



Children's Activities at Bird Fest - Saturday, September 11th

Plaza Room above the Edmonds Public Library, 650 Main Street

➤ **10:00 AM: Migration Game opens**

The Migration Game is open-ended and can be played all-day. Children are to pick-up instructions and dice in the Plaza Room. All ages are welcome. In the spring and the fall, many birds fly long distances in search of food, water, shelter and space: the same basic things that birds need to survive. Along these routes, they encounter many different types of habitats, from country and forest to neighborhoods and big cities, and at times, encounter dangers from both natural and manmade hazards.



In this game, children will try to help their flock migrate safely by learning how choices they make each and every day around their home, school, and neighborhood can affect the fate of these migrating birds - in both positive and negative ways. By the time they're done, they have the skills and knowledge to help birds thrive and survive around their homes.

➤ **10:00 AM - NOON: Making Bird Reflector/Window Clings**



It's estimated that as many as 1 billion birds die each year in the United States due to collisions with windows. The primary danger stems from reflective glass. Birds see escape routes and possible safety zones mirrored in reflective glass and fly unaware into windows. The speed and force of the impact can cause instant death. Birds that seem stunned or do not die immediately may actually be fatally injured as well. Children will have an opportunity

to help the birds in their backyards by creating various colored and bird shaped reflector/window clings to take home.

➤ **NOON - 2:00 PM: Making Birdfeeders**

Did you know that over 100 North American bird species supplement their natural diets with birdseed, suet, fruit and nectar obtained from feeders? Bird feeding can benefit birds and also provides great bird watching from your own backyard. The obvious time to feed birds is in winter when natural food supplies are scarce; however, additional species visit feeders during the spring and fall migrations, and also during summer while nesting. We will create a peanut butter & seed birdfeeder to take home.



➤ 2:00 - 4:00 PM: Owl Pellet Dissecting

Like most birds, owls can't chew their food; they often swallow their prey whole. But they're different from most birds because they don't have a crop (the organ used to store food after it has been swallowed so that it can be digested later). In owls, food goes right from the mouth to the gizzard ... a sort of stomach that contains digestive fluids and sand that dissolves and grind up food.



But some of the parts of the animals eaten by an owl, like beaks, claws, fur and bones, can't be digested. So the owl spits them up! (This is called *regurgitation*). This is what makes an owl pellet.



You can find out what an owl eats by examining these pellets. Most of the indigestible material is still whole, and often a skull can be found, making it easier to identify the animal that was eaten easy.

