

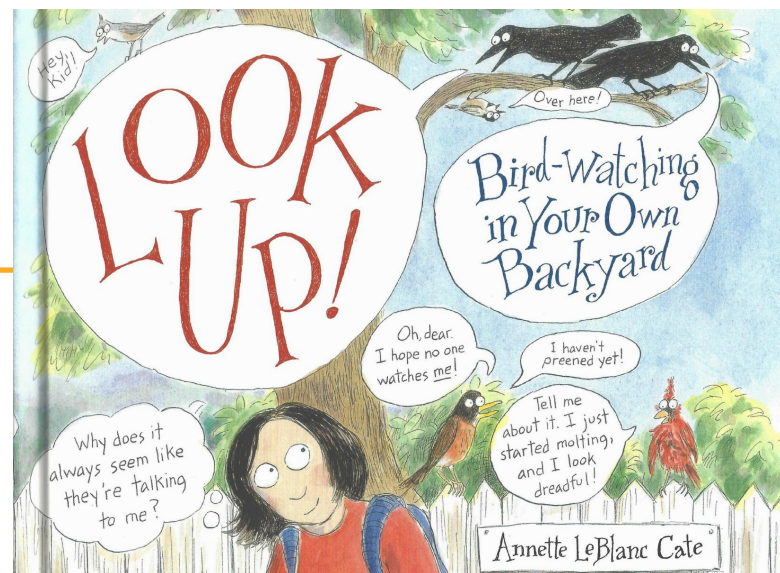
EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE

Activities, tools & resources for learning with this book!

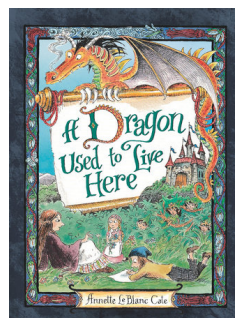
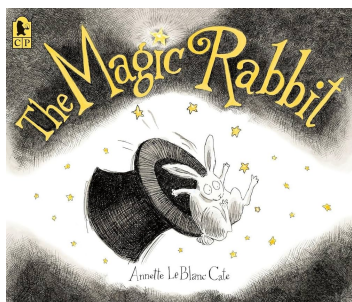
Meet Annette LeBlanc Cate



Annette LeBlanc Cate is the author-illustrator of *The Magic Rabbit* and *LOOK UP!: Bird-Watching in Your Own Backyard*, which was a 2014 ALA Robert F. Sibert Informational Honor Book. She is also an illustrator for Applesseeds Magazine. From 1995-2002, Annette was a storyboard artist, writer, animator, and Art Director of Dr. Katz, Professional Therapist, a TV series.



Read more from Anica:



"Spending time outside observing life and drawing in a sketchbook can help you to see the world in a whole new way. You've always known that the birds and the trees and the insects and the rocks were there...but when you take the time to sit and patiently draw them, you do more than see them: you experience them. You feel yourself more connected to the natural world, more at home in it." - from Look Up!

EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE

LET'S BEGIN! BEFORE READING THE BOOK

Use the Visual Thinking Strategy (VTS) questions below to orient readers, and to help guide a group discussion. Begin by taking a quiet moment to look closely at the book jacket, allowing time for observation and contemplation of the images.

- *What is going on in this picture?*
- *What do you see that makes you say that? (provide evidence)*
- *What more can we find?*

Watch this [VIDEO](#) for a quick VTS demo

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please contact Alison Johnson at Island Readers & Writers, 207-460-6828 or ajohnson@islandreadersandwriters.org.

LET'S TALK!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How do the birds' comments throughout the book help you understand their characteristics or personalities?

Why are male birds usually more colorful than female birds?

Discuss the differences between bird nests, such as shape, size, and materials used. Have you ever found one?

What are some of the dangers birds face?

Why do some birds leave their homes for part of the year, and then return again?

What are your favorite birds, and why? Are there any birds you dislike? Why?

Talk about the many ways that birds are present in our lives.

How do birds fit into the food web? Are they predators, prey, or both?

STANDARDS

Covered throughout this Explore More Book Guide:

SL.1. Prepare for and participate in conversations across a range of topics, types, and forums, building on others' ideas and expressing their own.

