

**Title of Session:** Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears - Arctic Mammals

**Moderator:** Jessica Fries-Gaither

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Room: Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears Group

**JessicaFr:** We have a fun new feature...podcasts!

**JessicaFr:** We are now creating a new episode each month to accompany the current issue. You can see all three of our episodes on the new podcast index page in the header. ( <http://tinyurl.com/d3xtpu> )

**AnnaV** joined the room.

**JessicaFr:** Hi, Anna! Thanks for joining us!

**AnnaV:** hi!

**AnnaV:** thanks for having me!

**JessicaFr:** Are you an elementary teacher?

**AnnaV:** I'm a student teacher

**AnnaV:** for elementary

**JessicaFr:** Great. We'll go ahead and start our "tour." I'm an Elementary Resource Specialist at Ohio State and the Project Director for the Beyond Penguins project. I taught 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th...but at different times!

**JenniferMF** joined the room.

**AnnaV:** you've had a lot of experience

**JessicaFr:** Yep - the wide range really helps! Back to Beyond Penguins...We produce a free online magazine each month - funded by NSF. Tonight, we're going to tour our latest issue on birds.

**BjB** waves hi to Jennifer

**JessicaFr:** This issue, co-produced with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, explores the amazing birds that live in or migrate to the polar regions.

**JessicaFr:** Jennifer, welcome! Are you an elementary teacher?

**JenniferMF:** It's Jennifer Fee from CLO =)

**JessicaFr:** oh, hi! The M threw me off :)

**JenniferMF:** Hi!

**JessicaFr:** Anna, Jennifer was one of our fabulous contributors for this issue!

**AnnaV:** ohh ok

**JessicaFr:** Jen, why don't you introduce yourself and then we'll get started.

**JenniferMF:** Hi everyone... I work at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology on the BirdSleuth curriculum. Had a great time working on this issue of "Beyond Penguins!"

**JessicaFr:** Great! Let's go to the February issue:

**JessicaFr:** <http://beyondpenguins.nsd.org/issue/index.php?date=February2009>

**JessicaFr:** You'll see that we have five departments and then columns within each department. By the way – all issues are laid out the same way.

**JessicaFr:** any comments or questions at first glance?

**JessicaFr:** Let's go to the department Professional Learning and click on the Science Content Knowledge link – you'll get to the article "How Do Birds Stay Warm?"

**JessicaFr:** ( <http://tinyurl.com/aauygy> )

**AnnaV:** ok I'm there

**JessicaFr:** This article discusses the adaptations that help birds survive in cold weather. Take a minute to scan the article. Do you see anything interesting?

**AnnaV:** different types of birds

**ColleenGst2** joined the room.

**BjB:** good job, Colleen

**ColleenGst2:** Thanks!

**JessicaFr:** We'll come back to the Professional Learning department in a bit. First, let's learn about two researchers recording bird sounds in the high Arctic.

**JessicaFr:** Go back to the issue page:

**JessicaFr:** <http://beyondpenguins.nsd.org/issue/index.php?date=February2009>

**JessicaFr:** and go to the In the Field: Scientists at Work department.

**JessicaFr:** Click on the Researcher Stories link – you'll get to the article "Nunavut, Canada: The Sounds and the Silence." (<http://tinyurl.com/bxolsg>) Take a minute to skim the article. What type of bird were Gerrit and Martha trying to record?

**AnnaV:** sanderling?

**BjB:** you also might want to go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat and select DETACH

**JessicaFr:** Great! Do you know anything about sanderlings?

**AnnaV:** nope

**JenniferMF:** I work at the Lab and I don't even know anything =)

**JessicaFr:** They winter on beaches in South America, and the Southern U.S., but breed in the Arctic during the summer.

**BjB:** . o O ( sanderlings are little sanders? )

**JenniferMF:** oh brother!

**JessicaFr:** They resemble sandpipers - there are some pictures in the slideshow at the end of the article

**BjB:** winks

**JessicaFr:** You can hear some of Gerrit and Martha's recordings - and Jennifer! - in this month's podcast in the Professional Learning department. ( <http://tinyurl.com/dejo7n> ).

**JenniferMF:** the slide show has AMAZING pictures! Gerrit's an amazing photographer!

**JessicaFr:** I know! We were lucky he shared them with us!

**JessicaFr:** And you were great on the podcast, btw.

**AnnaV:** they are all great pictures

**JenniferMF:** thanks! I really enjoyed doing it!

**JessicaFr:** We are now creating a podcast each month to accompany the current issue. You can see all three of our episodes on the new podcast index page in the header. (<http://tinyurl.com/d3xtpu>)

**JessicaFr:** The podcasts are also in iTunes U - Beyond Campus - NSDL.

**AnnaV:** do you just download it into itunes?....

**JessicaFr:** You can - or you can play them directly from the magazine articles. And they're free!

**JessicaFr:** Now let's click on the column "Misconceptions" in the Professional Learning department.

**JessicaFr:** (<http://tinyurl.com/dbc4df>)

**JessicaFr:** Scroll down to the misconceptions about Bird Behavior. Have you heard any of these before?

**AnnaV:** birds' eyes are located in the front of their heads

**AnnaV:** some birds mate for life

**JessicaFr:** Jen, I shared the hummingbird one with teachers at a conference yesterday - they looked at me like I was crazy!

