LEAD-UP ACTIVITY:

Color These Birds

OBJECTIVES:
- To color pictures of birds with appropriate colors.
- To observe pictures of birds and classify them by their characteristics.

GROUP SIZE: up to 20

DURATION: 30-45 minutes

RELATED SUBJECT AREAS: science, language arts, art

SETTING: classroom

MATERIALS:
- copies of pages 30-31 for each student
- crayons

PREPARATION:
- If you copy on pastel-colored paper, students can color the owl white. For non-readers you may want to circle the color words with the appropriate color crayons beforehand.
- For background information refer to pages 6-7.

PROCEDURE:
1. Distribute the coloring pages to the students. Ask them to examine the pictures carefully.

Questions for Discussion:
- What do you see on these pages? Are they animals? (Birds are one of the many kinds of animals. Other kinds of animals include mammals, fish and insects.)
- How are all these birds alike? (Students will notice that all the birds have feathers covering their bodies, two wings, a tail, two legs, claws on their toes, two eyes, and a beak but no teeth. Birds have other characteristics too. Their young hatch from eggs. Most birds can fly; the ostrich and penguin are exceptions.)

2. Distribute crayons and help the students color the pictures according to the sentence next to each bird.

3. When the students have finished, hold a class discussion on the variety of shapes, colors, and sizes of birds. Note: When discussing size, point out that the birds on the first page (crow, goldfinch, blue jay, cardinal and screech owl) are drawn half life-size, while the birds on the second page (snowy owl, turkey and mallard) are drawn one quarter life-size. The crayon drawn to scale on each page may help the students make this connection.

Questions for Discussion:
- About the first page, ask:
  - Can you find a bird with a long bill? (crow) A hooked bill? (screech-owl) A short bill? (goldfinch and cardinal)
  - Can you find a bird with a crest on its head? (blue jay and cardinal) Feathers that look like ears? (screech-owl)
  - Can you find the largest bird? (Crow on the first page. The turkey is the largest of all.) The smallest bird? (goldfinch)

About the second page ask:
- Can you find a bird that is black and white? (snowy owl) Many colors? (mallard)
- Can you find a bird with feathered feet? (snowy owl) Webbed feet? (mallard)
- Can you find a bird with a long neck? (turkey) A short neck? (snowy owl)
- Can you find a bird with large eyes facing forward? (snowy owl)

EXTENSION:
1. Draw a large picture of a tree in winter on newsprint, or make a tree on a bulletin board from construction paper. Cut out the birds students have colored and have the students paste them on the tree or on the ground next to the tree. (The wild turkey and mallard should be on the ground.)

2. Redraw the birds so they are life size, have students color them, and use the life-size birds in a mural.
Blue jays are blue.

Male northern cardinals are red.

Eastern screech owls are grey.

Male American goldfinches are yellow.

American crows are black.

Snowy owls are white.

Wild turkeys are brown.

Male mallards are many colors.