



### **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.

Maps on the end papers show where each bird lives. The book includes specific conservation projects in Massachusetts, Florida, Illinois, and Michigan and wide ranging projects throughout North America.

#### **Reading to Young Children**

*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.

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 these parts of the book.

#### **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

#### **As You Read**

- ♦ Ask children to compare the eggs and nests made by different kinds of birds. Why do they look so different?

#### **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 Pages available on the author's website: [www.melissa-stewart.com](http://www.melissa-stewart.com).