**JenniferMF:** I didn't know till recently that polar bears and penguins don't co-exist.

**JenniferMF:** you see that on cartoons, you just grow up assuming it!

**JessicaFr:** Well, that's thanks to Coke commercials...

**JenniferMF:** gotta admit, it's a cute commercial.

**JenniferMF:** but totally wrong biologically!

**AnnaV:** hm, I didn't know that polar bears and penguins don't co-exist

**JessicaFr:** yes - but since I started this job I can't watch them anymore!

**AnnaV:** until now.

**JessicaFr:** Yep - penguins only live in the Southern hemisphere, and polar bears only live in the Arctic (northern hemisphere)

**AnnaV:** interesting

**JessicaFr:** Of course, we also have lessons to use with your students. Let's take a look at the "Lessons and Activities" article in the Science and Literacy department (<http://tinyurl.com/df5vr9>). Spend a few minutes looking at the breadth of activities – then report back on one that you find interesting.

**AnnaV:** one of the podcast is "why polar bears don't eat penguins"

**AnnaV:** is that the reason?

**JenniferMF:** I saw penguins in the wild in South Africa.

**JessicaFr:** You got it!

**AnnaV:** very interesting

**JenniferMF:** I was surprised!

**JessicaFr:** Jen, did you got to Boulders Beach?

**JenniferMF:** I thought they only lived where it's cold!

**JenniferMF:** yep!!!

**AnnaV:** me too

**JenniferMF:** amazing place, no?

**JessicaFr:** YES! We'll have to swap stories later :)

**JessicaFr:** So let's look at some of our science lessons - ( <http://tinyurl.com/df5vr9> ). Spend a few minutes looking at the breadth of activities – then report back on one that you find interesting.

**AnnaV:** it's not showing up

**AnnaV:** the link

**JessicaFr:** Let me try that again...

**AnnaV:** ok I got it

**BjB :** careful with the parens

**JessicaFr:** Try this: <http://tinyurl.com/df5vr9>

**AnnaV:** the cleaning up after an oil spill lesson sounds interesting to me

**JessicaFr:** great! the Amazing Birds lessons are also fantastic.

**JessicaFr:** Cornell Lab of Ornithology also offers many citizen-science projects. We have an article about using these projects to promote inquiry-based learning in your classroom. Let's take a look at "Kids Becoming Scientists through Schoolyard Inquiry" in the Professional Learning department. ( <http://tinyurl.com/blh4xf> )

**JenniferMF:** kids love that oil spill lesson.

**JessicaFr:** oh great - so you've seen it in action?

**JenniferMF:** yes...

**JessicaFr:** I never taught about birds...but I would if I went back now!

**JenniferMF:** or at least an adaptation.

**JessicaFr:** Do you want to talk a bit about Bird Sleuth and the citizen-science projects?

**AnnaV:** the experiment with the cat and seeds is a very good idea

**JenniferMF:** that was a 4th grade student...

**JessicaFr:** I think so, too! It's great to see students really doing science.

**JenniferMF:** she was counting birds for the Lab for citizen science, and noticed she thought she saw less birds when the neighbors cat was out...

**JenniferMF:** so she designed her own experiment to test her idea!

**JenniferMF:** everyone know what "citizen science" is?

**AnnaV:** no

**JenniferMF:** we collect data about birds from "regular folks"...

**JenniferMF:** what kinds they see, where, how many...

**AnnaV:** I see

**JenniferMF:** and we can use the data collected from all over to answer really big questions!

**JenniferMF:** (including, for example, effect of disease, maybe global climate change,

etc.)

**AnnaV:** that's a really good idea

**AnnaV:** how do you get the information from all over?

**JenniferMF:** there are projects on birds, stars, streams, etc.

**JenniferMF:** We have thousands of people who like birds, who enjoy them...

**AnnaV:** that's interesting

**JenniferMF:** and they participate in one of several projects-- NestWatch for nesting birds, for example.

**JenniferMF:** eBird is a very general FREE one.

**JenniferMF:** We can also get in touch later if you want to know more or have questions =>

**AnnaV:** ok that sounds good

**JessicaFr:** the great thing is that students can participate too! So their data goes to "real" scientists - very engaging for them!

**AnnaV:** I bet

**AnnaV:** they would be so intrigued too to know more about different birds

**AnnaV:** also other than penguins

**JenniferMF:** yes... and bird watching can be "competitive"

**AnnaV:** how so?

**JenniferMF:** boys like it... they learn the birds faster than I can =>

**JenniferMF:** learning to ID birds accurately, quickly.

**JenniferMF:** Some people can hear a bird call and know what kind it is without even seeing it!

**JenniferMF:** it's challenging, which is fun.

**JessicaFr:** I've got three more articles I'd like to share if that's okay with everyone.

**AnnaV:** yes

**JessicaFr:** We also have a bookshelf in the Science and Literacy department ( <http://tinyurl.com/baefuk> ). Are you familiar with any of these titles?

