ACTIVITY 4  Plastic Art

Overview
Use art to express the extent of plastic pollution and its impacts on birds. Art is an effective expression of current events, and trash has been used in art since the early twentieth century. More recently, plastics have been used in art to depict the abundance and variety of plastic products and their impacts on wildlife, especially marine life. Exploring the issue of plastic pollution through art can be an effective way to discuss this topic with participants of all ages.

Setup
This activity can be easily hosted in a classroom, at home, or at an event. You may need to provide the plastics if you do not work with participants who could receive prior information to bring their own. Again, please do not purchase plastics for the art project. Find items at your home or office and clean them before use.

There are a variety of formats you can use to create your plastic art, murals, collages, recycling, posters, and sculptures. Depending on your choice, provide plenty of room for artists to work. Using containers to hold plastics will make them easy to share.

Get Started
Spark creativity by sharing some examples of art created from plastic.

Mural: Creating a mural out of plastic is a great way to show the variety of plastic items that people use every day. A mural can also make a statement about the issue of plastic pollution by illustrating how plastics can impact birds.

Collage: Though a collage of plastics may not directly relate to birds, it does bring attention to the wide variety of plastic items. This collage can create a platform to discuss how certain items affect migratory birds and the environment.

Recycling: Use a plastic item as the canvas, such as a bottle, or make it into a piece of art or a useful new item, such as a vase.

Sculpture: Creating a sculpture can involve everyone. The result may be a beautiful likeness of a bird and a powerful statement about plastics.

Poster: Posters can be placed on bulletin boards and on walls in the workplace or at schools. Create posters that provide messages about plastic pollution or ways to reduce plastic pollution.

OBJECTIVES
1. To allow creative expression of a conservation issue.
2. To illustrate the many types of plastics.
3. To create a visual message about plastic pollution.

AGES
Preschool – Adult

MATERIALS
• Plastics of different types, sizes and colors
• Glue • Paint • Paper
(bring paper firm enough to support objects)

TIME
Varies depending on the project