

**Title of Session:** BirdSleuth Meet and Greet

**Moderator:** Jennifer Fee

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Room: BirdSleuth Inquiry Group

**JenniferMF:** Sara, I just looked at your profile-- you work at Seaworld??

**SaraRM:** Yes I do. I work in their education department

**SaraRM:** I love it!

**JenniferMF:** Were you at NSTA last week.... I did see SeaWorld staff there-- with penguins?!?!?

**SaraRM:** No, I was not. I just started working there about a month ago, so I am not trained in the penguin department yet. Soon though.

**JenniferMF:** How exciting. Are you from San Diego, or new to the area?

**SaraRM:** I have lived here for almost five years, but have been visiting SD since I was a kid

**SaraRM:** I always knew that at some point in my life I wanted to live out here

**SaraRM:** So here I am

**JenniferMF:** Well, congrats on finding a job you love, especially given the economy =)

**SaraRM:** Thanks.

**JenniferMF:** Thanks for joining the BirdSleuth group, too!

**SaraRM:** How about yourself? I see that you are from NY

**SaraRM:** The group sounds really fun. I love ED programs that encourage kids to get out and investigate their environment

**JenniferMF:** Yes-- I work at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. We have a grant to try to help teachers do inquiry projects (science investigations) with their kids...

**JenniferMF:** we want to better support them online.

**JenniferMF:** as it turns out, doing these kinds of projects is a real challenge!!

**SaraRM:** I would expect.

**JenniferMF:** often the teachers I work with have not done their own science experiments...

**JenniferMF:** they generally don't have a background in science...

**SaraRM:** Jennifer, have you heard of the project called Journey North?

**JenniferMF:** Yes. It is somewhat similar to BirdSleuth for sure! Both are "citizen science."

**KatieHu** joined the room.

**JenniferMF:** Hey Katie! How are you?

**JenniferMF:** Sara, is your background in science or education (or both?)

**KatieHu:** Great! How are you?

**JenniferMF:** Wonderful, Katie! Thank you. How's the weather in MN?

**SaraRM:** Both, I am finishing up my degree this spring at SDSU and will have be B.A in Interdisciplinary Studies of Biology, Education and Psychology

**JenniferMF:** I was in New Orleans for NSTA last week... it feels COLD in NY.

**KatieHu:** It snowed this morning! I think it's all melted again now.

**JenniferMF:** Sara, that sounds very interesting (and ambitious!)

**KatieHu:** I have to go monitor the halls for a few minutes - back soon.

**JenniferMF:** Sara and BJ, Katie has been using Lab curricula for many years! Her students are historically quite successful with BirdSleuth and the inquiry parts of BirdSleuth.

**BJB2:** very cool!

**SaraRM:** Great

**JenniferMF:** In fact, she was on the advisory board to help develop it =)

**JenniferMF:** Sara, have you worked with teachers very much as part of your jobs or in school?

**BJB2:** and Katie helps other teachers with their projects?

**JenniferMF:** Hopefully Katie can advise me tonight on how to help teachers lol

**BJB2** . o O ( I saw where Phil was using the discussion board to learn how to work with lower level students. )

**JenniferMF:** Yes, Phil and Katie really are two of my "star" teachers!

**SaraRM:** Not too much, because I have worked in non-traditional classrooms, most "teachers" do not have a teaching credential just a BS in biology

**JenniferMF:** Both have many years of experience... and part of this grant is reaching those teachers with less experience or a lower comfort level

**KatieHu:** I'm back - all is well in the hallways and the cherubs are heading home for the night.

**JenniferMF:** Sara, I see. You might be interested in checking this out: <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/birdsleuth/student-research/birdsleuth-reports> and looking at spring 2009.

**SaraRM:** Thanks. I do love the idea of bringing more hands on activities into the traditional classroom setting.

**JenniferMF:** It is not often I hear of 7th grade cherubs!

**KatieHu:** My students are currently using the inquiry module of Birdsleuth. They will be finishing their projects in another week or so.

**KatieHu:** Ok - they aren't all cherubs.

**JenniferMF:** The thing I like about BirdSleuth is that we really try to get kids to ask and answer their own questions... based mainly on their outdoor observations.

**KatieHu:** I find this to be the most exciting and energizing project I have kids do all year.

**JenniferMF:** Katie, to catch you up... we got a small grant to look at ways to help more teachers be successful with the inquiry module through online supports.

