

# NATURE'S NEWS

From: Four Winds Nature Institute - [www.FourWindsInstitute.org](http://www.FourWindsInstitute.org)

A Newsletter for Parents, Teachers, and Students participating in Four Winds Natural Science Workshops

## Topic of the Month:

### The Nature of Sound



The ability to produce sound, to hear sounds, and to distinguish sounds is crucial to survival in the animal world. Sound, produced by vibrations, can warn of danger, attract a mate, and help to locate food.

Sound is created when an object vibrates and causes the air around it to vibrate as well. The vibrations of compressed and expanded air are called sound waves. When sound waves encounter an obstacle in their path they may go around, be absorbed or reflected, or travel through it. Sound waves can travel through many substances; moving at different rates through different materials.

Traveling sound waves cause membranes like eardrums to vibrate. Animal ears, in their many forms, receive and interpret vibrations providing the animal with valuable information about what's going on in the animal's surroundings.

For humans, listening to the sounds of the natural world provides information as well as gives pleasure and can enrich life.

## OUTDOOR EAVESDROPPING

A little eavesdropping outdoors can reveal lots about who's around and what they're up to, and give a good description of the area that you are visiting. Choose a comfy sitting spot, you could make it a regular "listening post" with a seat in a hidden place. When you are there, close your eyes and take a minute to focus on sounds around you. Try to distinguish between sounds made by animals and sounds made by other means. When you hear animal sounds can you distinguish between warning calls and other communication?

Go out at different times of day and after dark. Listen for sounds of movement, calls, songs, howls and hoots. Also notice sounds of silence, wind in the trees or grass, and rushing or dripping water.

Try writing a short poem by putting together words that describe the sounds heard while at your listening post.



## NEWS FROM SCHOOL

1/2 on 2-15

K's on 2-16

3/4 on 2-17

5/6 on 2-19.

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Volunteers Always  
welcome. Please email  
heather.1969@live.com.  
Thank you.



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