

## Towner Award Nominee Books 2015

<u>Look Up! Bird-Watching in Your Own Backyard</u> by Annette LeBlanc Cate	Publisher: Candlewick Press, Somerville, MA. 2013	Curriculum Connections: Birds, backyard science, drawing, art, humorous writing, life science, classification, habitats, animal behavior, adaptation, migration.
		Features: Table of contents, foot notes, diagrams, drawings, speech bubbles, maps, bibliography, index

An exuberant introduction to bird-watching, this illustrated guide reads like advice from an old (and very funny) friend. *Look Up!* accurately covers bird basics (habitats, communication, behaviors, adaptations, migrations), while also covering more general themes like scientific classification and the joy of field sketching. The author's informal approach is intuitive and accessible - and kids will get a kick out of the silly talking birds.

Following are suggested resources for text-sets targeting the possible curriculum connections above.

### Books:

Author	Title/Publisher	Grade Levels	Comments	ISBN/Publication Date
Alderfer, Jonathan	<b>Bird Guide of North America</b> National Geographic Children's Books	2-6	Organized by 10 generalized habitats ("Western Backyard Birds," "Deserts," etc.), this first field guide introduces kids to about 100 common birds. Solid information and nice photographs.	978-1426310942 c2013
Montgomery, Sy	<b>Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World's Strangest Parrot</b> HMH Books for Young Readers	3-6	Another excellent "Scientist in the Field" title. The text follows a team of scientists' emotional attempt to save the once ubiquitous kakapo.	978-0618494170 c2010
Stewart, Melissa	<b>Feathers: Not Just for Flying</b> Charlesbridge	1-4	Introduces the many adaptive functions of feathers. An excellent read-aloud that features life-like illustrations and informative sidebars.	978-1580894302 c2014
Burns, Loree Griffin	<b>Citizen Scientists</b> Square Fish	3-6	An attractive introduction to four citizen science projects, including the Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count. Quality photos, table of contents, bibliography, index and resources page.	978-0805095173 c2012
Judge, Lita	<b>Bird Talk</b> Flash Point	1-4	A lushly illustrated introduction to the communication strategies of 28 bird species. The artistic approach is a great contrast to <i>Look Up!</i>	978-1596436466 c2012

**Websites and Online Magazines:**

<b>Name of Site</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Grade Levels</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Publisher/Creator</b>
Cornell Lab of Ornithology: Education	<a href="http://www.birds.cornell.edu/education/kids">http://www.birds.cornell.edu/education/kids</a>	K-6	Excellent all around site for bird facts and activities. Resources include book lists with matching activities, links to citizen science projects, nesting information, birding tips and much more.	Cornell University
Smithsonian.com Smithsonian Magazine	<a href="http://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/most-extensive-report-ever-published-american-birds-says-theres-cause-concern-180952644/">http://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/most-extensive-report-ever-published-american-birds-says-theres-cause-concern-180952644/</a>	4-6	An article about the 2014 U.S. "State of the Birds," which details reasons to be concerned about birds in the United States. A good springboard to talking about wildlife conservation.	Max Kutner September 9, 2014
Audubon.org Online Guide to North American Birds	<a href="http://birds.audubon.org/birdid">http://birds.audubon.org/birdid</a>	4-6	A simple guide to birds that allows for browsing and searching by bird family or common name. Includes identification instruction and a glossary. Vocabulary is high level, but pictures are good and organization is clear.	National Audubon Society
Wild Music: Thrush Song	<a href="http://www.wildmusic.org/en/animals/thrush">http://www.wildmusic.org/en/animals/thrush</a>	K-6	Learn how to differentiate between the songs of four species of thrush. Includes a "Bird Song Challenge."	Science Museum of Minnesota
DragonflyTV: Cave Swallows	<a href="http://www-tc.pbskids.org/dragonflytv/web_assets/pdf/dftv_gpsedguide_caveswallows.pdf#page=3">http://www-tc.pbskids.org/dragonflytv/web_assets/pdf/dftv_gpsedguide_caveswallows.pdf#page=3</a>	K-6	An activity guide for a bird behavior scavenger hunt.	PBS Kids Go!
Bird Web	<a href="http://www.birdweb.org/birdweb/">http://www.birdweb.org/birdweb/</a>	4-6	Connected to the Audubon's large guide to N. American birds, but focuses only on WA state.	Seattle Audubon Society

