

STUDENT LECTURE- THE CRASH COURSE IN BIRDS

Birds are everywhere, and have conquered every corner of the planet. There are many different species of birds, ranging from EMU's to Penguins, to Peregrine Falcons. No matter where you are in the world, you will find a unique variety of birds to that region. Florida is one place that is very blessed with a large diversity of beautiful birds. One of many birds, the Florida Scrub Jay, is a species with a small population that is only found in certain areas of Florida. Nowhere else is it found.

Bird watching is an activity people of all ages do. It is rewarding, but lots of patience is required. A good memory is helpful too, for identifying what bird you just saw fly by. One of the most important aspects of identifying a bird is using their "scientific name". A scientific name is a sort of second name for an animal. A scientific name is a two-part name that is in Latin containing its Genus and Species type. These names are usually long and hard to remember, so it is best to write them down. Here are two examples.

The red-tailed Hawk: *Bubo jamaicensis*

The Eared Grebe: *Podiceps nigricollis*

Scientific names are also important for communication and more often than not, break the language barrier.

Birds are apart of the class Aves, and are not Mammals. Birds can fend for themselves in the wild, but it is all right to feed them birdseed. Most people choose to feed birds through bird feeders. However, you must by pepper-treated birdseed, or the squirrels will probably eat it all! One most important thing is, you should not feed birds anything besides seed and sometimes bread. Birds have different digestive tracks than Mammals, and feeding them things such as rice or candy can kill them.

Well, now that you have learned all you can for now, keep bird watching! Also, do not forget to draw these birds in your notebooks!