

Title of Session: BirdSleuth Meet and Greet

Moderator: Nancy Trautmann

Title of File: 20090323birdsleuth

Date: March 23, 2009

Room: BirdSleuth Group

PamRM joined the room.

BJB2 grins and waves hi to Pam again

PamRM: is this Birdsleuth?

BJB2 . o O (at least you're learning how to navigate in Tapped In, Pam!)

BJB2: yes, this is the Birdsleuth group.

PamRM: well, that is something...thanks.

NancyTr: Hi Pam!

PamRM: Hi

BJB2: Nancy and Phil are here to tell you about Birdsleuth

PamRM: great

NancyTr: but you're interested in physics, no?

PamRM: I am interested in science, but I found another area to explore that would suit my interests better.

BJB2: what grade do you teach, Pam?

BJB2 . o O (or hope to teach)

PamRM: I will graduate in May, and will be certified ec-4

BJB2 smiles...coming up soon! Congrats.

PamRM: thanks

BJB2: Nancy, did you have any information to share with Pam that she could possibly use at the elementary level?

NancyTr: hi there, I'm on the phone with Jen, who is having computer woes

BJB2: ahhhh...thanks, Nancy.

NancyTr: she can't online.

BJB2 . o O (Pam, Nancy is in New York and Phil is in California)

PamRM: long distance I see.....I am in Houston, TX

BJB2: oops...Oregon

BJB2 nods. I'm in Pennsylvania!

BJB2 . o O (one of the amazing things about Tapped In.)

PamRM: we are covering a lot of territory on Tapped In

BJB2: yes!

BJB2 . o O (Tapped In has an international membership of over 14,000)

BJB2: Pam, do you think you might be interested in putting up a birdfeeder for your class to observe?

PamRM: love to!!

NancyTr: Hi Pam

BJB2: here's one of the links in this room that you can use with that activity: http://www.tvja.org/science/7_8_Science_Tests/Bird%20Identification%20-%20output/quizmaker.html

PamRM: hi Nancy

PamRM: thank-you

NancyTr: Jen says she will be happy to email you tomorrow with advice and is terribly sorry she can't connect tonight.

BJB2: <http://snurl.com/birdidquiz> [www_tvja_org]

BJB2 . o O (short version of that long url)

NancyTr: If you want to email her, she's Jennifer Fee < jms327@cornell.edu > and has oodles of ideas about teaching about birds

BJB2: Jen also has this discussion scheduled for Wednesday of this week, Pam, if you can log in then?

NancyTr: good idea, BJ

PamRM: so will birdsleuth be cancelled for this evening? would that be better?

BJB2: . o O (also on Saturday if Wednesday doesn't work)

NancyTr: No need to cancel tonight. If you have questions tonight, we can try to help

BJB2: I'm just telling you information that is on the welcome screen above the chat, Pam. And Phil must have run away since he's not responding

PamRM: ok, thanks

NancyTr: Pam, if you're not familiar with BirdSleuth, I could give you a quick intro. Are you interested?

PamRM: yes

NancyTr: It's a series of curriculum modules created at Cornell University to help teachers and students ID birds and carry out their own investigations.

PamRM: oh, I see

NancyTr: Here's the link <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/birdsleuth/>

BJB2: covers what grades, Nancy?

NancyTr: Some resources are free and others have a fee because they come with CD's, flash cards, etc.

PamRM: ok

NancyTr: It's designed for middle school but is being used at all grade levels -- because it's inquiry-based, teachers adapt the resources to fit their grade level

BJB2: nods.

PamRM: that's awesome...I love that!

NancyTr: There's also a guide for homeschoolers that's designed to be used with birds that come to feeders

NancyTr: but BirdSleuth goes beyond feeders so kids can investigate birds in the woods, on the lake, etc.

PamRM: resources for everyone....great idea.

NancyTr: We also publish student reports and artwork, both online and in print

PamRM: our school has a garden in the courtyard..a great place to experiment with this idea.

NancyTr: yes, that would be perfect

NancyTr: Pam, are you familiar with the idea of citizen science?

PamRM: I have not heard of it, but tell me about it.

NancyTr: Students can enter their data about bird observations into web-based forms, and the data are collected into databases that are used by professional scientists as well as by the students, public, etc.

PamRM: sounds like great collaboration experience for students

NancyTr: You may have heard of Project GLOBE, or Journey North? (they are citizen science programs too). The basic idea is that people all over the country, or globe, can collect far more data than professional scientists, expanding their research while also conducting their own local investigations)

PamRM: I used some of the GLOBE materials to teach science when I was in fourth grade recently.

