Bowerbird Basics

NOVA Activity Flying Casanovas

Bowerbirds are the only species of bird that build structures, called *bowers*, to attract their mates. In this activity, you will explore some of the bowers that bowerbirds build.

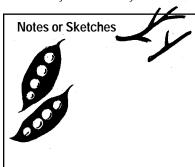
Procedure

1 You will be assigned one of the following record-keeping roles:

Notetaker: In the space below, write a description of your assigned bowerbird's bower, as well as any other information about the bird's characteristics or behaviors.

Sketch Artist: In the space below, sketch your assigned bowerbird's bower, including as many materials as you can.

- When your bowerbird is featured in the program, take notes or make sketches for your assigned role on all bower materials your species uses.
- When the program is finished, compare visual and written records of your assigned bower and reconcile any differences.
- (4) Combine with two other teams to compare and contrast other bowers featured in the program.





Questions for Combined Teams

Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

- (1) What did each species include in its bower?
- 2 What are the similarities among bowers? What are the differences?
- 3 Why might account for the items that were chosen?