

The Birds Understood Global Geography before We Did!



Using colored yarn or thread to mark out on the globe the migration routes of birds. Photo by the author.

MIGRATION ROUTES OF BIRDS

When studying birds, the matter of migration occupies a most interesting position. Questions come thick and fast from boys and girls as soon as any discussion of bird migration is opened. A very compelling way to bring out the distances covered by some of the migrants and to impress these tremendous "travelogs" on the minds of youngsters is to mark them out on a regular classroom globe—the method used to demonstrate modern geography.

Two or three pupils spend a day or two in reading up all material available on this topic. Then with lengths of col-

ored thread and a few drops of melted paraffin the migration routes are marked out on a regular globe. For instance, a piece of blue thread stretched from Arctic to Antarctic and held in correct position by a drop of melted paraffin here and there will serve to show the migration route of the Arctic tern. A red thread can be used to show where the golden plover goes—and so on. If a few such routes are lined out thus on a globe, this very helpful teaching tool can be utilized to advantage when the whole class is talking over the interesting business of migration.

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