PLAY THE MIGRATION GAME Interpretive Space

The next section of Wings of the World is a dedicated interpretive space in which guests Play the Migration game. Families/groups role play as a flock of migrating birds traveling from South America to Ohio. They follow a trail of bird silhouettes on the floor from start to finish and engage in challenges focused on threats migrating birds face to their survival along the way. With each challenge, guests learn how they can make life a bit easier for birds by being a better bird neighbor in specific ways. It ends with the flock climbing into a nest in an Ohio backyard and taking a photo of their success to share with others. (If guests so choose, they can bypass the migration space and continue on to see the rest of the bird habitats.)

Contents:
A) Play the Migration Game
B) Watch Out for Windows!
C) Spot the Predators
D) Bird-friendly Backyard
E) Nest

A) Play the Migration Game
The first thing guests do is find out which migratory bird species they are by spinning wheel featuring five different species that migrate between the tropics and Ohio.

Text:
Play the Migration Game!
Many birds migrate back and forth between the United States and tropics each year. Along the way, they face a number of challenges. Can your flock make the journey?

Spin to find out which bird you are!
- Ruby-throated hummingbird
- Common nighthawk
- Yellow warbler
- Scarlet tanager
- Green-winged teal
element through which guests can apply a different solution to making the glass bird-safe. (A cabinet is built into the bottom of the corner window for interpreter storage.)

Window #1 text:
Fly Around!
Birds can’t see glass and will fly into a window, thinking it is an open space. Pull up to make this a bird-safe window!

Signage text:
Watch Out for Windows
As your flock flies through cities and towns, you’ll need to avoid crashing into glass windows. Birds can’t see glass and will fly into it, thinking it’s an open space. Make these windows bird-safe as you fly around them.
Guest raise a mesh screen to cover the window. Text panel applied to screen: Add a screen outside your window to create a pattern birds will see.

Window #2 text:
Watch Out!
We can save millions of birds a year by making our windows visible to them.
Crank to make this a bird-safe window!
Guests raise a window with ABC bird tape applied to it in vertical stripes 4 inches apart: Break up the large space with tape. Birds won’t try to fly through vertical spaces smaller than 4 inches wide.

Window #3 text:
Don’t Crash!
There are plenty of affordable ways to make our windows safer for birds.
Push down to make this a bird-safe window!
Guests move vertical blinds to cover window with them standing half open: Draw your vertical blinds, but leave them half-open to create a barrier birds may see.

Interpretive panel on wall at end:
Your flock safely flew around the windows!
How can you make your windows at home more visible to birds?
Break up the reflection into small spaces—less than 2 inches tall or 4 inches wide—that birds won’t try to fly through.

Try these options:
- Place adhesive dots or decals in a pattern on the outside of glass windows. Try Feather Friendly® Residential Marker Pattern Tape for easy application.
- Add horizontal or vertical lines to the outside of your windows. The American Bird Conservancy’s BirdTape is inexpensive and effective.
- Cover your window with a mesh screen.
- Drawing your blinds or curtains during the day can help, but less so than marking the outside of glass windows.
C) Spot the Predators

In the next corner along the migration route, guests are challenged to find the predators hiding among a 12-foot-long wall mural of a woodland park. Layered panels on the walls give the mural some dimension, and it features bird the final three pewter bird statues—chickadee, woodpecker and cardinal—in addition to the predators to be found. The chickadee is perched on top of a bird house, which includes tips on building a better bird house. The cardinal is perched on a bird feeder, and includes tips on bird feeding. The woodpecker is on the side of a tree. The four predators are a hawk, fox, snake and housecat. Guests are urged to keep their cats indoors since they are not natural predators and especially troublesome to birds.

**Signage text:**

Spot the Predators
Be on the lookout for predators! Hawks, foxes and snakes love to eat birds for lunch. Cats are especially troublesome since they are not natural predators.
Work with your flock to spot the predators hiding nearby.
Can you find:
- A hawk?
- A fox?
- A snake?
- A housecat?
Keep your cats indoors to keep local birds safe!

**Signage text:**

Bird Feeder Safety Tips
A great way to get to know the birds around you is to observe them at a bird feeder. When done right, a feeder can safely add to a bird’s natural diet.
Keep it Clean and Dry
When seeds get wet and dirty, mold and bacteria can grow and make birds sick. A tube feeder keeps birdseed pretty dry, yet you should still clean it out and replace the seed every other week.

Keep it Safe
Hang the feeder near shrubs and trees so birds can take cover quickly, and use a guard to ward off squirrels. Hawks will target birds at feeders, so if you see one hanging around, take the feeder down for a few days until the hawk moves on.

Signage text:
Build a Better Bird House
Follow these tips to provide a safe and successful home for birds.

Make it Sturdy
Use untreated, unpainted wood and galvanized screws.

Keep it Dry
An overhanging, sloped roof and drainage holes in the floor will help keep it dry.

Just Right Temperature
Ventilation holes and ¾-inch thick walls keep the house from getting too hot or cold.

Keep Out Predators
Use a metal guard to keep predators from climbing the pole.

