



# Manx BirdLife Educational 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, singing bird soft toys, and fascinating facts.

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

Session can be followed by one or more of the below activities on the same, or a different day, depending on your timetable:

- **Bird Walk and Talk** Children explore their school grounds looking and listening for the birds that live there. An opportunity for children to ask questions and just enjoy being in nature. ID charts and binoculars provided.
- **Bouncy Blackbird Story (KS1 only)** Children follow an onscreen story about the four garden bird species and what they like to eat.
- **Bird Nests - Who lives here?** Children observe real garden bird nests and use clues to help them to work out which species lives in each nest.
- **NEW ACTIVITY Bird Survival Game** Children find out what birds need to survive and the threats they face through an active game. Game needs a large outdoor or indoor space.
- **Bird Feeder Making** Children learn how they can help birds at school and at home and make pinecone feeders to hang in their school grounds or to take home. All resources provided.
- **RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch** 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 during January and February. More information can be found at [Big Schools' Birdwatch \(rspb.org.uk\)](https://www.rspb.org.uk). Dates and survey registration for 2025 are not yet available.

- **Blue Tits and Curlews – Years 1, 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 can be done indoors as a winter weather alternative); Dig for Worms team game - children use tweezers in place of a Curlew's beak to dig for as many 'worms' as they can 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 (Session 1) and Mute Swans (Session 2) – Year 2 and KS2**

Children discover what happens at different stages of the Blue Tit and Mute Swan life cycles.

Children work together in teams to build a life cycle.

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

**Session 2** includes a Predator-Prey Game to show how Swans and other ground nesting birds, their eggs and chicks are prey for animals such as long-tails, hedgehogs, polecats, badgers and foxes.

Children pretend to be different animals hunting a Swan's eggs – can they steal the eggs without being seen? Game needs a large outdoor or indoor space.

Suggested follow-up session - **Birds in their Habitat Walk**

**Thank you for helping to conserve the Isle of Man's wild birds and their habitats**

Manx BirdLife, 35 New Road, Laxey, Isle of Man IM4 7BG | Tel. 01624 861130 | Email [enquiries@manxbirdlife.im](mailto:enquiries@manxbirdlife.im)  
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- **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](#). Their populations are of greatest conservation concern.

Children discover seabird species through images, a '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 create a poster (or other method of their choice such as story, rap, video, or poem) to share conservation messages with others and help their favourite seabird.

Suggested follow-up sessions -

**Manx Shearwater**

**Arctic Tern**

**Birds in their Coastal Habitat Walk**

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

Children discover the elusive lives, adaptations, migration, threats to, and conservation of this very special Manx seabird. Taxidermy, images, bird call, videos, building an ocean food chain, and listening to the 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, its adaptations, the threats it faces, its conservation and what we can all do to help. Taxidermy, images, bird call, videos, and active game, where children go on their own Arctic Tern migration, 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. 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, in a habitat of their choice.

Suggested follow-up session - **Birds in their Habitat Walk**

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

Children discover the diversity and adaptation of bird beaks to different habitats and foods, through observation of real bird skulls. With images of food types, children team-up to work out what each bird would have eaten. They are then shown images of each bird in its habitat – can they work out which skull belongs to which species? Children design and make their own bird beak suitable for a habitat and food type of their choice.

Session can be followed by a scientific experiment into beak adaptation and food types – this can be on the same, or a different day, depending on your timetable.

Suggested follow-up session - **Birds in their Habitat Walk**

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

Children discover the awe-inspiring aerial lives of the world's fastest bird in level flight, its adaptations, the threats it faces, its conservation and what we can all do to help. Taxidermy, images, bird call, video and active game, where children go on their own Swift migration, help bring this session to life.

Suggested follow-up session - **Birds in their Urban Habitat Walk**

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

Manx BirdLife join you and your pupils on your school visit to a habitat location of your choice on the Island. Manx BirdLife provide route guidance, bird species information, ID charts, binoculars and activities tailored to the habitat. Includes introductory talk with images of bird species most likely found 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. Bird Survival Game, Predator-Prey Game, and food-chain and web building can also be included.

- **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

*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.*

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

Sessions support the Eco Schools/Scoilyn 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 are 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 are interested in, or topics you would like support with, and potential dates for when you would like Manx BirdLife to come in.

**To book, please email [anna@manxbirdlife.im](mailto:anna@manxbirdlife.im) or phone 01624 861130. Thank you.**



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