

Session title	Bird Researchers	
Key Q	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 and 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	KS3 Geography Year 7-9 Human and physical geography Understand how human and physical processes interact to influence, and change landscapes, environments and the climate; and how human activity relies on effective functioning of natural systems		
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 handed out to each group.	
Activity 2: Observation and recording	35 mins
In groups, learners visit the different activity stations, carrying out the following activities: 1) Bird count using a camera and the naked eye. 2) Bird pecking rates using a counter and stopwatch. 3) Diving rate and duration. 4) Preening frequency. 5) 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 we can 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?