

**Title of Session:** BirdSleuth Inquiry - Graphing Tutorial

**Moderator:** Jennifer Fee

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Room: BirdSleuth Inquiry Group

**JJM:** Greetings - I was just checking out some of your links.

**JenniferMF:** Well, I guess we could get started then...

**JeffC** joined the room.

**BJB2** waves hi to Jeff

**JeffC** waves

**JenniferMF:** hi Jeff!

**JeffC:** Hi Jennifer, how's it going?

**JenniferMF:** Very well for a Monday =)

**JenniferMF:** JJ, I see you are a freelance writer... looks like you might be a birder, too?

**JJM:** I'm working on it.

**JenniferMF:** So, are you familiar with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology?

**JJM:** I found my way to the nestcam site last year. I've blogged on that and then I discovered this link.

**JenniferMF:** Great, Welcome! Perhaps a good approach would be to introduce you to my program, BirdSleuth rather than concentrate solely on the graphing resources.

**JJM:** I'm still finding my way around the amazing resources on this site.

**JenniferMF:** BirdSleuth is a curriculum offered by the Lab... I'm the Project Leader for it. I've been at the Lab for about 5 1/2 years.

**JJM:** That sounds really excellent.

**JenniferMF:** One thing I really like about BirdSleuth is that it helps educators use our citizen science programs (like eBird, NestWatch, Project FeederWatch).

**JenniferMF:** Are you familiar with those projects, or mostly just know NestWatch?

**JJM:** No, I'm just beginning to spend some time on your site.

**JJM:** I've taken a couple of online tests - and read a few articles.

**JenniferMF:** Great. Here's my little introduction to some of the main citizen science projects...<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/birdsleuth/about/citizen-science-projects/citizen-science-projects>

**JJM:** Now I want to bookmark this site.

**BJB2:** JJ, when you log out all urls will be included in the transcript you are sent

**JenniferMF:** The projects were mostly created for backyard birders... we "recruit" them to collect data for the Lab-- giving our scientists access to what's going on in backyards across the country (i.e. what birds are there? what are their populations? etc.)

**JenniferMF:** But my job is to help teachers use them. They are a great resource-- and kids love that their data and their work really matters.

**JJM:** Thanks very much. I'm working on being able to interpret as well as identify.

**JenniferMF:** I had a fourth grade BirdSleuth teacher call me last week very excited because her kids had read an article about a conservation study that used citizen science data => They were so happy to have helped with the research.

**JJM:** I've always felt good about helping with bird counts, biodiversity studies - anything that contributes information.

**JenniferMF:** Besides getting kids involved in citizen science, we also aim to involve them in inquiry (asking and answering their own questions), in this case, about birds

**JJM:** I'm relieved to hear that kids are interested.

**JenniferMF:** We actually have a couple of publications of student research... see <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/birdsleuth/student-research/birdsleuth-reports>

**JenniferMF:** (that's the web magazine)

**JenniferMF:** Or <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/birdsleuth/student-research/classroom-birdscope> (the printed publication).

**JJM:** This is an amazing amount of material.

**JenniferMF:** I can give folks a few moments to peruse those-- see if you have any

questions/comments.

**JenniferMF:** Let me know if you see anything of interest =)

**SusanR:** can it be adapted for grade 2/3?

**BJB2:** JJ, as an aside, you may also be interested in the Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears discussion that takes place in Tapped In on May 7

**JJM:** Thanks. I'll check my calendar.

**JenniferMF:** Susan, YES. Our target for the first modules has been 4th-8th, but always adaptable!

**JenniferMF:** We've even had kindergarteners submit research =)

**JenniferMF:** "Does the depth of snow effect the number of birds that come to our feeder?"

**JJM:** Are these programs also available to home schooled children?

**JenniferMF:** We have a free online module to help educators do the inquiry parts of the curriculum... <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/birdsleuth/inquiry-resources> (again, created for middle school, but perfectly adaptable).

**JenniferMF:** Yes... we also have a home school module. Please see: <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/birdsleuth/who-birdsleuths/homeschoolers>

**SusanR:** I can see that it can easily be adapted

**JenniferMF:** I'm wondering if anyone has heard of our "All about Birds" site? It's just been re-done. The new site is amazing. Check out one of my favorite birds on the site: [http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American\\_Kestrel/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Kestrel/id)

**JJM:** I know you're Cornell Ornithology - but is someone doing for plants or for fungi what you're doing for birds?

**JenniferMF:** Hmmm, JJ, let me check on that real quick...

**JJM:** Thank you very much.

**SusanR:** good point, **JJM**; wish I had this resource when I was in the classroom

**JenniferMF:** About 2 years ago, we held a conference to try to bring together best practices and information about citizen science. See <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/citscitoolkit/projects/find/find> The list is probably

incomplete, they have been working over the last few months to compile projects. I do see a "plants" category.

