

Bird Alert

Bird identification and monitoring requires use of multiple senses as well as tools. Students will learn the characteristics used to identify birds, how to properly utilize binoculars, communicate observations and use sound to assist in identification. Students will spend time on land preparing before boarding the boats. All boats will go to Florida Bay to give students the opportunity to observe and record observations on some of South Florida's birds.

Grade Level: 5th – 12th (slight variations depending on grade level)

Timing: 3 hours

Concepts Covered:

- Monitoring
- Observation
- Bird identification

Vocabulary: point count survey, fly through versus fly over



Standards Supported:

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards

SC.5.L.17.1: Compare and contrast adaptations displayed by animals and plants that enable them to survive in different environments such as life cycles variations, animal behaviors and physical characteristics

SC.912.L.17.13: Discuss the need for adequate monitoring of environmental parameters when making policy decisions.

SC.912.L.17.20: Predict the impact of individuals on environmental systems and examine how human lifestyles affect sustainability

Ocean Literacy Principles:

Principle 5. The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.

d. Ocean biology provides many unique examples of life cycles, adaptations and important relationships among organisms (symbiosis, predator-prey dynamics, and energy transfer) that do not occur on land.

f. Ocean ecosystems are defined by environmental factors and the community of organisms living there. Ocean life is not evenly distributed through time or space due to differences in abiotic factors such as oxygen, salinity, temperature, pH, light, nutrients, pressure, substrate and circulation. A few regions of the ocean support the most abundant life on Earth, while most of the ocean does not support much life.

Principle 6. The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.

g. Everyone is responsible for caring for the ocean. The ocean sustains life on Earth and humans must live in ways that sustain the ocean. Individual and collective actions are needed to effectively manage ocean resources for all.