**Connecting Coffee in your Neighborhood to Bird Conservation**

**Student Activity Instructions**

**Materials Needed:**

* Coffee labels
* Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
* Notebook/paper
* Pencil or pen

**Preparation Instructions:**

1. Look at a coffee label at home and/or in your local store.
2. Write down information that will help you research the origins of the coffee.
	1. Make sure you write down the name of the coffee, any companies shown, and any website information found on the label to help with your research.
	2. If you see any certification information (shade-grown coffee, bird friendly coffee, rainforest alliance, etc.), be sure to write that down too.
	3. You can reference [this article](https://www.craftcoffeeguru.com/coffee-bag-labels/) to know what information on the label may be relevant.

**Introduction (Read before doing the activity)**

What does it mean to be a conservationist? How can the coffee sold in your neighborhood help migratory birds? What advantage can shade-grown coffee systems provide to farmers? Shade-grown coffee helps both birds and people by conserving rainforest habitat and contributing to biodiversity, while providing sustainable income for farmers.

**Activity Instructions:**

1. You are a conservationist who wants to encourage people to buy shade-grown coffee to protect migratory bird habitat. Research where the coffee you selected comes from and find out if it is shade-grown or sun-grown from the information provided on the label.
	1. Below are some resources for starting out your research:
		1. <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/making-sense-of-coffee-labels-shade-grown-organic-fair-trade-bird-friendl/>
		2. <http://www.coffeehabitat.com/certification-guide/>
		3. <http://www.coffeehabitat.com/2013/01/popular-coffee-brands/>
2. Use the information you obtain in your research and combine it with the information you learned about migratory birds and coffee farms to **design a brochure** with information on how buying and/or selling shade-grown coffee is beneficial to both birds and the farmers who grow the coffee.
	1. You can use words and pictures on your brochure – be sure to include:
		1. the name of the coffee you chose
		2. any certification information that was on the label
		3. where the coffee was grown
		4. which method was used to grow the coffee (shade-grown or sun-grown)
		5. why shade-grown is beneficial to birds
		6. why shade-grown is beneficial to farmers
3. Present your brochure to the class, parents and/or store owners.

**Conclusion**

The items we chose to buy can make a difference to birds and other people. By thinking about where things come from and how they are made, we can help birds, people, communities, and the environment.