

Unit 4



Week 2

Outdoor Learning Opportunities:

Winter Birds

Standards:
M.MD.PS.1
S.LS.PS.1-6



Materials:

- Pictures of colorful birds that stay around in the winter and might be found at a birdfeeder in Maine such as a cardinal, chickadee, goldfinch, or blue jay.
- Binoculars
- Audubon First Field Guide for Birds
- Birdfeeders and seeds
- *About Birds* by Cathryn Sill
- *Backyard Birds* by Robert Bateman
- Bird journal with list of birds

Vocabulary:

- Cardinal
- Chickadee
- Goldfinch
- Blue Jay
- Binoculars
- Birdfeeder
- Bird

Birds that stay around in the winter time don't migrate because they can find food. They either eat seeds all year around or they change what they eat in the summer months (e.g. worms) to something they can find in the winter months (seeds). Many of these birds are very colorful and can be seen clearly against the white snow (i.e. red cardinals, yellow goldfinches).

Set up a bird blind outside one of your classroom windows. It can be a sheltered place with a tree or bushes. Hang birdfeeders and let the children fill them with different kinds of bird seeds. Put up pictures around the window of the birds that might be seen in the winter time in Maine. Keep binoculars on the window sill and a journal with a writing implement. Children can sit by the window and watch for the birds. They can look at them through binoculars and draw pictures or write down the names of birds in the journal.

Extension: Have the children make a winter bird field guide by cutting out pictures in magazines of different kinds of birds they see outside or they can draw them. They can practice trying to write the names of the birds next to the pictures.

Guiding Questions:

- What birds stay in Maine in the winter time?
- What are the different types of seeds that each of the birds eat?

- Why are some of the birds brightly colored? Hint – brightly colored birds are usually male as they attract predators away from the nest, while the females are dully colored so they can be camouflaged and harder to see.