

THE BIRD DAY ECOLOGICAL EDUCATIONAL FESTIVAL

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In 2009–2012 during the “Kindergarten as a model of environmental culture” experiment an innovation of educational ecological festivals was born: one month before the festival is dedicated to special lessons for the children and research project activities.

On May 31, 2012, 110 children from 3 to 7 participated in the Bird Day festival. In the process of preparation for the festival we showed kids slides with birds from the World of Biology series and BBC films about birds; read fiction books and Ecological ABC, listened to bird songs recordings, made birdhouses and feeders. New lesson summaries were developed and internet resources were adapted for the work. The lessons included: “Saving birds in winter” discussion in the senior group; Continuous speech development in the senior group using the “Rook” topic; “Rooks are coming back” paper construction; “Rooks a coming back” painting lessons in the senior group; Ecological lessons - “Clouds are in the sky – birds are flying south”, “Birds in winter”, “Spring and migrating birds”. Observations on the kindergarten territory were an important part of the preparation for the festival. In winter we were visited by whole flocks of sparrows, tits, even robins and fieldfares. In early spring starlings settled on our territory, and children observed their life and behavior with great interest. In the course of this work children learned how to use binoculars, birdseed, field guide to the birds of Moscow. All spring children listened to starlings and nightingales singing, watched wagtails and swifts. On May 26, 2012, children and their parents went to the Singing Birds excursion in the MSU Botanical garden.

At the end of the preparatory lessons each group put together a research report on a specific bird and a performance for the final Bird Day festival on May 31. Children read poetry and sang about their group's birds (swifts, starlings, etc.), represented birds through dances. In the end we can say that children learned to observe beautiful and different birds around them. They became eager to care about birds, grew warm towards the creatures that cheer us with their songs and beauty. MSU ornithologist K.V. Avilova approved of our work and suggested participating in International birdwatching days and other similar events. Information about them and other useful details are available on the Russian Bird Conservation Union website.