

your^{flame}job

MINI LESSON

IN THE FIELD

Students will read about wildlife biologist Danielle Belleny and how she turned an interest in animals into a career protecting birds and other wildlife. Students will create a field guide to help others identify a group of animals.

your job

IN THE FIELD

Danielle Belleny is a wildlife biologist. She studies birds and their habitats.

Growing up, Danielle Belleny was "obsessed with nature, plants and animals." She loved going to the woods and observing the birds. She was a member of the 4-H club, the local youth organization that focuses on agriculture and nature. She was also a member of the Future Teachers of America, a national organization for young people interested in teaching. She was a member of the Future Teachers of America, a national organization for young people interested in teaching. She was a member of the Future Teachers of America, a national organization for young people interested in teaching.

WATCHING BIRDS
Danielle loves watching birds. She loves watching them in the wild, in their natural habitat. She loves watching them in the wild, in their natural habitat. She loves watching them in the wild, in their natural habitat.

your job
- FIND YOUR FUTURE -

Did you like learning about what it takes to be a wildlife biologist? Visit time4kids.com to discover other exciting careers held by people who care about the environment, including...

ADVENTURER
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
ZOOLOGIST

LEARNING GOALS
By the end of this lesson, students will be able to: Identify the different types of birds. Describe the different habitats of birds. Explain the importance of protecting birds and their habitats.

AT WORK
Danielle Belleny works as a wildlife biologist. She studies birds and their habitats. She works for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She works for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She works for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Common Core State Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.RI.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.RI.4
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.2

Materials

Class set of “In the Field”; access to Kahoot quiz; “Field Marks” worksheet; Audubon website (optional)

INTRODUCTION

Ask students to name as many jobs involving animals as they can. List the jobs on the board. Ask if students think this list is exhaustive. Tell them they'll be reading about a wildlife biologist. Ask what they think a wildlife biologist does. Explain that the subject of the article, Danielle Belleny, works a lot with different types of birds. You can use the Kahoot! quiz at ti.me/birdsKahoot to discover interesting facts about birds.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How did Danielle Belleny end up as a wildlife biologist?
- What are some things a wildlife biologist might do?
- Why does Belleny suggest that people keep asking questions?
- Think of a few careers that interest you. What jobs can you think of that might offer a similar alternative?

CLOSING

Ask students if they know what a field guide is. Explain that it's a book used to identify animals or plants in the wild. Tell them that today, they'll be learning about some features that help people identify and classify birds. Start by giving students the worksheet “Field Marks,” which can be found at ti.me/fieldmarksworksheet. Have them analyze the second bird and describe it in as much detail as possible. Then invite the class to create their own field guide. Students can create a bird field guide, using the Audubon website (ti.me/AudubonGuide) to research a bird of their choice. Or, if they have a special interest in another group of animals, let them work in groups to start a field guide about another family of animals, such as frogs, cats, or bears.

IN THE FIELD

**Danielle Belleny is a wildlife biologist.
She studies birds and their habitats.**

Growing up, Danielle Belleny was “always outdoors, messing with plants and picking up bugs and investigating the world on my own,” she told TIME for Kids. She hadn’t yet heard of wildlife biology, but that’s what she was learning about. “I wanted to be a veterinarian, at first,” she says. “I always knew I wanted to work with animals, and as a kid, that was the only job I knew where you could do that.” But when Belleny was in college, her dad mentioned wildlife biology as an alternative to veterinary school.

Later, Belleny started working on research projects. She spent a lot of time with animals in their natural environment. One project involved placing trackers on a bird called the northern bobwhite. For another, she spent time herding goats, as a way to maintain a grass habitat for endangered box turtles without hurting them.

SURVEYING SPECIES

Belleny’s current job, at Plateau Land & Wildlife Management, in Hays County, Texas, lets her split her time between the indoors and outdoors. “In the mornings, I’m usually out the door by sunrise,” she says. She surveys birds, keeping track of different species. And she searches for signs of what other animals in the area are doing. “It’s basically knowing how to read the landscape,” she says, “based on what plants and different characteristics are there.”

Around lunchtime, she’ll return

home and write up a report. In the afternoon, she leaves for another site visit. Landowners can request her services. She advises people on how to accommodate the wildlife that lives on their property. Her work takes her all around Texas. “[It’s] a lot of meeting new people, a lot of quick introductions, and then talking for long periods of time.” She enjoys collaborating and speaking about her research.

WATCHING BIRDS

Outside of work, Belleny has been birding, or bird-watching, for seven years. Her first book, *This Is a Book for People Who Love Birds*, was

published in May. Writing it allowed her to share her love of the activity. Now she’s working on a children’s book about birding. It’s scheduled to come out in fall 2023.

Belleny has some advice for young people thinking about careers. “Try everything you’re interested in. You don’t know every job that exists out there, so keep asking questions.” And if you’re interested in working with animals or becoming a wildlife biologist, “Go to a library and find some field guides.” There’s a lot of information about animals out there, and books are always a good place to start.

—By Cristina Fernandez

your  job
— FIND YOUR FUTURE —

**Did you like learning about what it
takes to be a wildlife biologist?
Visit ti.me/climate to discover other
exciting careers held by people who care
about the environment, including . . .**

**ADVENTURER
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
ZOOLOGIST**

FEATHERED FRIENDS
Belleny has observed
groups of northern
bobwhites in the wild.



LOOKING CLOSER Danielle
Belleny is a wildlife biologist.
She’s also a bird-watcher.
She writes books to
teach others about
the hobby.



AT WORK Belleny goes
out every day to observe
birds and other wildlife.

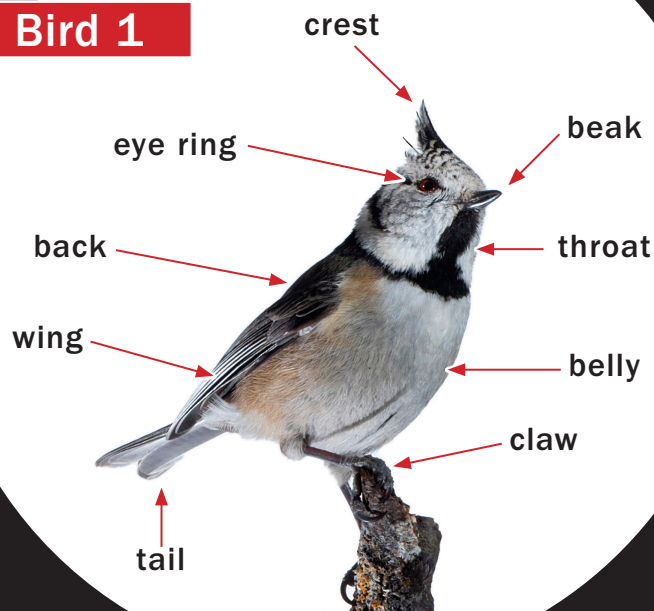


FIELD MARKS

Read “In the Field” (November 11, 2022), about a wildlife biologist. One of Danielle Belleny’s hobbies is birding, or looking for birds in the wild. Use the guide below to learn one way to identify different birds. Then try it out with Bird 2.

A bird’s markings are called field marks. Birders use these to identify a type of bird. They also go by a bird’s behavior, habitat, and song. Learn about some markings and traits that can be used to describe and identify a bird.

Bird 1



Bird 2



Bird 1

This bird has a black crest.
Its throat and back are also
black. Its belly is gray, and
so is its tail. The tail is short.
The bird’s beak is short and
straight.

Bird 2

Try It! Do some research to identify the birds above. What else can you learn about them that would help you identify them in the field?