Matt Mulligan
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Lincoln Park Zoo
Partners in Fieldwork

Program Goals:

1. Engage in research
2. Understand research
3. Aware of Chicago biodiversity
4. Connect to classroom
5. Explore nature
6. Collect data
- 9 schools
  - 8 CPS
  - 1 private
Train teachers on research skills and create a flexible project timeline
Wildlife Biodiversity Monitoring

- Motion-sensitive cameras capture images of wildlife 24 hours/day
Lincoln Park Zoo

Bird Surveys

- Point Counts
- Line transects
  - Every 2 weeks in fall and spring
  - 22 focal species
Giving-up Density (GUD) Study

- Helps to determine foraging behavior
  - Predation
  - Optimal foraging theory
Acoustic Bat Monitors

- Record echolocation calls
- Use Sonobat to identify different species
- Compare between school regions
Program Events

- 2 Field Trips
  - Lincoln Park Zoo
  - Natural Site
- Family Day
  - Educate family and classmates
  - Meet zoo scientists
  - Present their results
Evaluation Methods

- Pre- and post-knowledge questionnaires
- Focus groups
- Post-program teacher questionnaires and interviews
- Instructor observations
Key Findings

1. Students gained knowledge about urban wildlife
2. Students gained knowledge of field research methods
3. Students’ appreciation for urban wildlife increased.
Examples of wild animals living in and around Chicago (N=83)

Animal Listed

- bird (inclusive)
- squirrel
- raccoon
- rabbit
- deer
- bat
- coyote
- skunk
- opossum
- fox

Number of Mentions

- Pre
- Post

Key Findings

- Number of mentions for each animal listed.
- Comparison between Pre and Post occurrences.
- Highlighted for bat (0 mentions Pre, 26 mentions Post).
Next Steps

- Long-term program impact
- Altering some data collection methods
- Extra classes and tiered approach
Acknowledgements

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Questions?

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