**JenniferMF:** I'm using this Tapped In group to provide some topical "online workshops"

**JenniferMF:** for example, Phil suggested a session on using eBird to generate inquiry questions.

**KatieHu:** How can I help?

**JenniferMF:** Well, tonight I am really trying to seek ideas for future topics... to help me address some of the barriers to doing BirdSleuth inquiry.

**JenniferMF:** So any feedback on those barriers or topics you'd suggest would be useful.

**JenniferMF:** Also, just having experienced teachers like you to be present if/when new teachers are here in Tapped In at the courses.

**JenniferMF:** I think it would be great for you to share your experience with the new teachers.

**JenniferMF:** I'm trying to get more new people involved here in Tapped In... it's been a little slow starting. BUT, things are picking up.

**JenniferMF:** Katie, if you haven't, you could look at the Discussion Board here in Tapped in... I recently posted some questions there.

**KatieHu:** I've really missed the "listserv" we used to have. I didn't post many questions, but benefited from reading what other teachers were saying. This may be a good replacement. I'll check out the discussion board.

**JenniferMF:** Also, Phil Kahler, who you have likely heard of (his kids are well published in Classroom BirdScope, like yours) has posted some resources he's actually developed. If you have anything you link might be helpful, please post.

**BJB2:** the discussion board is a nice solution to synch vs asynch

**BJB2:** and this discussion board archives the posts, Katie

**JenniferMF:** Katie, so few teachers actually used the listserv by the time I came to the Lab. Did it use to be more active?

**NancyTr** joined the room.

**NancyTr:** hi ladies!

**KatieHu:** Yes. You're right - teachers seemed to quit using it, but at the start it was used a lot.

**JenniferMF:** Hi Nancy. Katie is here, she is an experience BirdSleuther... in fact, she was an original field tester!

**BJB2** waves hi to Nancy

**NancyTr:** hi BJ, and nice to meet you, Katie

**JenniferMF:** Katie, what did you find most useful about the listserv? Again, by the time I got here, it was pretty much dead. Did teachers support each other (i.e. ask and answer each other's questions, seek/give advice)?

**JenniferMF:** Or did it just lend a sense of community? Maybe by sharing interesting stories or sightings?

**KatieHu:** Teachers were able to ask questions and seek advice, and there was enough activity that someone was usually able to answer the questions.

**JenniferMF:** Sara, since you mentioned Journey North, you might be interested in <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/birdsleuth/about/citizen-science-projects/citizen-science-projects> where I've placed some information about our citizen science projects-- including audio about how to use them with teachers.

**SaraRM:** I will take a look at that. I loved the pictures on the Spring 2009 reports

**JenniferMF:** Katie, do you think a discussion board (if it was regularly used) would be as useful... or was the fact that you got an email what make people respond? Like BJ mentioned... one benefit of a discussion board is that it is archived.

**JenniferMF:** But we've had trouble getting a lot of people posting to discussion boards (though our use and effort has been very limited!)

**JenniferMF:** Thanks, Sara! I always wish I could have done BirdSleuth when I was a kid... and get my research out to people online =)

**JenniferMF:** I think it is cool!

**KatieHu:** I'm a bit slow on catching up with all the new technology. I'm not in the habit of using a discussion board, so I have to remember to check it periodically (I put a reminder on my calendar for today). I check my email all the time, so a question coming through email is more likely to be read.

**JenniferMF:** Good point. Some discussion boards (Tapped In included?) you can set it to send an email when there is a new post.

**JenniferMF:** That way if you need a reminder, you can set it to email you. And if you don't like your inbox to be flooded, you turn that off.

**KatieHu:** I've never tried that, but would be willing to try.

**BJB2:** just joining the group automatically subscribes you to the discussion board, Katie

**BJB2:** and you can also set the messages to be sent as a digest

**BJB2** . o O ( although I don't think volume at this point is an issue )

**KatieHu:** Yes, but how do I get Tapped In to send me an email when there are new posts?

**BJB2:** the discussion board is like an email group, Katie...when a post is made, it is automatically sent to all members

**BJB2:** you just need to join the group, which you haven't done yet

**KatieHu:** How do I join the group?

**BJB2:** do you see the welcome note above this chat?

**BJB2** . o O ( if you clicked on Discussion then click on Welcome in the blue menu )

**KatieHu:** Yes

**BJB2:** scroll down on the welcome note to the green circle with the i in it: This is the group room for Birdsleuth Inquiry

**BJB2:** click on the green circle

**JenniferMF:** Bj... a teacher just called me and is having trouble. She's in the room but can't see the chat window. Advice?

