

Session title	Bird Researchers	
Key Q	How and why do we monitor birds?	
Session description	Take on the role of conservation scientists carrying out a range of monitoring activities and behaviour studies. Why is this type of monitoring so important in helping to protect wildlife and habitats?	
Key Stage suitability	KS2	
Duration	1 hour	

Curriculum links	KS2 Science Year 4 Living things and their habitats - Recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things. Year 6 Evolution and Inheritance - Identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.	
Learning outcomes	Most learners	More able learners
	Will be able to observe bird life Will be able to share their observations and record data Will be able to infer relationships between birds and their environment from observations shared in the group.	Will recognise the importance of monitoring bird populations for conservation.
Key vocabulary	Conservation Monitoring Populations	Behaviour Logging Surveying Preening Conclusion Analysis Interpret

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	5 mins
Learners are introduced to the key question: How and why do we monitor birds?	
Activity 1: Intro to enquiry activity	5 mins
Learners are given their mission, and equipment and instructions are given out to each group.	
Activity 2: Observation and recording	35 mins
In groups, learners are sent off on their enquiry mission to the different activity stations, carrying out the following activities: - Bird count using a camera and the naked eye. - Bird pecking rates using a counter and stopwatch. - Diving rate and duration. - Preening frequency. - Variety and quantity of bird species.	
Activity 3: Feedback enquiry results	10 mins

We talk through the results of their enquiries, considering the rationale for each. What can we learn from the data?	
Plenary	5 mins
We recap the key question, discussing with learners and taking feedback. How might the data we have collected help us to look after / protect these birds?	