

## *The concept note to the international project “How I have discovered Birds”*

We present the project “How I have discovered Birds”, that includes several different directions of work such as cultural significance of birds in people’s lives in terms of folklore, myths, religious traditions and views, popular beliefs and superstitions that are connected with birds. Scientific researches of birds as a group of animals, such as banding and further monitoring, study on migrations, forming flocks and other. Everybody can join the project (kids from 7 to 15-16 years old) due to various forms of work. They can work with various sources of information, they can hold practical work such as observing the object of research, and also there is creative aspect involved, i.e. drawing, painting, modeling, appliqué work and so on.

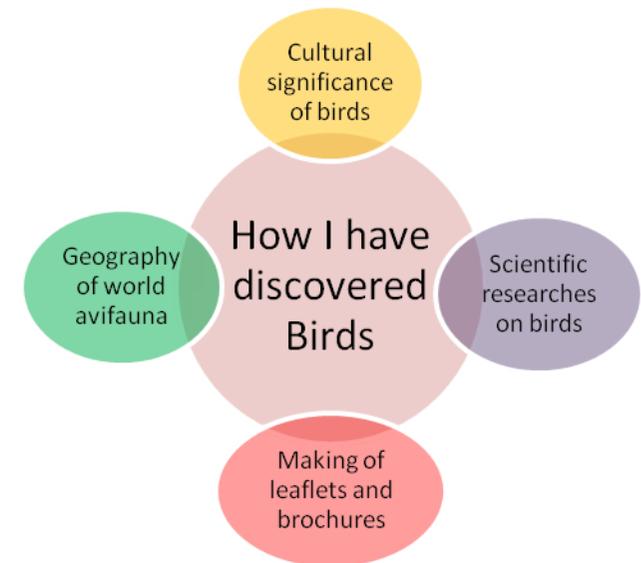
*The aims of the project:*

*Educational aims:*

- ✚ To get acquainted with some representatives of avifauna of Moscow region and the region of partner-country;
- ✚ To elicit those species that are common for both regions and those that are unique for both regions;
- ✚ To manuscript the information and to explain the differences and analogies for both regions;
- ✚ To analyze the specific names of birds and to follow the history of origin;
- ✚ To study and analyze the influence of ecological traditions and popular beliefs on scientific research and classification of birds;
- ✚ To issue a brochure “My Bird Story” in the English and Russian languages with maps and pictures.

*Educatory aims:*

- ✚ To develop the communicative competence under the conditions of alive relationship in terms of global problems
- ✚ To develop and raise the need to use foreign language as the language of communication, perception and knowledge
- ✚ To develop national self-comprehension, aspiration to mutual understanding among people of different countries and nations.



# Birds matter!

- They help disperse seeds
- They pollinate flowers
- They serve as the clean-up crew of the environment
- They are important ecosystem engineers
- They help control pests
- They are a source of beauty and inspiration
- They are indicators of what is happening in the natural world
- Bird watching adds economic value of the region



They pollinate flowers



The beauty and gracefulness ...

Birds have always attracted people's attention. They could reach the skies and the skies have always been associated with Gods. Thus birds have always been considered as an inevitable part of different religious and mythological systems since ancient times. Human being accepts birds as something kind and sincere. Birds are embodiment of heavenly essence, sun, wind, clouds, thunder and freedom. From the practical point of view we understand why our life is impossible without birds. But birds need us too. And first of all our kind treatment. People are responsible for the lives of our neighbors on this fragile planet. Well-being of bird species is directly connected with ecological traditions of the region. So the participants of the project will be able to make the contribution to cause of conservation of nature and to concern of environment.

Children can make the difference so birds could always sing on our planet!

Because of this the present project is extremely important for children in getting acquainted with Birds, Wonders of Nature, its Harmony and breathtaking specialness. The project will teach pupils to observe, consciously admire and, what is the most important, to respect and take care of living beings on our planet. They will also learn to protect and multiply Wonders of Nature, to make "Colours of Earth" much brighter and the "Melody of Nature" more pleasant.



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Moscow 2010

