

# 2016-17 Savaloja Grant Report

## Edgerton Elementary - 2nd Grade

### Classes

Submitted by Jenny Eckman, Grade 1 Teacher at Parkview Center School (former Environmental Science Teacher at Harambee Elementary) , Stacey Whitwood, Sarah Johnston, and Kelly Lincoln, Grade 2 Teachers at Edgerton Elementary



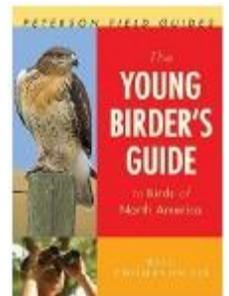
### Goals

With a goal of benefiting birds, increasing understanding of birds, and diversification and expansion of the MN birding community, this grant was a perfect match for expanding the prior work that has been done with the Savaloja Grant at Harambee Elementary with Edgerton Elementary, a neighboring and fellow district school. With Edgerton's diverse population, Title I status (based on a high percentage of students that receive free and reduced lunch) and a desire to use the natural world as a context for learning, we thought this was a valuable, enriching experience that our students might not be exposed to otherwise . The goal is to increase and improve the ways we connect our current science curriculum to our local biomes by using birds as an integrating theme. We hoped to use the engaging and motivating topic of birds to connect standards in science, language arts, social studies, and math as well as encouraging our students to be interested in the wildlife available in our own community.

**The grant funding allowed us to do 3 important things:**

### 1. Resources

We were able to purchase many resources for both student and staff use. We started with a classroom set of 25 high quality binoculars and field guides from Eagle Optics. We also bought each 2nd grade classroom teacher a collection of plush birds that make each bird's sound, two bird feeders and feed, and a set of bird ID sleuth cards . Lastly each student got his/her own copy of the Birds of the Northwoods Activity guide. This book is designed for students to complete activities and collect information about 50 different bird species. We also included time for the author of the book to visit classrooms, talk to the students about the book and birding as well as take them outside to look for good bird habitat in the Edgerton courtyard and surrounding park.



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### 2. Training

David Grack, the author of the activity guide, spent a half day in classrooms and a half day working with teachers. This was a very critical piece. For the classroom teachers, this was a chance to learn more about the activity guide and how to use it, but also really was an introduction to the many ways birds could be integrated into the curriculum. David worked with Jenny to plan a session that was individualized for the team and connected to the other elements of the 2nd grade curriculum.

### 3. Additional Professional Development and Planning...

Following the training, the classroom teachers met with Jenny for a half day to check in about progress so far and to make a solid plan for how we would use the bird theme throughout the year. This is another element that is crucial to make the bird work a reality. With multiple initiatives going on in our school and a district focus on reading and math, we needed time to work together and create a working plan.

### Outcomes

We are feeling really excited and proud about the way the bird project has "taken flight" at Edgerton! The students were thrilled to meet a real author (David Grack) and to find out the books were theirs to KEEP! David talked to the classes about his interest in birding and how his observations of the natural world led him to create the book. Then he got us all outside to find out more about where we could look for birds in the outdoor spaces around our school.



Each of the three second grade classes was able to purchase two window feeders. It has been more challenging than we anticipated to draw birds right up to the windows. Students have become problem solvers, and have learned that birds need the cover of trees and shrubs in order make the area a “safe” place to feed. Second graders have learned that squirrels are attracted to the same food, and they are not as shy about coming to the windows!

One class was able to get several parent volunteers to help with a “Bird Day”. In several stations they explored the Cornell Birds site and used the data to learn about several Minnesota birds and record in their bird books. They also helped build birdhouses, and made authentic bird puppets using bird silhouettes. The other two class plan to do something similar this spring.

The class set of binoculars allowed students to go outside and closely observe nature. In observing they learned to also listen. One student said, “I can hear the bird, but I can’t see it.” Students are learning the power of using all their senses.



The students are excited to report sightings of birds they have studied. Using the small stuffed birds they are able to identify some birds, like the blue jay, by their call. We are looking forward to continuing to use these resources and continue this learning with future classes as well. Thank you for this opportunity!



## Final Budget Reconciliation

|                      |  |  |                          |                |
|----------------------|--|--|--------------------------|----------------|
| 3 classroom teachers | Approx. 80 students  |  |                          | Total cost     |
| Resources            | Class set of 25 binoculars and field guides                                    | <b>Eagle Optics</b><br>Kingbird 6.5x32                       | 25 at \$67.00 each       | \$1675         |
|                      |  | Young Birder's Guide   | 25 at 15.16 each         | \$379          |
|                      | Bird Feeding stations<br>1 in courtyard<br>1 small feeder per classroom        | Multiple feeder types, accessories and starter seed and suet | Will also seek donations | \$926          |
|                      | WILD About MN Birds; A Youth's Guide to the Birds of Minnesota by Adele Porter |  | 3 @ \$15 each            | \$45<br>Amazon |
|                      | Birds of the Northwoods Activity and Learning Guide by David Grack             | Purchase through David w/school discount                     | 80 @ \$7 each            | \$560          |
| Training             | 1 half day training; w/David Grack   |  |                          | \$410          |
|                      | 1 half day in house field trip for 3 classrooms                                |  | \$150                    | \$150          |
| Planning             | Half day for 3 classroom teachers plus Jenny                                   |  | 4 @\$65 each             | \$260          |
| Total Grant          |  |  |                          | \$4405         |

### Other Resources

Plush birds—Audobon recorded sounds <https://www.wildrepublic.com/en/audubon>

Bird Sleuth cards and activities <http://www.birdsleuth.org/>

David Grack—to purchase books and arrange school visit; [david.grack@charter.net](mailto:david.grack@charter.net)

Lois Ehlert—[Feathers for Lunch](#)—purchased on Amazon