

Session title	Bird researchers	
Key Question	How and why do we monitor birds?	
Session description	Take on the role of conservation scientist, carrying out a range of monitoring activities and behaviour studies. Make, record and interpret observations using a range of methods, discovering why this type of monitoring is so important in helping to protect wildlife and habitats.	
Key Stage suitability	KS3	
Duration	1 hour	

Curriculum links	Curriculum for Wales Science and Technology Being curious and searching for answers is essential to understanding and predicting phenomena Progression step 4 - I can explain how the impact of our actions contribute to the changes in the environment and biodiversity. The world around us is full of living things which depend on each other for survival Progression step 4 - I can describe the interdependence of organisms in ecosystems and explain how this affects their chances of survival. - I can explain how reproduction, mutations and the environment can lead to variation and adaptations within organisms which can affect their chances of survival. - I can explain the threats to the development and health of organisms and describe how the effects of these are reduced by natural defences, preventions and treatments. Progression step 5 - I can evaluate the factors which affect the development and health of organisms Humanities Our natural world is diverse and dynamic, influenced by processes and human actions Progression step 4 - I can describe and explain how places, spaces, environments and landforms have changed over time and outline the processes that cause these changes in the natural world. Progression step 5 - I can give comprehensive explanations and analysis of how and why places, spaces, environments and landforms have changed over time		
Learning outcomes	Most learners	More able learners	
	will be able to share their observations and record data will recognise the importance of monitoring bird populations for conservation will be able to infer relationships between birds and their environment from observations shared	will be able to interpret what effects changes to the environment will have on a particular species	
Key vocabulary	Bird count Pecking Diving	Recording Monitoring Preening	Species Habitat Observing

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	15 mins
Learners are introduced to the centre, staff and volunteers running the session and the key question, explaining what we will be focusing on today.	
Activity 1: Top Pond	5 mins
Learners conduct a bird count and a pecking rate count, using technology and the naked eye and comparing results.	
Activity 2: Smew pen	5 mins
Learners monitor and record the diving rates of our diving ducks.	
Activity 3: Cranes and Flamingos	10 mins
Learners record the preening rate of both our crane and our flamingos. What does this tell us?	
Activity 4: Observatory	15 mins
Learners conduct a species count. Why are these species drawn to this habitat?	
Plenary	10 mins
Learners review what they have learnt and ask any further questions.	