



OBSERVING THE MIGRATION PATTERNS OF LOCAL BIRD SPECIES



Name: _____ Date: _____ Location: _____

OBJECTIVE

To observe and record the migration patterns of local bird species over time.

QUESTION

Which bird species migrate through our area? When do they arrive and depart? In what direction are they traveling?

MATERIALS

- Binoculars (if available)
- Field guide or bird identification app
- Notebook or printed data sheet
- Pencil or pen
- Calendar
- Computer or atlas (optional)
- Camera or smartphone (optional)

HYPOTHESIS

Make a prediction about the migration patterns of birds in your area.

RESULTS

What patterns did you notice in the migration of local bird species?

PROCEDURE

1. Choose a safe observation location (yard, park, pond, nature trail, etc.).
2. Observe birds at the same location on a regular schedule (at least once a week) during migration season (spring and/or fall).
3. Identify each bird species you see or hear.
4. Record the date, time, weather conditions, species, number of birds, and direction of travel (if applicable).
5. Note behavior (flying, resting, feeding, etc.) and habitat (trees, field, water, etc.).
6. Continue observations for several weeks.
7. Review your data to look for patterns in arrival times, departure times, and direction of travel.

DATA TABLE

Date	Time	Weather Conditions	Bird Species	Number of Birds	Direction of Travel (N, S, E, W)	Behavior/Habitat Notes

CONCLUSION

What did you learn from your observations? Did your data support your hypothesis?

★ EXTENSION IDEAS

- Compare your results with bird migration maps from online resources (eBird, All About Birds, etc.).
- Create a graph showing the number of different species observed each week.
- Share your data with a local citizen science program.

