

Lesson 10 - Water for wildlife - Birds



Before you start this session, please:

- Print Session Information sheets
- Print Activity sheets 10:1 and 10:2
- Make sure you have access to the internet so that you can watch video clips on YouTube.
- Collect together the following items to help you complete the experiment and activities in this lesson.
 - Colouring pencils or pens
 - For Activity sheet 10:2 - a 1 litre juice drink carton, a ruler, scissors, a hole punch or small nail, string and bird feed

Water for wildlife - Birds

Let's get started

At Anglian Water we play our part in enhancing wildlife across the east of England. 47 of our sites are sites of special scientific interest, full of amazing biodiversity. One of our special sites is Rutland Water.

Let's take a closer look at the birds that live at Rutland Water and are one of the reasons it is so special. Have a look at the [Wetlands birdwatching](#) video filmed from our bird hide at Rutland on the Education Playlist. If you can't see it don't worry, try and identify some birds yourself.

Now it's your turn... What birds can you see?

Have a look out of your window. It's time to be very patient and see what birds you can spot. If you can, watch the [Garden bird](#) video on the Education Playlist, if not don't worry. Make sure you have the garden bird Activity sheet 10:1 in front of you or a bird book if you have one. If you can identify the bird, record it on your Activity sheet 10:1.

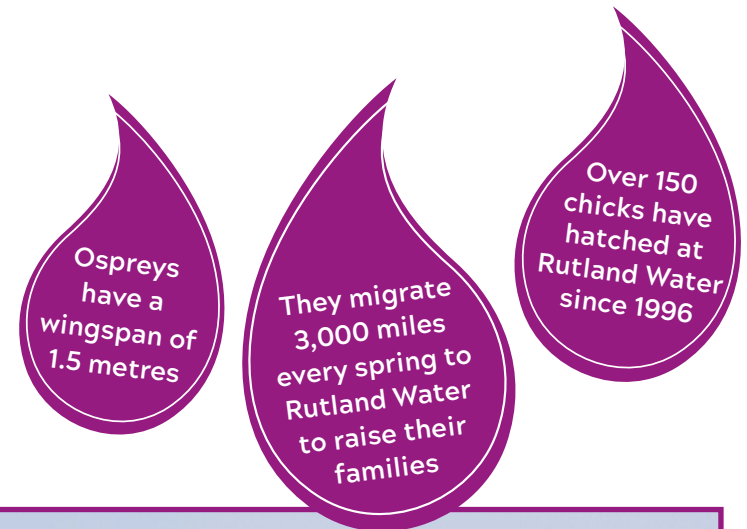
Let's investigate:

We can find out more about the birds at Rutland Water by looking at The Rutland Osprey Project. The Rutland Osprey Project is an important Osprey Conservation project.

A long time ago you could see ospreys all over England but unfortunately, people used to hunt them, and their habitats got destroyed so by the 1840s they had become extinct in this country.

In 1996, The Rutland Osprey Project was set up by the Rutland Wildlife Trust and Anglian Water. When Rutland Reservoir was built, it was a suitable habitat for ospreys and they were re-introduced from Scotland. They were very successful and there have now been ospreys breeding and raising their young at Rutland Water since 2001. So, after 150 years, the ospreys were back.

If you want to find out more go to www.lrw.org.uk/wildlife/rutland-ospreys where you can watch a live feed from an osprey's nest. You never know what you might see.



Challenge:
Have a go
at this:









Would you like to help the birds in your area?

You could make a bird feeder for your garden on Activity sheet 10:2.

Water for wildlife - Birds

Who is visiting your garden?

You will need to sit very still and not make any sudden movements.
Make a note of which birds visit your garden.

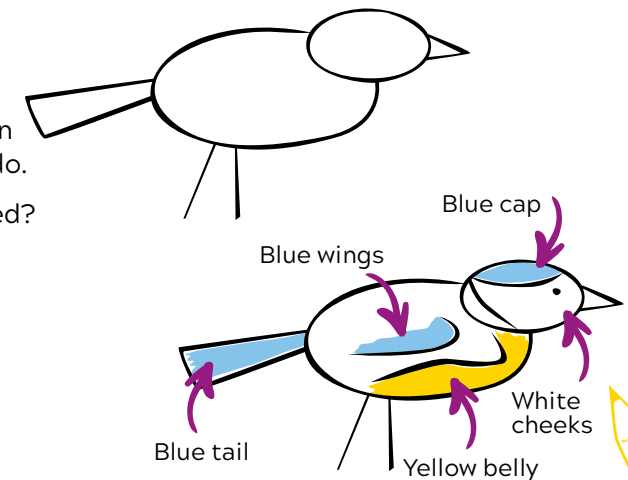
								
	Blackbird	Blue Tit	Great Tit	Greenfinch	Goldfinch	House Sparrow	Starling	Chaffinch
Tally								
Total								

Which birds are in your area?
Which one is the most common visitor? Are you getting better at identifying different species of birds? Do you have a favourite bird and why?