**BJB2:** you will see the group ID page

**BJB2:** at the top of the ID page is a place to join the group

**KatieHu:** I see it.

**BJB2:** Jen, see if she's got chat enabled

**BJB2:** and, always ask if there is a firewall that prevents access to chat

**BJB2:** and then show her <http://ti2.sri.com/tappedin/web/help/faq.jsp>

**KatieHu:** Thank-you

**BJB2:** good job, Katie!

**BJB2:** Katie, the group will now be listed in the drop down favorite places menu in the top right of your screen next to the Go! button

**BJB2:** that makes it easy to come to this room from any location in Tapped In

**KatieHu:** I see it. Thank-you.

**JenniferMF:** BJ, I am having an impossible time helping Cathy. And she is clearly online, but I do not see her listed.

**JenniferMF:** Her chat is enabled. I doubt she has a firewall.

**BJB2:** if she doesn't see the chat we won't see that she is logged in

**BJB2:** sometimes it's a simple issue of updating java.

**BJB2:** is she on a mac or a pc?

**JenniferMF:** she's on a mac.

**BJB2:** using Firefox?

**JenniferMF:** yes. firefox.

**BJB2:** have her switch to Safari if she can

**BJB2:** or even IE

**BJB2:** on the FAQ page there is info (#5 in Chat) on MRJ

**BJB2:** has Cathy successfully logged in before?

**JenniferMF:** Not for chat. She is now switching to Safari.

**BJB2:** the fixes for macs are pretty easy....TI was designed by mac users

**CathyKl** joined the room.

**BJB2:** voila!

**JenniferMF:** Hooray!

**BJB2:** firefox and macs have some issues ;-)

**BJB2** holds her breath until Cathy talks

**BJB2** starts to turn blue

**CathyKl:** Hi all from San Diego

**BJB2** breathes deeply! Whew!

**JenniferMF:** Did we loose you BJ?!?!

**JenniferMF:** Thank goodness =)

**CathyKl:** Is BJ better now?

**BJB2:** Jen, you might want to tell Cathy how to join this group

**BJB2** nods solemnly

**BJB2** breathes in a paper bag

**CathyKl:** No solemnity with birders!!!

**BJB2** winks

**JenniferMF:** OK. And Kathy and Katie, by way of introduction... you were both in Ithaca for the original advisory board meeting, so you've actually met =)

**KatieHu:** Very cool - nice to chat again.

**JenniferMF:** And Sara and Cathy have San Diego in common =)

**SaraRM:** Yes we do!

**CathyKl:** Sara, what do you do in San Diego?

**SaraRM:** I work at SeaWorld in their Education department

**CathyKl:** Awesome!

**JenniferS6** joined the room.

**CathyKl:** Do you work with schools, Sara?

**BJB2:** hi, Jennifer

**SaraRM:** and I am also finishing up my degree in Interdisciplinary Studies

**JenniferS6:** Hi!

**CathyKl:** You sound busy, Sara. We should meet for lunch or a bird walk at Torrey



Pines and get to know each other in person.

**JenniferMF:** Jennifer, I see you are an elementary school teacher?

**SaraRM:** We do have school fieldtrips that come in and provide educational shows and materials for them. We also have Summer Camps that last a week as well as school programs that go throughout the year

**SaraRM:** Sounds like a plan Cathy

**JenniferS6:** Yes, 1st grade

**JenniferMF:** Great. You must be tired by this time of day =)

**JenniferMF:** Trying to handle 6 year olds all day =)

**CathyKI:** my email is [cklinest@berkeley.edu](mailto:cklinest@berkeley.edu) for anyone who wants to communicate that way

**CathyKI:** lets connect via email, Sara.

**JenniferS6:** exhausted!!! Not to mention I just finished a meeting at the school, that's why I am so late!

**SaraRM:** Sounds good Cathy

**JenniferMF:** Ahh... a long day for sure!

**JenniferS6:** What do you do Jennifer?

**JenniferMF:** I'm the Project Leader for BirdSleuth at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. We have a grant to try to help teachers do science inquiry. Hence, this group meeting tonight.

**JenniferMF:** I'm trying to find out from teachers how I can help them (via online support) do student science investigations =)

**JenniferS6:** of course!

**JenniferMF:** We get kids involved with the Lab's citizen science projects (observing birds and collecting data... sending it to the Lab). They always come up with questions, and we encourage teachers to follow those questions!

**JenniferMF:** (what happens if we put up a feeder-- will more birds come? Does temperature/rain/snow effect the number of birds that visit, etc.)

