

Title of Session: BirdSleuth Birding Basics - A Gateway to Inquiry

Moderator: Jennifer Fee

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Room: BirdSleuth Inquiry Group

JenniferMF: hi everyone!

NaliniS: hi

BJB2: Jen, Nalini is doing a very cool project with her classes...building biomes in the classroom

JenniferMF: In 2-liters?

BJB2: . o O (she can tell you better than I)

NaliniS: I am waiting for the urban bird chart Jennifer ,You said you would send me

JenniferMF: Oh, I am so very sorry. Thank you for reminding me!!

JenniferMF: Will mail it tomorrow.

NaliniS: ah,We are converting are classes into 8 biomes and students are making 3 D models

NaliniS: thank you

NaliniS: Are you coming on June 4th?

JenniferMF: I am not certain. I did talk to Amanda, we are meeting on Wednesday with everyone to chat about next steps (and next year) for SLA.

NaliniS: I introduced my principal to Tapped In.

JenniferMF: what did (s)he think of it?

NaliniS: and told him to contact you BJ

NaliniS: Wants to explore

NaliniS: impressed

BJB2: cool, Nalini. There is a large group of teachers from the Ft. Worth school dist. in

Texas using TL...since the school was closed for a week because of the swine flu

NaliniS: and makes it so much easier if all teachers can log in and collaborate

JenniferMF: wow! So the teachers are online? The students too?

BJB2: just the teachers right now

JenniferMF: So, Nalini, a whole classroom becomes a 3-D biome?

NaliniS: 8 classrooms completely

JenniferMF: what biome is your class?

NaliniS: Jen, I went to Asa Wright bird sanctuary in Trinidad

JenniferMF: You went there on vacation you mean???

NaliniS: yes

JenniferMF: wow!!! I just googled it. When did you go??

NaliniS: I am doing the desert biome in my room But am also doing the grassland coral reef and tundra

NaliniS: I went during the spring break 9-18

JenniferMF: oh my gosh, that is so wonderful, I'm happy for you, it must have been spectacular!

NaliniS: Mrs.Singhal, do you remember her also on the SLA, is doing deciduous, taiga and wetland

JenniferMF: I think I do. That sounds like fun. Good idea-- that biome project sounds great-- and fun!

NaliniS: It was .so high and guess what there is a beautiful terrace there you can just sit there with a binoculars and watch for hours

NaliniS: the hummingbirds come so close to you, in fact if we put out our hand and stay still they come and sit

JenniferMF: wow! Who went with you?

NaliniS: I saw the scarlet ibis

NaliniS: 1000's

NaliniS: in the Caroni wetland

NaliniS: along with the egrets

JenniferMF: you are making me a little jealous!

NaliniS: You would love it

NaliniS: I sent you an email before I left

JenniferMF: I don't recall getting it. Did you send via Tapped In or regular email?

NaliniS: I think via Tapped In

JenniferMF: I will look for it; I really don't think I got it.

NaliniS: If you get a chance you should go.

JenniferMF: I was hoping to show anyone who showed up tonight the new All About Birds website...

NaliniS: Looks like it is just us

JenniferMF: <http://www.allaboutbirds.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=1053>

JenniferMF: They have really made so much progress on the "tips for bird ID" pages!

NaliniS: It looks great and easy to follow

JenniferMF: It is very similar in arrangement to BirdSleuth: starting with size and shape... then working through clues to field marks.

NaliniS: I was just browsing the site

NaliniS: I didn't know Tampa also has so many birds

NaliniS: I took your bird test and did so badly

JenniferMF: They also have a bird guide to North American bird... so it would have Tampa and NY birds, but not Trinidad birds (that don't migrate there)...<http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/search>

JenniferMF: Ha! That test is hard. Don't be too hard on yourself =)

JenniferMF: no Scarlet Ibis on the search engine for All About Birds.

BJB2: there is an indigo bunting :-) We have one coming to our feeder

JenniferMF: That's a pretty bird!!

BJB2 agrees

NaliniS: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scarlet_ibis

BJB2: scarlet ibis is pretty impressive too!

NaliniS: are the indigo buntings found in NY

JenniferMF: Wow, it is the national bird of Trinidad =>

JenniferMF: http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Indigo_Bunting/lifehistory Yes-- here is Indigo Bunting page with the map.

BJB2: wow, they're pretty wide-spread in the US

JenniferMF: lots in the east.