If you see a bird you don't recognise, sketch it on the back of this sheet and record it later when you have identified it.

Don't worry if you think you can't draw. Here are a few tips:

- Look at the bird carefully.
- Do your best to get the shapes right because they are important in identification; two ovals with sticks for legs, a tail and a beak will do.
- Decide: is the beak long and thin, or short and triangular, or hooked?
- Are the wings long and pointed, or rounded?
- Is the tail square, or forked, or pointed?
- How big is it? Smaller than a hedgehog? Bigger than a squirrel?
- What is it doing? Sitting in a tree? Wading about?
- Write down the colours - you can colour it later.



Water for wildlife - Birds

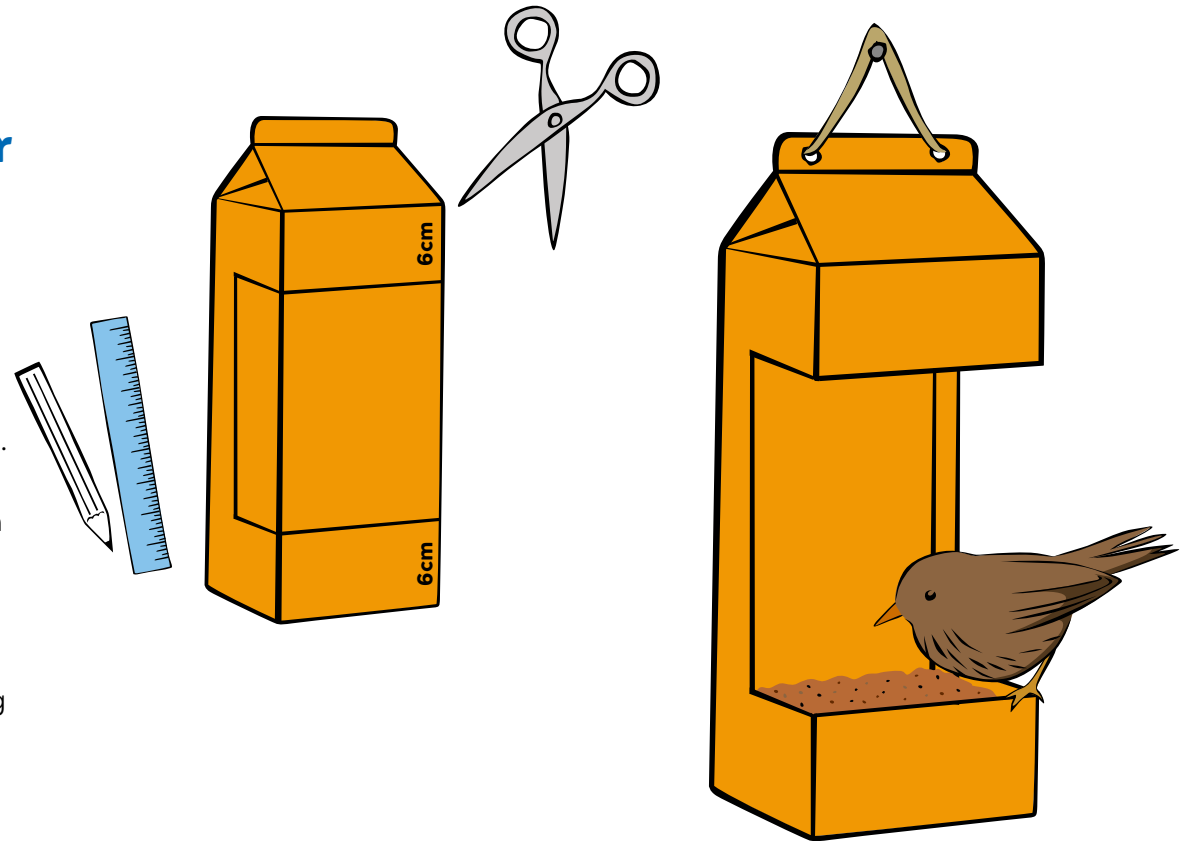
How to make a juice carton birdfeeder

You will need:

- 1 litre juice drink carton
- A ruler
- String
- Scissors
- Hole punch or small nail (to make 2 small holes)
- A grown-up to help you

Making your birdfeeder

1. Wash and dry a 1 litre juice drink carton.
2. Using a ruler, measure and mark a line 6cm up from the bottom of the carton on two adjoining sides. (See illustration)
3. Using a ruler, measure and mark a line 6cm down from the top edge of the carton on two adjoining sides. (See illustration)
4. Cut the sides off between the marked lines on the two adjoining sides.
5. Ask your grown-up to help you make two small holes in the very top edge of the carton.
6. Put string through the holes.
7. Hang the feeder from a branch or post. Fill it with seed, suet or mealworms.
8. Watch the birds enjoy the feast!



Don't forget birds need water too!

Ask your grown-up if you can fill a dish or saucer with water and find somewhere to put it off the ground for the birds to drink from.