D) Bird-friendly Backyard
The next challenge is to create a bird-friendly backyard habitat. An interactive panel features a large illustration of a backyard. There are five rotating panels set within the scene. Guests work together to turn each 3-sided panel until they make the best choice.
Text:
Make this Backyard a Bird-friendly Habitat
Your flock needs safe places to stop for food, water and shelter and good habitat at the end of your journey. Backyards can provide great rest stops and summer homes for migratory birds. Work with your flock to make this backyard a bird-friendly habitat.

Choice panels:
A – hummingbird feeder
Side 1:
Help out hummingbirds! Turn to choose the best hummingbird feeder.
Side 2 (poor option):
Is this the best choice? Offering red sugar water in a tube feeder with a single feeding spot is probably not; turn to make a better choice.
Side 3 (best option):
Is this the best choice? With no added dyes and several feeding spots, this easy-to-clean saucer feeder should keep hummingbirds happy and healthy.

B – bird house
Side 1:
Give birds a safe place to live! Turn to choose the best bird house.
Side 2 (poor option):
Is this the best choice? Birds won’t be very safe in this brightly-colored house on a short pole without a predator guard. Turn to make a better choice.
Side 3 (best option):
Is this the best choice? Birds should be safe from predators in this natural wood house on a tall pole with a predator guard.

C – Cat inside or outside window
Side 1:
Keep birds safe from cats! Turn to make the best choice for your tabby.
Side 2 (poor option):
Is this the best choice? Cats that roam outdoors will kill birds even if they’re not hungry. Turn to make a better choice.
Side 3 (best option):
Is this the best choice? Keeping cats indoors saves birds from these non-natural predators.
D – bird bath options

Side 1:
Offer clean water for drinking, bathing and keeping cool. Turn to choose the best bird bath.

Side 2 (poor option):
Is this the best choice? This fancy bath may look nice, but it’s too tall, the water is too deep, and the bowl is slippery. Turn to make a better choice.

Side 3 (best option):
Is this the best choice? Mimicking a natural, shallow puddle is the best way to offer water to birds.

E – native or exotic plants

Side 1:
Feed the birds with native plants! Turn to find the best plant choice.

Side 2 (poor option):
Is this the best choice? Though exotic flowers like daffodils may be pretty, they are not a natural food source for birds. Turn to make a better choice.

Side 3 (best option):
Is this the best choice? Chickadees, nuthatches and cardinals love to eat seeds from native flowers like the black-eyed susan.

To the right of the interactive is an interpretive panel that explains what makes a good habitat.

Signage text:
Make Your Space a Bird-friendly Place
Birds are all around us. They share our yards, parks and cities. As wild spaces become scarce, it’s important to make our spaces bird-friendly places.

Food - Native plants provide seeds, berries and nectar as well as attract insects that birds eat.

Water - Birds need clean water for drinking, bathing and keeping cool.

Shelter - Birds need places to nest, take cover from weather and hide from predators and prey.

Bird-friendly Habitat - “Thanks, Neighbor!”

To the left of the interactive are four interpretive panels that provide more detail on the topics presented in the challenge.
Give Birds a Safe House

Bird houses can provide safe nesting places, and are especially important in areas lacking natural habitat. To make a bird house safe from predators like snakes, raccoons and cats, consider these tips.

- Use natural wood; it’s less likely to attract attention from predators than bright colors.
- Avoid perches that give predators something to hold onto; birds don’t need them.
- Mount the house on a pole that is at least 5 feet off the ground and has a metal guard that makes it hard for predators to climb.

Just Add Water

Though we typically think of birdbaths as concrete bowls on pedestals, mimicking a natural, shallow puddle is the best way to offer water to birds.

- Keep it low as birds look for natural water sources on or near the ground.
- Keep it shallow—water should be no more than two inches deep—and add gravel or stones to provide footing.
- Scrub out the bath and refill it every other day to keep it clean and fresh.

Hang a Hummingbird Feeder

A feeder can provide hummingbirds with the necessary fuel to survive migration, particularly in areas with few natural sources of nectar. To keep hummingbirds happy and healthy, consider these tips.

- Hummingbirds are territorial, and less likely to fight over a feeder with several feeding spots.
- A saucer feeder is easier to clean than a tube feeder, which should be done every few days.
- Sugar water with no added dyes is best; red dye can make hummingbirds sick. Mix ¼ cup of sugar in 1 cup of water, and replace it every few days.
The Best Native Plants for Birds
Live in Cincinnati? Consider growing these native plants to provide food and shelter to birds.

*Labeled photos of following plants, include birds in photos when possible*

- Eastern red cedar
- Northern white oak
- Flowering dogwood
- Northern spicebush
- Black-eyed susan
- Great blue lobelia
- Trumpet vine
- Cardinal flower

Search for the best native plants to grow for birds in your region at [https://www.audubon.org/native-plants](https://www.audubon.org/native-plants).

E) Nest

Once a flock has completed their migration through all the challenges, they can then begin to nest! A photo opportunity places the group inside a nest with foliage behind them and text that reads: Our flock safely migrated to Cincinnati! They are encouraged to take photos and share on social media.

**Signage text:**
You Made It!
Welcome to your summer home in Cincinnati. Now it’s time to start a new family!
Climb in the nest, snap a photo, and share it with your friends.
#JoinTheCZBGFlock

Something to Think About…
What was the hardest part of your migration?
What can you do to be a better bird neighbor?

Upon leaving the Migration Game space, guests then head into the polar section of the building. Before reaching the first habitat, there is another bird-related quote on a cloud.
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