

# Bringing Wildlife into the Classroom!



Participating educators at the 1<sup>st</sup> Bird Conservation Curriculum Workshop

Written By: Janel Ortiz

## A new project from the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute...

The Education and Outreach program is a new component to the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute and is starting off with the development of GK-12 curriculum. This first unit of curriculum is in the area of bird conservation and integrates Institute research and techniques into activities for GK-12 students.

The Bird Conservation Curriculum program began with the *first educator training workshop* in July where five lessons were covered:

## Who participated?

Teachers from all of South Texas were contacted via email to participate in the first bird conservation curriculum workshop. We began receiving interest from non-teachers, such as environmental educators from local organizations who were interested in participating as well. In all, the 2-day workshop had a total of 10 participants the first day and 8 participants the second day.

Third through sixth grade teachers from various schools including Sarita, Gillett (Kingsville), Tuloso-Midway (Corpus

Christi), Riviera, and Flour Bluff attended the workshop. Educators from the King Ranch and the Coastal Bend Audubon Society also joined us.

The next step for the program is to implement the curriculum in 6<sup>th</sup> grade science classrooms for evaluation...



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## Educators had the opportunity to:

- Receive hands-on training
- Share classroom ideas
- Network with local organizations
- Handle live birds

***"I greatly enjoyed this presentation-it was far better than any teacher workshops I have attended."***



Educators aging quail wings.



Educators practicing bird handling during the mist-netting activity.

## Get Involved!

Workshops are open to any grade level teacher or educator interested in learning more about the bird conservation curriculum. The workshop is 2 days and involves the training on five lesson plans where participants are briefed on the purpose of the activity, the background, and procedure. Participants then perform the activity to ensure it is clear on what is expected from the students. Following each activity, the lesson is discussed and ideas/suggestions are shared within the group.

The evaluation of the curriculum is strictly for 6<sup>th</sup> grade science teachers at the moment. If you are interested please contact me, Janel Ortiz, at TAMUKBirdsGK12@gmail.com to get started! It is important that all program participants go through the

training workshop to ensure they are prepared to conduct the activities in class. I will be there to help you along the way!

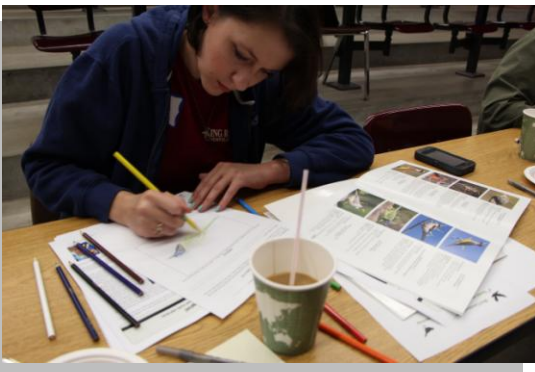


## The next step...

As the first training workshop is now completed, we are awaiting for teachers to return to school to conduct the five lesson plans in class. We aim to have at least five teachers involved in the program which would help us provide this curriculum to variety of students in different locations.

Teacher involvement in the program is a bit more rigorous. It involves distributing and collecting of various student consent forms and pre/post-program surveys. The teachers will also be required to complete a pre- and post-program survey as well.

There are plans to hold a second training workshop this coming fall, keep an eye out!



Educators creating a classification map of their quail's home range.



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*Providing the science  
behind conservation  
and management.*

## Education & Outreach Mission

The mission of the *Education and Outreach Program* is to provide opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to learn to appreciate and understand wildlife and ecosystems through curricula development, education and outreach programs, and education research.

## Our Commitment

The *Education and Outreach Program* strives to bridge the gap between scientific research and the public. Our research focuses on human dimensions in wildlife sciences and instructional development and education. In addition, we aim to incorporate research findings from scientists at the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute into our programs to educate and involve the South Texas community in wildlife conservation!

## FALL 2015 WORKSHOP

When: TBD

Where: Texas A&M University-  
Kingsville

Open to GK-12 teachers and  
environmental educators.

If interested, please contact

Janel Ortiz at

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to be placed on the list.

