



The BLUES Go Birding Across America

Suggestions for Reading Aloud

The BLUES Go Birding Across America is a book that you can read again and again to discover more about the BLUES and the birds they see on their trip. With so much happening on every page, you may want to focus on different aspects of the book with each reading.

The first time you read aloud the book:

- Begin by reading the Profile for each of the BLUES at the beginning of the book. Ask your listeners to notice each of the BLUES' favorite colors and activities.
- Focus on the illustrations—Look for details, such as the equipment they're using. Have your listeners identify each of BLUES on every 2-page spread.
- Read the storyline—Find out if the BLUES get a new song in time for their 4th of July concert.
- Read the BLUES' quips—You and your listeners will feel like you're eavesdropping on the BLUES' conversations when you read the bubbles above their heads. You can read the quips any time you'd like, but if you insert them while you're reading aloud the storyline it will help maintain a smooth flow.
 - For most 2-page spreads, insert the quips just *before the last paragraph*. (The last paragraph is a transition to the next bird.)
 - For the Western Meadowlark, Northern Mockingbird, Mallard, and American Robin read the quips *after* reading the storyline.
 - For the Pileated Woodpecker, read the quips *after the second paragraph*.
 - For the Roseate Spoonbill, read the quips *after the first paragraph*.

The second time you read aloud the book:

- Take another look at each illustration—Your listeners will probably see details they missed during the first reading.
- Remember the bird—Ask your listeners what they remember about each bird.
- Read the Notebooks—Every notebook is unique because it's written by one of the BLUES. Discover what Bing, Lulu, Uno, Eggbert, and Sammi have to say about each bird.
- Read Eggbert's Birding Tip—The tips will teach your listeners how to have fun bird watching.
- Look at the Field Guide—Some children especially enjoy learning bird facts, such as size, habitat, food, and sound.

Where are the BLUES?

- Find the location of each bird the BLUES visited by going to the map page at the back of the book. Check out a bird's locations as you read the book, or wait until you finish the story and then trace the BLUES route.
- There are two clues on the map page about where the BLUES will go on their next adventure. Have your listener guess where it might be.

For more teaching activities for *The BLUES Go Birding* visit www.dawnpub.com.