



This badge offers an introduction to what different birds eat and what we can do to 'feed the birds'. It looks at sea birds (specifically the albatross), garden birds and birds of prey and gives the children an opportunity to help each of them in one way or another. It has been designed with Juniors in mind but could also suit Explorers.

WEEK ONE – What birds eat

You will need: quiz cards (enough copies for your group – this is a team activity)

1. Do the quiz to match up each bird with the foods they are most likely to eat. Think up at least three reasons why birds may not be able to find food for themselves (and their young)... and how we can help them.

WEEK TWO – Garden Birds – feeding the birds in your back garden

You will need: bird seed/raisins/peanuts/grated cheese, suet or lard, yoghurt pots, string, mixing bowl, scissors and paints (optional).

Learn how we can help garden birds to overcome food shortages.

Information available at:

www.rspb.org.uk/advice/helpingbirds/feeding/index.asp

2. Get the children to make their own treat for the birds in their gardens:

a. Mix the bird seed, peanuts etc with softened lard – allow the children to do this with their hands but **BE AWARE OF NUT ALLERGIES!**

Attach a string to the top of the yoghurt pots (decorated if you like) and then fill with the seed mix. Allow to set in the fridge.

WEEK THREE – Garden Birds (cont.)

You will need: Plastic drinks bottles, yoghurt pots or milk cartons (make sure they're clean), wire or string, bird seed, scissors.

1. Make a recycled bird feeder using old plastic bottles (see craft sheet) encourage the children to watch it throughout the week and record which birds they see using the feeder – they can keep a logbook and draw pictures

WEEK FOUR – Birds of Prey – food chains

You will need: examples of food chains (with each element on a different sheet), card, scissors, compasses, paints, crayons or felt-tips, string, pins.

1. Introduce the idea of food chains (feeding small birds helps the whole food chain). Work in teams to sort the food chains into the correct order – for example, sunflower (seeds) > blue tit > sparrow hawk.

make a food chain mobile [instructions on separate sheet]

WEEK FIVE – Sea Birds – the albatross

You will need: save the albatross factsheet, life-size outline (pdf)

1. Discover some fun facts about the albatross [why not do this as a quiz?]
make your own life-size albatross (do this in groups)

http://www.rspb.org.uk/youth/join_in/albatross/facts.asp

WEEK SIX – Sea Birds (2) – save the albatross

You will need: save the albatross factsheet, a fundraising box for each child (pdf)

1. learn about how the fish and squid used by fishermen is killing albatrosses and about how the RSPB is trying to save them by educating fishermen
2. make a fundraising box to take home and fill with loose change
and, if you want to raise more for the albatross campaign, check out our latest fundraising suggestions - to register your event and download posters and other resources see: http://www.rspb.org.uk/youth/join_in/albatross/you.asp

#Great resources are available on the RSPB Youth page (including a 'save the albatross' board game and more craft ideas) See: www.rspb.org.uk/youth