

Session title	Brilliant Bird Adaptations	
Key Q	How do birds live in wetlands?	
Session description	Observe a wide range of birds to discover how they have evolved specific features to suit a wetland environment. What are the main similarities and differences between species and how has each 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 describe at least two bird adaptations Will be able to identify an adaptation on a live bird Will be able to describe what a wetland is and give examples of wetland habitats	Will be able to identify three ways birds have of acquiring food; pecking, dabbling and diving Will be able to identify potential threats to wetland birds in context of climate change
Key vocabulary	Adaptations Anatomical Behavioural	Specialisations Characteristics Preening Specimens

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	5 mins
Learners are introduced to the session and the key question.	
Activity 1: Investigating specimens	25 mins
Learners explore different wetland bird adaptations, investigating five different stations looking at feathers, bones, beaks, feet and waterproofing (through preening).	
Activity 2: Sharing observations	5 mins
Each group shares their main findings, explaining how each adaptation helps birds to live in their habitat.	
Activity 3: Observing adaptations in live birds	20 mins
Learners observe and feed birds in the live collection to see different adaptations and how these enable the birds to live in the wetland.	
Plenary	5 mins