



The stars and the birds in a school life

Ivo Jokin

Municipal educenter, Bulgaria, e-mail: ivo_jokin@abv.bg

The Stars in a School s Life

Astroparty is held every year and its 6st edition was held in this year. Owing to it a lot of new Astronomy clubs are built up at regional level; the party itself rouses interest in Astronomy as a science and as a subject in school as well. When taking part in the party students get more skills both in theory itself and in making watching experiments of space. They learn how to analyze and describe such experiments. These activities are not held at schools competitions in Astronomy.

The party itself gives a lot of possibilities for carrying out a variety of methodical activities with Physics and Astronomy teachers.

We think that this is the way of joining of the children to natural sciences and mastering of sound knowledge and skills.

Another important idea of Astro Party is the integration of astronomy with biology, in particular ecology - use of the telescopes for observation of water-floating and water-loving birds.

Aims:

- Rising students, interest in Astronomy and watching space;
- Providing a suitable environment for developing teachers and students creative and intellectual skills;
- Exchange of teaching experience.

Work , style and methods: innovation methods, team work, workshop, students that proved to be good in Astronomy teach their classmates beginners.

The Birds in a School's Life

http://www.stella-science.eu/pool_good_practices.php

This eBook 'Science Education in European Schools – Selected Practices from the STELLA Catalogue' provides a sample of selected practices, collected in the scope of the European Lifelong Learning Programme. Project STELLA (Science Teaching in a Lifelong Learning Approach) in order to support educational authorities, school heads and science teachers in fostering and adopting innovative practices in science education.

INITIATIVE

The aim of the initiative is that of raising young people's interest in learning about the nature of local birdlife including waterfowl as well as those of the surrounding fields and city parks and understanding the needs and methods for its preservation.

The initiative includes the preparation of feeding racks from materials at hand, observations using binoculars and telescopes, counting the types and numbers of different waterfowl present during midwinter.

SUBJECT/S

The subject of the initiative is in the field of science - specifically biological and environmental science, and involves an interdisciplinary approach to the study of environmental science and ecology.

METHODOLOGY

As part of the project activity, the behaviour of the birds is both monitored and studied. The working methods employed include talks, lectures, presentations, meetings, round table discussions, excursions, workshops and fieldwork, i.e. outdoor studies and bird watching as well as eco campaigns.

INVOLVEMENT OF PUPILS

In the multimedia laboratory pupils arrange the video shots with the help of software programmes for film processing and create short documentary films and video clips.

The documentary “Kids and Birds” has been created by the pupils, who worked together in various roles such as script-writers, actors and operators and were directed in this activity by the responsible for the initiative, Prof. Joikin.

The documentary was presented at the international film festival “Ecofilms” in Rhodes, Greece.