**JJM:** This is great. Thanks.

**JenniferMF:** Would encourage you to check back every few months.

**JenniferMF:** I think it is growing.

**JJM:** Will do.

**JenniferMF:** Does everyone here have a good handle on what "citizen science" means? Any questions? Anyone ever participated in a citizen science project?

**JenniferMF:** Oh... and another site for you beginning birders  
=> <http://www.allaboutbirds.org/NetCommunity/page.aspx?pid=1053>

**JJM:** I worked on Bear Mt. State Park bird count for several years; I did Bioblitz with mushroom group in 2008.

**JenniferMF:** I think I saw that Bioblitz is on the Cit Sci toolkit webpage.

**JJM:** It is.

**JenniferMF:** JJ, I am wondering if you came by this session because you were interested in the "Graphing with Grackle" topic... I've managed to stay off topic => but I can certainly chat about that if it is of interest.

**JJM:** I just wanted to get a sense of how these chats work - I had time tonight. Usually Mon nights I'm not around.

**JJM:** I didn't mean to get folk off topic.

**JenniferMF:** Oh, no. I think everyone else may have seen the graphing tutorial

**JJM:** Graphs, keys, field guide use - it's all interesting to me - especially if I improve my skills

**JJM:** I like this latest link you sent - I'm going to check it out a bit more.

**JenniferMF:** It is interesting how we developed the BirdSleuth resources, especially the "Most Wanted Birds" module (which focuses on bird ID)... we start with teaching kids to notice silhouettes (size and shape of the bird) rather than colors and field marks.

**JenniferMF:** That is also the approach that All About Birds seems to take.

**JenniferMF:** If you recognize shape cues, you can begin to put birds into groups-- which really is key to identifying them in guides.

**JJM:** Also - I hear more than I see, so learning songs and calls - and how those sounds move as I move - has really added texture to my experience.

**JenniferMF:** Yes, definitely!! And the All About Birds site does a pretty good job of including various calls/songs AND video in some cases (behavior clues).

**JJM:** I can see that. It's really helpful. Thanks to the people who have put this together.

**JenniferMF:** I know! They just unveiled it to staff about a week ago. I was so proud of my friends who put this together. It is so striking!!

**SusanR** . o O ( like the idea of view cams )

**JenniferMF:** Earlier, JJ had mentioned her interest in nestcams. Care to share about that?

**JJM:** When I found the site, I was really excited to be able to see what I would otherwise not have seen.

**JenniferMF:** oh, here's the link <http://watch.birds.cornell.edu/nestcams/home/index>

**JJM:** Now, with so much habitat destruction, it becomes a really important element of conservation.

**JenniferMF:** careful it can be addictive to watch the nestcams!

**SusanR** . o O ( reminds me of the puppy cam )

**JJM:** And sometimes heartbreaking. There was one cardinal brooding eggs last summer - the nest was invaded.

**JenniferMF:** invaded by?

**JJM:** I have no idea. One day there were eggs and the bird nesting - and a few days later, one of the eggs was broken and the bird was gone. I have no idea what happened.

**JenniferMF:** opps... I just found myself distracted by nestcams =)

**JenniferMF:** only a few moments left.. any questions? topics you would like to chat about?

**JJM:** Thank you for being so courteous and sharing this information.

**SusanR**: was there something about plant resources .. or did I miss that?

**JenniferMF**: you are quite welcome. Frankly, it has been nice to spend some time looking around the sites! Don't get enough time for that!

**JenniferMF**: Susan... check out  
<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/citscitoolkit/projects/find/find>

**JenniferMF**: listing of many citizen science projects, including on plants.

**SusanR**: the sites are beautifully organized and easy to navigate

**JenniferMF**: Everyone, please feel free to join the BirdSleuth Inquiry group and visit another discussion => I've just posted the May schedule!

**JJM**: Thanks again. Have a good evening.

**JenniferMF**: goodnight, everyone!

**BJB2**: and the May calendar is also posted. Thanks, Jen

**JenniferMF**: Be well =>