**CathyKI:** JenniferS, what do you do with birds with 1st graders?

**JenniferMF:** We publish their reports here:

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/birdsleuth/student-research/birdsleuth-reports>

**JenniferMF:** Anyone who can identify and count birds can participate => So for your kids, it might just require more scaffolding.

**JenniferS6:** Oh that would be great! With my students we could make a big list of questions! Well we talk about animals, and weather that affects animals too

**SaraRM:** JenniferM, I have used Listserv for some of my classes but found that they are at times confusing. Not sure of what the original question was addressing. I do like the discussion boards but like Katie, I forget to check them on a daily basis.

**JenniferMF:** Then, you can either look up answers OR conduct your own investigations/experiments!

**JenniferS6:** This would actually be a great well to help some of my students access knowledge for some of the DRA2 non-fiction books (Baby Birds) talks about robins and how eggs hatch

**JenniferS6:** Getting their prior knowledge going would definitely help them with the book

**JenniferMF:** Good feedback, Sara. I also find that problem with listservs. That and the fact that your inbox can get clogged, at least with some listservs!

**SaraRM:** That is for sure! I find myself deleting at least half of the posts

**JenniferMF:** We even have a citizen science project that looks at nesting birds, Jennifer =>

**JenniferMF:** You could check this page for more info...

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/birdsleuth/about/citizen-science-projects/citizen-science-projects>

**JenniferS6:** Awesome! That was my next question.

**BJB2** . o O ( again, a reminder that you can set the discussion board in this group room to DIGEST so that daily posts are batched. )

**JenniferMF:** Can I send you a DVD film of bluebirds inside a nest box and some info? I see your address on your profile.

**JenniferS6:** Yes please!

**JenniferMF:** Will do so tomorrow =)

**JenniferS6:** Thank you so much

**CathyKl:** Great talking with everyone, hope we meet again here. Cheers to all!

**JenniferMF:** Does anyone have any topics they might like to see me host a session on... particularly around birdsleuth inquiry?

**JenniferMF:** Thanks for stopping in, Cathy. Let's meet here and elsewhere soon!

**BJB2** . o O ( another perk of Tapped In is that when you log out you will automatically be emailed a transcript of this text chat )

**CathyKl:** Ok JenniferM :-)!

**JenniferMF:** Even if you don't have immediate ideas, I did post the question to the discussion board, feel free to think about it and post there even after "class"

**JenniferS6:** Great thanks Jennifer!

**JenniferMF:** I encourage all of you to join this group! Would love to keep in touch and get your ideas/feedback and offer support if I can!

**SaraRM:** Ladies, it was a pleasure talking with you this afternoon, I do however have to leave to attend class. JenniferM, thank you for the links to the BirdSleuth webpages. Hopefully I can incorporate them into some Summer Camps that I may work for in the future or perhaps into my own class

**SaraRM:** Bye

**JenniferMF:** Thanks, Sara. Hope we'll meet here soon. Let me know if/how I can help!

**BJB2** wonders if anyone has a preference for dates for real time meetings in April?

**JenniferS6:** Bye Ladies!

**JenniferMF:** OH!! good question! What days/times tend to work for teachers, would you say?

**JenniferMF:** oops. lost almost everyone, BJ =)

**KatieHu:** This is a time that works well for me - right after school.

**BJB2:** That's why the calendar is called After School Online

**BJB2:** Katie, gotta keep in mind the different time zones!

**JenniferMF:** Katie... I'm posting an April series soon. I'll make sure to include some in the 4-5PM timeframe.

**JenniferMF:** At least east and midwest could do them... and I'll do a late session, too.

**KatieHu:** Later in the evening is good too - but could get too late in some time zones.

**JenniferMF:** OK. Thanks again. I guess I will say goodnight... great talking to everyone. Thanks so much for being here, Katie!

**KatieHu:** It's been fun. Thanks

**JenniferMF:** bye all-- thank you BJ!!! Will get the April dates to you before I leave tonight.

**BJB2:** thanks, Jen

**BJB2:** nice discussion.

**BJB2:** Nancy did a good job on Monday...just edited the script

**JenniferMF:** Anyway, so glad you and Nancy were there to cover me. I appreciate it!

**BJB2** shrugs...always have plan b when working with technology

**JenniferMF:** Goodnight all... I gotta go pack up a house! Ugh!

**JenniferMF:** (after sending BJ a schedule!)

**BJB2** waves bye. Bend your knees

**JenniferMF:** lol great advice!