

Activities Modified from Growing Up Wild, Project Wild and Flying Wild

1. Hiding in Plain Sight: What is Camouflage?
 - a. Hide animal replicas (like plastic snakes). Children try to find them using only their eyes (they are standing in place).
 - b. Choose a person to be the predator, who sits in one place with their eyes closed as the other children hide the animal replicas in plain sight. The predator tries to find the animals without leaving their spot.
 - c. Discuss camouflage, and why some animals were easier to find than others.
2. Freeze Birds: Standing Still Saves You
 - a. Choose a person to be a red-tailed hawk (which you may see in Houston). They look in one direction and count to twenty. While the hawk is counting, the other students pretend to be sparrows (which you may see in Houston) and fly around together behind the hawk, looking for food. When finished counting, the hawk says, "Here comes a hawk!" Then, the sparrows stand still. The hawk turns around, but doesn't move. If the hawk sees any movement by a sparrow, they point at the moving bird and say "I ate you!"
 - b. Discuss why sparrows must be still in the wild.
3. Bird Beak Buffet: Let's Eat
 - a. Create a mixture of snack food for the children that birds might eat: goldfish crackers, berries, nuts, sunflower seeds, gummy worms, fruit juice, etc.
 - b. Give each child one (or more) "beaks" that they use to eat their snacks.
 - c. Children match their beak with the bird they are mimicking as they eat. Use birds from Texas:
 - i. Giant spoon, like a pelican, for scooping.
 - ii. Straws, like hummingbirds, for drinking.
 - iii. Tongs, like sparrows, for grabbing.
 - iv. Wooden skewers, like woodpeckers, for drilling into wood and spearing.
4. Homemade Binoculars: What do you see?
 - a. Use paper tubes, glue and coloring materials to make binoculars.
 - b. Take a walk to look for birds & other wildlife. A list of common birds (with pictures) is available at hereinhouston.org/wildlife.