided in the 'Background').

Photocopy the What Bird is That worksheet for each student.

Before photocopying the map mark the map with a number to show where you have placed each bird sign (see the example map for more information). While doing this record the numbers of each bird (corresponding to the numbers on the map) in the worksheet to keep as an answer sheet.

Once the map contains numbers to represent the location of each bird, photocopy enough for each student.

## LESSON PLAN

### Introduction (5 minutes)

Explain to the students that they will be using a map to find bird signs of birds native to the Murray region.

Explain that the birds will be found in places where they can be naturally commonly found.

### Activity (30 minutes)

1. Hand out sheets, maps, clipboards and pencils to students.
2. Explain that bird signs have been mounted around the school or designated area and marked on the map with a number.
3. Explain to the students the area that contains the birds, using the map to make it clear.
4. Explain that each student will use the numbers on the map to find each bird sign. Once they have found the sign they must place the correct number on the worksheet in the box provided to match the bird they have found.
5. Ask if there are any questions before you start the activity.

6. Once students are comfortable with what they have to do, begin the activity.

### Conclusion (5 minutes)

When all students have completed the activity, go through the answers as a group.

Find out what the students have learnt by asking questions.

For example:

- Which bird likes to live near water?
- Which bird can usually be found on the ground?
- Which bird can be found on a perch?
- Were any bird signs difficult to find?
- What have you learnt from the activity?

Once the activity is complete, ensure that **all** bird signs are collected so they can be used again.

### More information

For more information on birds visit the Birds in Backyards website on:  
<http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>

For more information on this lesson plan contact Sandy Dellwo, Land Services Officer – Education on 03 5880 1415.

### Acknowledgments

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© State of New South Wales through Local Land Services 2014. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing November 2014. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of Local Land Services or the user's independent adviser. For updates go to [www.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au)