NaliniS: yes but only during summer I think

NaliniS: for breeding

NaliniS: winter they go south

BJB2 nods

BJB2: hummingbirds are back too

NaliniS: it also says they are not urban birds

BJB2: that's a good desert bird for your students, Nalini

NaliniS: you mean the indigo

BJB2: no, the hummingbird

NaliniS: ah

BJB2: in laws used to get lots of them at their feeders. Ours are too territorial...usually only get one at a time, no matter how many feeders we have out

NaliniS: I didn't realize that the deserts had so many birds

JenniferMF: hmm... let me see if there is anything on deserts in AAB website...

NaliniS: desert, USA

JenniferMF: http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Costas_Hummingbird/lifehistory "a desert hummingbird"

NaliniS: <http://www.desertusa.com/animal.html#birdsfish>

NaliniS: I am learning so much

NaliniS: doing this project

JenniferMF: here's another one that I saw a lot of when in Arizona... super cute! http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Gambels_Quail/lifehistory Gabel's Quail.

NaliniS: the kids just made them

BJB2: and don't forget the roadrunner!

NaliniS: I have 4 of them

BJB2: . o O (although they don't say beep beep)

NaliniS: funny did you know that there are desert tortoise

JenniferMF: <http://www.mbgnet.net/sets/desert/index.htm> I like this site. It was put out by the botanical garden I used to work for.

NaliniS: I didn't

NaliniS: I have it already on my website

NaliniS: <http://217discovering-science.blogspot.com/>

NaliniS: I use it for my students to exchange ideas

BJB2: cool, Nalini!

NaliniS: this is one of my class blogs

NaliniS: each class has their own

NaliniS: for esl students I use enchanted learning

JenniferMF: wow, I am loving the blog. I'm getting totally distracted by it =)

JenniferMF: I love the student comments about what the deserts should look like.

NaliniS: I just start the threads for them

NaliniS: yes

NaliniS: I will post the photos on the blog once they are finished

NaliniS: I took them to the AMNH to get an idea

NaliniS: and do some research

JenniferMF: Just wonderful. I wish you had been my teacher =)

BJB2: me too!

JenniferMF: Such a great learning experience, and allowing them to be creative and excited!

JenniferMF: Your students are quite lucky.

NaliniS: thank you

NaliniS: they are a good group too

NaliniS: We have a great team of science teachers in our school

NaliniS: remember we 7 of us on the SLA

NaliniS: only school who sent so many

BJB2 smiles...nice

JenniferMF: I simply love their ideas for decorating the desert. The child who said to put sandpaper down. His ideas are fantastic =)

NaliniS: yes

JenniferMF: How many of your students are ESL in the school? More than half? What countries are highly represented?

NaliniS: I have one ESL class with students from Iraq, Ethiopia, Yemen, Bangladesh, DR, Mexico, Pakistan

NaliniS: and they speak very little English

NaliniS: However, they are very good with their hands I noticed. Some of my best artists are in this class

JenniferMF: Some of those countries certainly have deserts, too. It might be quite interesting to compare and contrast the various continents' deserts.

NaliniS: yes if you saw the blog, they had to find out about all the deserts in the different continents.

NaliniS: They already know a lot due to this project

JenniferMF: On June 4, where is the meeting? Will the students be there presenting? Or is it just a teacher's meeting?

NaliniS: about desert palms and the difference between a camel and a dromedary

NaliniS: just teacher at the UFT in Manhattan

BJB2 looks at the clock on the wall

NaliniS smiles

JenniferMF: OK. Wow, I guess the time is gone. So wonderful "seeing" you both.

NaliniS agrees

BJB2: Nalini, I hope you are able to participate in more BirdSleuth discussions!

JenniferMF: I will look again for that email, Nalini.

NaliniS: no problem

BJB2 . o O (also, there is a Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears discussion on Thursday)

NaliniS: I am waiting to start the bird sleuthing with my kids

JenniferMF: I will be in touch after Wednesday, when I know more from the meeting with Amanda.

NaliniS: there is

NaliniS: what is it about

NaliniS: Global warming?

BJB2: not sure what the topic is about, but they're always good.

NaliniS: thank you Jennifer

JenniferMF: Thank you for participating!

BJB2 waves bye. See you Saturday, Jen

JenniferMF: See you (here or in person!) soon

NaliniS: ok bye

JenniferMF: good night, ladies.

NaliniS: gnite