**AnnaV:** I'm not familiar with any of them

**JessicaFr:** do any look particularly interesting?

**ColleenGst2:** I think I'm familiar with Red Knot, poss. also A Mother's Journey

**AnnaV:** the puffins are back

**BjB :** beautifully illustrated books!

**JessicaFr:** Red Knot is great - and it's very similar to our next article called the Feature Story.

**JessicaFr:** We also write our own informational texts for K-1, 2-3, and 4-5 students that go along with the theme of each issue of the magazine. They come in text, illustrated, and electronic versions.

**AnnaV:** home at last looks interesting too

**JessicaFr:** <http://tinyurl.com/asodyo>

**JessicaFr:** Scroll down and you'll see links for books and for electronic books. These are worth checking out for a few minutes!

**ColleenGst2:** I'm very impressed by your stories.

**ColleenGst2:** How do you go about writing the age-adapted versions?

**JessicaFr:** Stephen Whitt writes the upper grades

**JessicaFr:** I review it, and then adapt his work for the younger ones

**JessicaFr:** It can be challenging! Sometimes I need help from others who have taught!

**JessicaFr:** But mostly I rely on my years in the classroom...

**ColleenGst2:** it's great because sometimes there's such variation even within a class

**ColleenGst2:** in reading abilities

**JessicaFr:** Definitely. This seems to be a big trend in publishing, but at least ours are free



:)

**JessicaFr:** I worked with a third grade class here, and they loved having their own little book to keep!

**JenniferMF:** I wish school had been this cool when I was little =)

**JessicaFr:** We also choose a reading strategy to go with the stories. This month was questioning techniques - SQ3R and QAR

**JessicaFr** agrees with Jennifer

**JessicaFr:** We have an article about the strategy and a template you can download and use in the classroom while you are reading our story!

**JessicaFr:** <http://tinyurl.com/ahvau2>

**JessicaFr:** so the students can practice asking and answering questions while learning science concepts

**JessicaFr:** We have a different story each month. All the informational texts can be found by clicking on the Stories for Students link in the header - <http://beyondpenguins.nsd.org/information.php?topic=stories> . Click on the link and look a few of the stories. Which ones do you think your students would like?

**AnnaV:** I think they'd like to read about polar mammals

**JessicaFr:** that's a great story about arctic wolves

**AnnaV:** or polar dinosaurs

**JessicaFr:** it asks the kids to imagine that they are a wolf!

**JessicaFr:** and the dinosaur one is great too - we don't think of dinosaurs in cold places, but there were some that did live there

**AnnaV:** interesting

**JessicaFr:** the volcano story is another favorite - one of the most active volcanoes in the world is in Antarctica!

**JessicaFr:** it erupts almost daily

**AnnaV:** still active?

**JessicaFr:** yep - it actually has a permanent lava lake inside its crater. Very rare...only a

few others in the world do too

**JessicaFr:** Mt Erebus is its name

**JessicaFr:** That's all I wanted to show you - but we have lots of other content in our issue: <http://beyondpenguins.nsd1.org/issue/index.php?date=February2009>

**JessicaFr:** And feel free to email me with any questions or comments about the magazine: [fries-gaither.1@osu.edu](mailto:fries-gaither.1@osu.edu)

**AnnaV:** is there an archive or the online issues?

**AnnaV:** or is it just updated monthly?

**JenniferMF:** Thanks Jessica. The issue looks great; you all do wonderful work!

**JessicaFr:** Yes - in the header you'll see the word archive.

**AnnaV:** great!

**JessicaFr:** Collaborating with CLO has been such a great experience! I'm really excited for our web seminar!

**ColleenGst2:** Hurray!

**JenniferMF:** =)

**AnnaV:** thank you so much

**JessicaFr:** Thank you!

**Anna V:** this has been very insightful

**ColleenGst2:** This is a really nice way to do a tour

**ColleenGst2:** I like that the blog post tells what you covered

**ColleenGst2:** since I missed the start

**JessicaFr:** We hope it gets a few more people looking through...since we don't usually have a big crowd for these

**AnnaV:** yeah, this tapped in site is very helpful

**JenniferMF:** Good to meet you Anna. Just let me know if you want to know more about citizen science or anything. [jms327@cornell.edu](mailto:jms327@cornell.edu)

**AnnaV:** thank you! It was nice meeting you too.

**ColleenGst2:** are there always greeters like tonight?

**ColleenGst2:** or just for events?

**BjB** nods to Colleen

**ColleenGst2:** I appreciated it

**JenniferMF:** Always greeters!

**BjB:** I'd recommend you get a free membership to Tapped In, Colleen...

**BjB:** then you'll get a transcript of your text chats

**JessicaFr:** Jeff, I saw your email about science fair...could your daughter do a project on birds? There's some great resources in this issue - especially the CLO projects

**ColleenGst2:** thanks

**BjB:** Take care and thanks!

**JessicaFr** waves goodbye