Dear Teacher,

We’d like to invite you to learn more about an exciting new curriculum being offered by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and to take part in our teacher workshop on Saturday, August 20, 2011 at PRBO’s Headquarters in Petaluma, CA, and subsequent nation-wide field test. The Cornell University’s Lab of Ornithology and seven science organizations including PRBO Conservation Science have come together to develop the Connecting Kids Through Birds curriculum. This curriculum links children to nature, building scientific and environmental literacy through school-based and field experiences focusing on birds and their habitat needs.

Birds help motivate kids to get outside, where they can observe and connect to the environment and understand first-hand the importance of where they live. Though birds are part of our everyday lives, they can still capture our imagination—with their ability to fly, their colorful plumage, and their amazing capacity for song. Wherever you are, and whatever the season, you can find bird species in your area and use them as an engaging teaching tool.

Some species are truly international citizens, traveling between countries and continents on their yearly migrations. Through these spectacular and mysterious journeys, birds connect us—quite literally—to other places, people, cultures and environmental issues. These migratory species depend on habitat in more than one geographic area; they have a unique ability to join people in conservation with each other. Through this new hands-on curriculum, we want to empower students to recognize science as an exciting and dynamic field, and empower them to become part of the solution. Using bird observation, they will learn key concepts such as habitat, diversity, and life cycles. Designed for 4th through 8th grade, this curriculum will help you teach to your standards in a way that is exciting, and fun!

The lessons cover four themes: Migration, Conservation, Inquiry Investigations and Collaboration, and Citizen Science. The eleven lessons will take a total of 15 class sessions, plus optional follow up activities and a field trip. We ask that trained teachers will teach at least seven of the lessons and provide feedback on their experience.

Trained teachers will get a resource kit and access to the lessons online, a 5-hour training workshop, a complimentary 1-year PRBO Membership, and a small stipend once lesson delivery and evaluation have been completed. Please join us on August 20, 2011 starting at 9 am, at PRBO’s Petaluma Headquarters, 3820 Cypress Dr, Suite # 11, Petaluma, CA 94954. You must pre-register first, please visit our survey monkey link to apply, https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5V7DJQ9. Priority will be given to 4th – 8th grade classroom teachers.

Sincerely,

Missy Wipf
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PRBO Conservation Science

Jennifer Fee
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