SL.2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

SL.3 Present information and supporting evidence appropriate to task, purpose, and audience so listeners can follow the line of reasoning and incorporate multimedia when appropriate.

R.4. Read various texts closely to determine what each text explicitly says and to make logical inferences; cite specific textual evidence to support conclusions drawn from the texts.

R.5 Provide an accurate summary of various texts; determine the central idea(s) or theme(s) and analyze its development throughout each text.

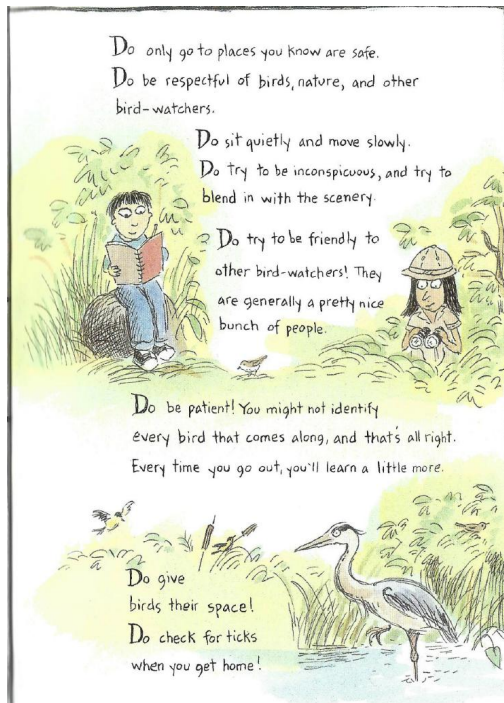
R.6. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

R.8 Analyze the structure of various texts, including how the features and components relate to each other and the whole.

R.9. Assess how perspective or purpose shapes the content and style of various texts.

Life Sciences

Bird-Watching Dos



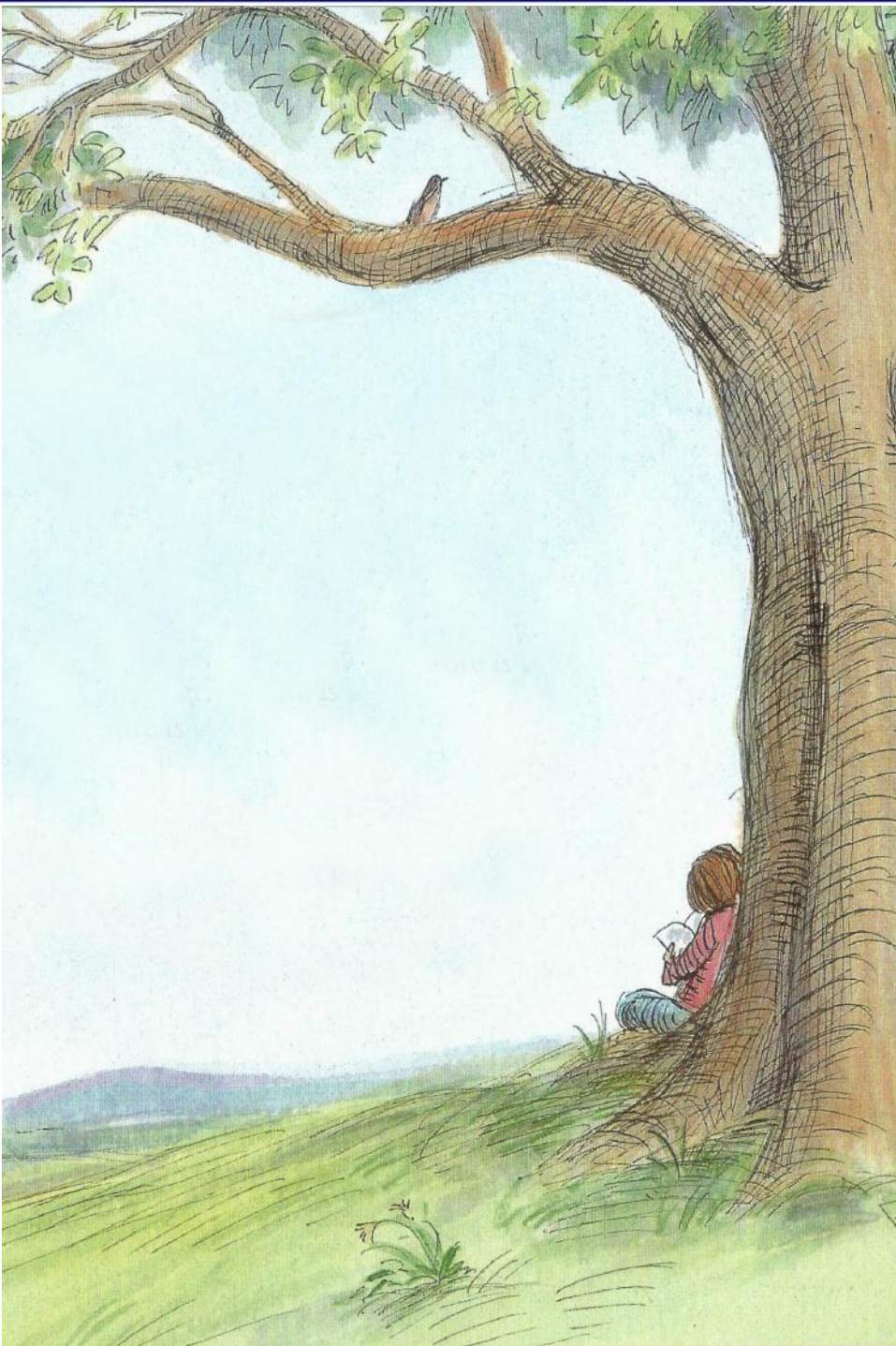
LET'S CREATE (AND DO)! Book-Inspired Art

