Birds

We began our Birds Theme by identifying the parts of a bird. We took a closer look at some of the parts, including the beak and wings. We discovered the similarities and differences of various bird beaks and wings and learned about how the birds use these parts to adapt to their surroundings. Bird nests come in all shapes and sizes and are made out of different materials. We explored the nests specific to certain birds and the materials they use to build their nest. We ended our theme by focusing on Owls. Throughout the theme, we live-streamed a web cam from The Cornell Lab of Ornithology to allow us to observe various birds and their feeding habitats.

While discovering the many different kinds of birds in the world, we noticed that all birds have two legs, feathers, wings and a beak. Reading Everyday Birds by Amy Ludwig and Birds by Melissa Stewart helped us continue conversations about the parts of a bird, where they live, what they eat, and that they hatch from eggs. The friends practiced identifying the parts of a bird, used a key to add missing parts to a bird, sorted seeds, conducted a feather experiment, and built magnetic birds.

Elijah and Connor use tweezers to sort seeds.

Avi experiments with feathers and water to learn about how feathers protect birds from the elements.

Aya builds a bird made of clay.
Elijah, Maya and Harris play Seeds for the Birds.

Josh and Isaiah identify various kinds of birds while playing Bird Bingo.

John draws a Blue Jay on the easel.

Maya, Sydnee, Addison and Elijah build with tree blocks and birds.

Alisa uses a key to add the missing parts of a bird onto the bird body.

Aubri water color paints a coffee filter in the first step of our build a bird project.

Maren paints with feathers.

Adler and Connor remember to add a beak, tail and feathers to build a magnetic bird.

Jack, Colby and Conor play The Orchard Game.
Next, we took a closer look at bird beaks and wings. *Beaks* by Sneed Collard and *Unbeatable Beaks* by Stephen Swinburne allowed us to compare different shapes, sizes and uses of various bird beaks. Observing the shape of bird wings allowed us to discover how they travel. *Wings* by Sneed Collard taught us about how wings use “lift” and “thrust” to move. Opportunities that supported our learning included the Bird Beak Buffet, an inquiry activity, discovering how to make a piece of paper fly, and our Dramatic Play area transformed into a bird’s nest.

*Birds and Their Nests* by Linda Tagliaterro and *Mama Built a Little Nest* by Jennifer Ward helped us learn about the different nests birds build and the materials they use to build their nests. The friends gathered an assortment of materials to build nests and added eggs (model magic) to their nests.

Elijah pretends to be a hummingbird and uses his beak (eye dropper) to drink nectar (colored water).

Emilia struts proudly around the room showing off her wings!

Siobhan and Lillian experiment with folding paper to make it take flight.

Maya takes a closer look at the wings of an eagle, hawk and falcon.

Aubri, Eli, Dean and Avi experiment using various tools to imitate bird beaks.

Evren tests his paper airplane to see if he built it to fly.

Adrian uses tongs to imitate a bird beak when collecting worms.

Julia carefully observes Posie, the Kindergarten’s pet bird.
Conor, Maya and Aya check in with the live web cam bird feeder.

Lillian and Henry watch a hummingbird build a nest and then create their own nest using various materials.

Harris shows off his bird wings.

Benny colors his model magic egg before adding it to a nest.

Siobhan builds a nest using playdoh.

Elijah investigates a nest in the Science Center.

Addison adds legs, feathers, a tail and a beak to her bird.

Sydnee and Conor play Seeds for the Birds in the Dramatic Play ‘bird’s nest.’

Conor shows his friends his wreath and tells how a bird built a nest in it while it hung on his front door.
We ended our theme by focusing on owls. *Owls* by Gail Gibbons, *Owl’s First Flight* by Mitra Modaressi and *Owl Babies* by Martin Waddell enhanced our learning about owl characteristics and habitats. Investigating owl pellets helped us learn about how an owl eats and what an owl eats. Making owl books reminded us of the many different species of owls.

Maren and Alisa check in with the owl’s nest on the web cam and observe the newly born owlets.

Josie pulls apart owl pellets to discover what is inside.

Maya and Henry look at the bone chart to match the bones found inside their owl pellet.

Caleb and Benny work on their Mother’s Day gift and drill a hole in a tree cookie.

Chudi completes a page in his number book.

Eli, Yerick and Julia gather bones found in an owl pellet.

Caleb thinks about his strategy when playing Hoot Owl Hoot.

Alisa adds the Barn Owl to her owl book.

Julia is a colorful bird!
The Life Cycle of a Butterfly

We were excited to welcome caterpillars to the Green Room. From Caterpillar to Butterfly by Deborah Heiligman and A Butterfly is Born by Melvin Berger helped us understand the stages of change. We practiced observational skills and waiting skills until our butterflies emerged.

Max, Aubri and Josh observe and draw the caterpillars.

Yerick and Benny observe the chrysalises and wait.

The friends say good bye to the butterflies.

Thanks to Miss Debbie and Mrs. Hraber for adding to our learning throughout the school year.
Birthday Celebrations and Special Visitors

Happy Birthday to Max, Connor, Harris, Aya, Isaiah and Henry! Thanks to their families for celebrating with us. We enjoyed a visit from Chris Kubiak (Audubon Society) and his red tailed Hawk. Thanks to Yerick’s family for visiting and sharing their musical talents with us.

Even though the Green Room birds are leaving the nest, we know they will soar as they migrate to their next classroom. We wish you a fun-filled summer. Thanks for a wonderful year!

Mrs. Bird, Mrs. Cherin, Mrs. Opferman and Mrs. Wendolowski