



IDENTIFY BIRDS BY THEIR:
WINGS

SWALLOWS, SWIFTS, ETC.—LONG POINTED WINGS FOR SPEEDY, SKIMMING FLIGHT PURSUING FLYING INSECTS.

SHORT ROUNDED WINGS OF GROUND BIRDS (QUAIL, PHEASANTS, ETC.) FOR QUICK TAKE-OFF AND SHORT, RAPID FLIGHT WHEN DANGER IS NEAR.

MOST BIRDS OF PREY (HAWKS, EAGLES, ETC.) HAVE LONG BROAD WINGS FOR STRONG SOARING FLIGHT.

Your Scouts are growing up at a time when environmental issues are high on the list of the nation's priorities. Over the past couple of decades, there has been a growing understanding of the interdependence of all living things and how both natural and man-made pollution affect life.

In this program feature we will aim to explain the "web of life" and show Scouts how they can do their part to preserve it. Troop meeting activities will cover some of the strands of the web of life. In the process, Scouts will learn more about wildlife, trees, plants, rocks, and soil. Patrols can do some ecology projects that will enhance their understanding of the web.

The big event will be an exploration trek for some field study. The purpose will not be identification of wildlife and plants—although there is bound to be some of that—but rather to learn about food chains, how oxygen and water are cycled through the ecosystem, and how pollution affects them.

The destination for the exploration trek might be almost anywhere—a wooded area, grassland, lake or seashore, desert, or even a city park. Your council's Scout camp may be a good choice, especially if it has a good nature trail that shows some of the relationships between animals, plants, and soils.

SCOUTING OUTCOMES

This month's patrol and troop activities should give your Scouts:

- A sense of communion with nature and God.
- Greater understanding of ecology and man's place in the natural world.
- Growing self-confidence.
- The determination to leave as few traces as possible of their outdoor adventures.

ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

By the end of the month, all Scouts should have met the majority of their basic nature/environment requirements through First Class. Depending on the campout activities, they may also complete all or part of the following rank requirements:

Tenderfoot

- Outdoor—Cooking, camping, hiking, nature
- Citizenship—Flag ceremonies, Good Turn
- Patrol/troop participation—Patrol identification
- Personal development—Scout Oath and Law

Second Class

- Outdoor—Cooking, camping, hiking, nature
- Citizenship—Flag ceremonies, Good Turn, first aid
- Patrol/troop participation—Leadership
- Personal development—Scout Oath and Law

First Class

- Outdoor—Cooking, camping, nature, hiking
- Citizenship—Flag ceremonies, Good Turn, first aid
- Patrol/troop participation—Leadership
- Personal development—Scout Oath and Law

Merit Badges. Older Scouts can concentrate on the Camping and Environmental Science merit badges this month; they should be able to complete all but the last two requirements. Depending on activities during the campout, they may also complete requirements in Cooking, Hiking, Backpacking, Wilderness Survival, Botany, Insect Life, Reptile Study, Soil and Water Conservation, Mammals, and other nature-related merit badges.