- Make a BIRD FEEDER out of recycled materials
- Journey into the great outdoors - with a pencil and a piece of paper or notebook - watch and observe birds in their natural habitat. Once you've spotted a bird, sketch its basic shape and distinguishing characteristics, and note details such as color, size, etc.
- Research poems about birds and gather your favorites into a poetry anthology.
- Persuasive Writing- After researching local bird issues, such as logging's impact on migratory birds, or tourism's impact on nesting areas, write a letter to the editor voicing your opinion using clear, concise arguments.
- Choose a bird species from the book and conduct deep research on its traits, characteristics, and behavior. Draw the bird, and write a short descriptive paragraph from the bird's perspective.

- As a class, create a field guide for birds you find around your school.
- Design your own Rainbow of Color (pp. 10-11 in Look Up!). If possible, identify local birds within each color category.
- Observation- Project or display an image for students to focus on for 30 seconds. Instruct them to observe it carefully and scrutinize it. Hide the image, and ask students to write down as many details as they can remember. As a class, compare their lists before revisiting the image to see what escaped students' keen eyes!
- Draw a Song and Call Map. Choose a spot outside to settle and quiet yourself. On a blank sheet of paper, draw an X to identify where you are sitting. Focus your attention on your hearing. What bird songs and calls do you hear? On your sheet of paper, draw a star in the general area from where you hear the call.

Bird-Watching Don't's!





LET'S DIVE DEEPER! [Explore More](#)

A [video](#) about one of the most perilous journeys in the animal kingdom - Migration (includes complementary discussion questions)

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's "All About Birds," including bird guides, bird cams, videos, articles, and much more

[BirdCast](#): Bird Migration Forecasts in Real-Time

[Great Backyard Bird Count](#)

[eBirdSleuth](#), includes online activities, outdoor learning, citizen science, bird biology, and more

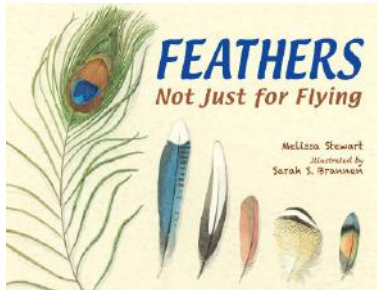
[Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute](#), All About Migratory Birds

[Birds in the News](#) (Audobon Society)

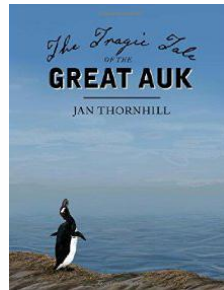
[Video](#): How did dinosaurs evolve into birds?

