



Manx BirdLife Education Programme

Sessions 2024 - 2025

- **Birds on Your Doorstep (KS1 and KS2)**

Children discover four bird species they might see in their school, garden, or local park, through colourful images, birdsong soft toys, and fascinating facts.

KS2 receive more challenge through a 'Guess Who?' Quiz and extra bird species.

Choose from the below activities to be included in this session on the same day, or another day, depending on your timetable -

- **Bird Walk and Talk (KS1 and KS2)** – children explore their school grounds looking and listening for the birds that live there. A mix of quiet time and an opportunity for children to ask questions and just enjoy being with nature. ID charts and binoculars provided.
- **Bouncy Blackbird Story (KS1)** – children follow an onscreen story about the four garden bird species and what they like to eat.
- **Who lives here? (KS1 and KS2)** – children observe real bird nests and use clues to help them work out which species lives in each nest.
- **Helping Birds and Feeder Making (KS1 and KS2)** – children learn what birds need to survive, and how they can help. Children make pinecone feeders to hang in their school grounds or to take home. All resources provided.
- **RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch (KS1 and KS2)** – a great opportunity for children to be citizen scientists and contribute to the world's largest garden wildlife survey! Manx BirdLife provide support with bird ID, carrying out the survey in your school grounds, and submitting your results. The survey takes place every year during January and February. More information can be found at [Big Schools Birdwatch \(rspb.org.uk\)](https://www.rspb.org.uk/big-schools-birdwatch). Please note - dates and survey registration for 2025 are not yet available.

- **Blue Tits and Curlews (Year 2 and KS2)**

Children discover the similarities and differences between these two species, their habitats, and adaptations, through images and activities.

Includes observation of a real Blue Tit nest; a bug hunt in your school grounds (a wool 'bug' hunt in the classroom can be done as a wet weather or winter alternative); Dig for Worms Game - children use tweezers in place of a Curlew's beak to dig for 'worms' in a container of soil; and story of 'The Blue Tits and the Caterpillars'.

Suggested follow-up session -

Birds in their Habitat Walk

- **Blue Tits and Swans (Year 2 and KS2)**

Children discover what happens at different stages of the Blue Tit (Session 1) and Mute Swan (Session 2) life cycles, through images and activities.

Children work together in teams to build a life cycle with images, labels, and arrows.

Session 1 includes observation of a real Blue Tit nest; a bug hunt in your school grounds (a wool 'bug' hunt in the classroom can be done as a wet weather or winter alternative); and story of 'The Blue Tits and the Caterpillars'.

Session 2 includes a Predator-Prey Game to demonstrate protection of eggs in the nest (played inside or outside depending on space and weather).

*Please note – according to The Wildlife Act 1990 (including 2004 amendments), once a wild bird has begun to build a nest, that nest is protected; it is an offence to take or destroy the nest or eggs of any wild bird.
All nests used in Manx BirdLife sessions were known not to be in use.*

- **Save Our Seabirds (Year 2 and KS2)**

12 out of 16 breeding seabirds on the Isle of Man are Red listed - [Birds of Conservation Concern in the Isle of Man 2021 - Manx BirdLife](#). This means their populations are of greatest conservation concern.

Children discover five seabird species through images, 'Guess Who?' Quiz, bird calls and fascinating facts. They discover the threats our seabirds face with a particular focus on plastic pollution; and what we can all do to help. Children design a poster (or other creative method of their choice) to educate the public and help their favourite seabird.

Suggested follow-up sessions -

Manx Shearwater

Arctic Tern

Birds in their Habitat Walk

- **Manx Shearwater (Year 2 and KS2)**

Children discover the elusive lives, migration, threats to, and conservation of this very special Manx seabird. Taxidermy, images, videos, call, building a food chain, and story of 'Sheela the Manx Shearwater' help bring this session to life.

- **Arctic Tern (Year 2 and KS2)**

Children discover the epic lives of the world's longest travelling migrant, the threats it faces, its conservation and what we can all do to help. Taxidermy, images, video, call, and active Migration Game help bring this session to life.

- **Fantastic Feathers! (KS2)**

Children discover how birds get the colours in their feathers, and why they have evolved to stand out or blend in. Session includes an exploration of real feathers – their colour and structure, bird images, diagrams, and videos to help explain the science and show colours being used by birds in the wild. Children create their own feather that would help a bird to attract a mate or to camouflage itself from predators.

- **NEW SESSION - Brilliant Beaks! (KS2)**

Children discover the diversity and adaptation of bird beaks through observation of bird skulls and images of food items and prey species. In teams, children work out which foods each bird would have eaten. They are then shown images of each bird in its habitat and use their knowledge of the beaks and food items to work out which skull belongs to which species. Children design and make their own bird beak suitable for a food type of their choice.

Session can be followed with a scientific experiment into beak adaptation and food types.

- **Act Swiftly for Swifts (Year 2 and KS2) – Summer Term only.**

Children learn about the aerial lives of the world's fastest bird in level flight, the threats it faces, its conservation and what we can all do to help. Taxidermy, images, video, call, and active Migration Game help bring this session to life.

Suggested follow-up session -

Birds in their Habitat Walk

- **Birds in their Habitat Walk (KS1 and KS2) – Summer Term only.**

Manx BirdLife join you and your pupils on your school visit to a certain habitat location on the Isle of Man, and provide route guidance, bird species information and activities.

Includes introductory talk with images of bird species most likely seen in the habitat; fascinating facts; species adaptations to the habitat and their prey; looking for birds, and if possible, their prey species such as bugs in bushes, and small crustaceans on the beach. Food chain building and predator-prey game can also be included. ID charts and binoculars provided.

- **Whole School Assemblies – adapted from the above sessions.**

- **Birds on Your Doorstep** – can include an introduction to RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch.

- **Save Our Seabirds**

- **Manx Shearwater**

- **Act Swiftly for Swifts** – Summer Term only.

Sessions make links to Science, English, Geography, and Art, and nurture positive learning dispositions, such as responsibility and teamwork, targeted by the Department of Education's 'Essentials for Learning' curriculum.

Sessions support the Eco Schools/Scoillyn Eco topic of Biodiversity and certain sessions support the topics of School Grounds, Marine, Litter and Global Citizenship.

Sessions support United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 15 - Life on Land, and seabird sessions support Goal 14 - Life Below Water.

Bespoke sessions can be created to fit around your specific needs and topics – please get in touch to discuss your needs.

Science weeks and in-school nature, environmental and eco clubs can also be attended with activities – please get in touch to discuss your needs.

Sessions will be available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, between 9am and the end of your school day.

Sessions are an hour and a half long, but there can be flexibility with length depending on your school timetable and the needs of you and your children.

Walks, games, and creative activities always benefit from more time if available.

All sessions are free of charge and any extra resources needed, beyond those usually found in the classroom, will be provided.

In the first instance, it would be helpful to know which sessions you would like to know more about, or topics you would like support with, as well as a few potential dates for when you would like Manx BirdLife to visit your school.

To book, please email anna@manxbirdlife.im, or phone 01624 861130. Thank you.

