

September - Week 2

Up, Up & Away – Migration as a Way of Life

In fall, Baltimore Orioles and other birds may travel solo or gather in small groups to head south for the winter. Do you see any large groups of birds gathering on telephone lines, atop cattails or corn stubble or gathering in flotillas on the local lake? Who are they? How many are in the group? Instead of guessing, devise a way to estimate the size of the flock. Are the birds silent or noisy? What signals do you think they might be giving to each other as they prepare to leave? Where will they go? How do they conserve energy along the way?

When it gets cold do you sometimes want to travel south too? Imagine the trip these birds will take. What are the pleasures and dangers along the way? Where do they end up?

Describe and illustrate what you observe birds doing this week as they begin their southward migration and how you imagine their upcoming journey will unfold. If you are able to photograph or record bird behaviors or calls, use that to help create a journal page (or two) with sketches. Consider adding color with colored pencils, water color, or paint.



Flocking behavior.