[Video](#): Climate change's effect on birds

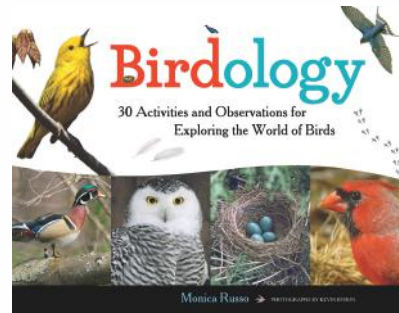
LET'S READ MORE! Text to Text Connections



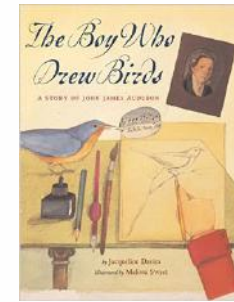
Feathers: Not Just For Flying, by Melissa Stewart and illustrated by Sarah S. Brannen. Gr. 1 - 4.



The Tragic Tale of the Great Auk, by Jan Thornhill. Gr. 2 - 5.



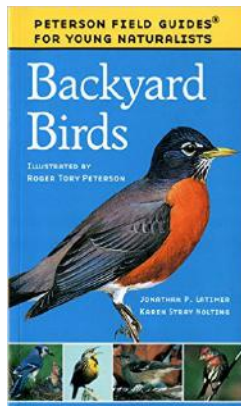
Birdology: 30 Activities and Observations for Exploring the World of Birds, by Monica Russo and photographs by Kevin Byron. Gr. 4 - 6.



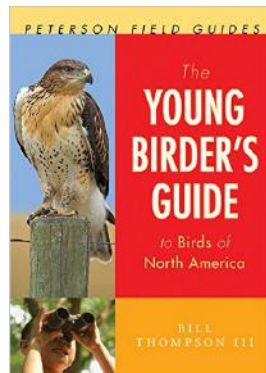
The Boy Who Drew Birds: A Story of John James Audubon, by Jacqueline Davies and illustrated by Melissa Sweet. Gr. 2 - 4.



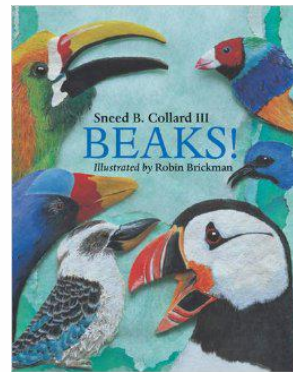
Mama Built A Little Nest, by Jennifer Ward and illustrated by Steve Jenkins. Grades PreK - 3.



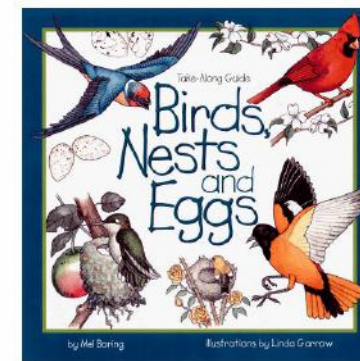
Backyard Birds (Field Guides for Young Naturalists), by Karen Stray Nolting and Jonathan Latimer. Gr. 4 - 6.



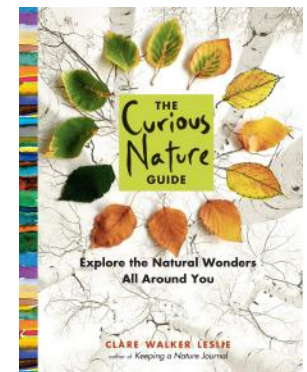
The Young Birder's Guide to Birds of North America, by Bill Thompson III. Grades 6 & up.



Beaks! by Sneed B. Collard and illustrated by Robin Brickman. Grades PreK - 4.



Birds, Nests and Eggs, by Mel Boring. Gr. K - 5.



The Curious Nature Guide: Explore the Natural Wonders All Around You, by Clare Walker Leslie. All ages.