

Mark W. Oswood
 On behalf of the
 North Central Washington Audubon Society

"What's that Bird?"
 an Analog Birding Simulation for kids and families"

"What's that Bird?" has become our signature educational activity for elementary (and middle) school children (and often, their families). Our venues are usually entire classrooms or grade levels for a school as well as environmental/bird festivals.

The core of our "What's that Bird?" is a set of wooden bird models – life-size, hand-carved, and painted with realistic field marks.



Analog Bird *in situ*

We have been surprised and gratified at the success of "What's that Bird?" Finding and identifying our "birds" seems to put children of all ages (and adults) on an equal footing (unlike games explicitly designed for young children). Often, entire families disappear into "the woods" - helping one another and racing back to our booth to check the "field guide."

"What's that Bird?" was featured on the BirdNote radio program (archived episode at <http://www.birdnote.org/birdnote.cfm?id=1640>).



Ecotone of grass and trees provides habitat for Analog Birds and safe footing for Analog Birders (and accessibility for mobility-limited participants).

We turn kids (and very often entire families) loose with kid-sized binoculars and a modest checklist of bird possibilities.



Kid-sized binoculars (but work well for parental units and other adults)

Field Checklist
 Common Birds of the Wenatchee Valley

Great Blue Heron	
Canada Goose	
Mallard	
Common Merganser	
Turkey Vulture	
Osprey	
American Kestrel	
California Quail	
Great Horned Owl	
Rufous Hummingbird	
Belted Kingfisher	
Downy Woodpecker	
Steller's Jay	
American Crow	
Violet-green Swallow	
Black-capped Chickadee	

A checklist of locally-common birds, including the 8 species of Analog Birds (portion shown)

A field guide made from field guide illustrations, laminated, and taped to table at headquarters (portion of field guide shown)



Checking identifications at the field guide

