



Be a Part of the Migration Kites in the Classroom

The Arctic is all around us. Every year, birds that begin their lives on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge journey to all 50 states and across six continents, before heading back to the Arctic, where the cycle of life begins again. Many of these birds come through our backyards or make a stopover in your local National Wildlife Refuge. (To the right is an illustration of these migratory paths.)



As we mark the 50th anniversary of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, we must do everything we can to be sure that this last wild haven remains for generations to come.

You can see which birds come to your area on this map (birds listed for states near yours may also visit your state): <http://arctic.fws.gov/pdf/isbirdmap.pdf>



You can be part of this by participating in our symbolic migration. Students and teachers across the country will be making and flying kites throughout the year symbolizing the birds that come through their areas and celebrating the natural connection between the Arctic Refuge and their area. The League has directions on how to make a kite on our website. Students can build their own kites and then fly them to represent flocks of migrating birds that travel from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to their state. This activity could work for students from grades 1-12 and could allow students to learn the basics of ecology, geography, physics, and even art.

Once the students have made their kites, you can go to a large outdoor space near you to fly the kites. You can see which student's kite flies the highest, who can maneuver their kite to do tricks, and who can keep their kite in the air for the longest.

Back in the classroom, you can discuss if there were certain aspects of the kites that made them perform better. What impacted their success in flying the kite? Could anything improve the kites?

We would love to hear how this activity goes. Please send us any photos or feedback to liz [at] alaskawild [dot] org.

For more information on this campaign and to download your kite kit, go to www.alaskawild.org/kite or call 202-544-5205.