



A Place for Birds

By Melissa Stewart

About the Book

Birds fill our world with bright colors and sweet songs. But sometimes we do things that harm them. Stunning illustrations and simple, gentle language introduce young readers to some of the ways human action and inaction can affect bird populations. More than just a book about our favorite insects, *A Place for Birds* opens readers' minds to a wide range of environmental issues.

Read Aloud Tip

A Place for Birds includes two levels of text. When sharing the book to young children, read the large text at the top. Then you can fill in details from the sidebars as seems appropriate.

You could also share just a few of the spreads in their entirety. For example, you could choose birds that live in your area or that you think will be especially interesting to your students.

The information about flight at the beginning of the book and the food chain discussion at the end are part of most school curricula, so you may want to focus extra attention on them.

Before You Read

- Ask children to share some facts about birds and listen to their answers.
- Ask children to listen for information about:
 - what birds eat
 - where birds live
 - where birds make their nests and how they care for their young
 - how we can help birds survive

After You Read

- Discuss all the different kinds of foods that birds eat.
- Discuss all the different places where birds live.
- Discuss any connections children see between nest materials, nest location, and egg appearance. Students should realize that nest type and egg pattern and coloration are meant to minimize predation.
- Ask children if they can think of ways to help birds in your town or city.

Follow-up Activities

If time permits, students may want to do some of the Bird Activity available on the author's website: www.melissa-stewart.com.