

Session title	Bird ID challenge	
Key Q	Which birds live in a wetland?	
Session description	Launch your own bird spotting enquiry from our Discovery Hide. Observe key differences between species and discover how each has evolved to fill a particular ecological 'niche'.	
Key Stage suitability	KS3	
Duration	60 minutes	

Curriculum links	KS3 Science Year 7 – 9 Relationships in an ecosystem ▪ The interdependence of organisms in an ecosystem, including food webs and insect pollinated crops. ▪ How organisms affect, and are affected by, their environment, including the accumulation of toxic materials.		
Learning outcomes	Most learners	More able learners	
	Will be able to use binoculars Will be able to recall the names of some wetland birds Will be able to describe one or more wetland birds Will understand some of the visual adaptations used to identify birds.	Will be able to explain the importance of monitoring bird populations	
Key vocabulary	Hides Specimens Habitat Observing	Adaptations Identifying Classifying Plumage	Species Populations Migration Behaviour

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	5 mins
Learners are introduced to the key question: Which birds live in a wetland? We explore the importance of staying quiet when in the bird hides so as not to disturb the birds.	
Activity 1: Contrast and compare bird species with specimens	10 mins
Learners investigate differences between bird species using specimens, looking at their key features.	
Activity 2: Equipment briefing	5 mins
Learners are shown how to use binoculars and given information on what to look for.	
Activity 3: Observation and recording	25 mins
Learners will use their equipment and logbooks to record observations in small groups.	
Activity 4: Sharing	10 mins
Groups will share their findings, describing a bird species they have observed. Can the others guess which bird they are describing? We discuss how there might be variation in the birds we see and how they look across the year.	

Plenary	5 mins
Learners play the 'Guess who?' game to consolidate their knowledge.	