PamRM: I have browsed through their site.....very interesting

NancyTr: A few days ago, the State of the Birds report was released (see here: <http://www.stateofthebirds.org/>). The findings in this report rely heavily on citizen science)

PamRM: ok, I will explore that.

NancyTr: The state of the birds site has an awesome video too (5 min) -- a great intro for students or the public

PamRM: super

BJB2: a reminder, Pam, that you will get a transcript of this discussion when you log out...and it will contain all the urls

NancyTr: A quote that emerged from the official announcement of this report was

PamRM: I have a bunch of recent transcripts in my in box....very handy for referencing.

NancyTr: "citizen science rocks!"

PamRM: agreed

NancyTr: Pam, I missed what grade you said you're teaching

NancyTr: sorry, I was distracted on the phone with Jen & her computer woes

PamRM: I am in kinder right now...second week...but I will be job searching in a few weeks, and my certification is through sixth grade.

NancyTr: hey, best of luck with the search! I hope you'll find your ideal job

PamRM: thanks

NancyTr: and you're located where?

PamRM: right outside of Houston, in Humble, TX

NancyTr: Humble, TX? I don't think of TX as humble...

NancyTr: I have cousins in Houston, and they claim that TX is the biggest and best at everything!

NancyTr: I have to admit that you do have great birds. When I was a kid, my grandparents drove each spring from NY to TX for birdwatching

BJB2 chuckles

PamRM: in Humble, not so much...but we were in Amarillo sat night, and at a restaurant called The Big Texan, everything was huge.....including the challenge to down a 72 oz. steak in one hour...crazy.

NancyTr: that would do me in for sure

NancyTr: One of the things you can do with eBird (one of our citizen science projects) is to track bird migrations

NancyTr: and of course lots of birds migrate through TX

PamRM: that sounds interesting.

NancyTr: but back to eating -- my husband once downed an ice cream sundae designed for 16 people (& got it free, although I'm not sure it was worth the pain!)

BJB2 groans...what a waste of good ice cream!

PamRM: the 72 oz steak was the same way.....the prize was too puny...a t-shirt.

NancyTr: I'd like to go there and ask for a tofu burger!

NancyTr: ;-)

PamRM: they would have to send you back to Houston for that!

NancyTr: Pam, are you a birder? (I'm not very good at it, but I'm having fun learning from others here)

NancyTr: The spring migrants are just starting to come back, and people rush to the windows or outside when a new species is sighted.

NancyTr: sighted?

PamRM: my kids and I started out painting bird houses and hanging them on the side of the garage....now each season we have baby birds and nests in the larger ones.....we all love it, but that is about as far as my "birding" abilities go.

NancyTr: that's fabulous! what kinds of birds?

NancyTr: Each year I have starlings nesting IN one of my kitchen cupboards!

PamRM: truthfully, I do not remember...my son and I looked it up in a bird book, but I could not tell you now.

NancyTr: (they come in through an old vent that was stuffed with insulation until they pulled it out and tossed it all over the lawn)

PamRM: that's really neat!

NancyTr: one year my son didn't want to go away for a weekend for fear the babies would leave while he was away -- so can imagine your son is also enthralled

PamRM: you're so right!

NancyTr: Pam, do check out the BirdSleuth website and let us know if you have questions or thoughts.

NancyTr: And come back to Tapped In again later this week if you can make it --

(Wednesday 3/25 from 4-5PM EDT or Saturday 3/28 from 1-2PM EDT)

PamRM: I will, and thank you for spending your time offering information. I really appreciate it!!

PamRM: I will!! Have a great evening.

NancyTr: My pleasure! (& someday I'd love to meet in person, as long as it's not somewhere where I have to eat one of those steaks!)

PamRM: Me too!! Tofu sounds good to me!

BJB2 smiles.

BJB2: Nancy, please have Jen email me with any plans for April

NancyTr: ok, will do. And I have a question -- can you tell me how to post a photo in Jen's Tapped In office?

NancyTr: and also how to log this discussion so she can read it later?

BJB2: when you log out you will automatically get a transcript that you can forward to Jen

BJB2: and to post a photo here you have to have moderator privileges...

BJB2: if you do, you can upload the pic under files above the chat in the blue menu....

BJB2: then go to NOTES in the blue menu, create a new Image Note...and FEATURE the image note

BJB2: featuring an item makes it appear on the welcome page

NancyTr: ok, thanks. will play around with all this. Got to run, but thanks so much for all your cheerful help!

BJB2: you're welcome, Nancy.

BJB2 waves goodnight. Glad you were able to have this positive experience in Tapped In, Pam

NancyTr: good night all, and sweet dreams...