

MIGRATION – Birds

Teachers Notes to accompany the pupil worksheet on BIRDS

National Curriculum – Science / Living Creatures

This is a research activity using the internet and the RSPB website. Children can work in pairs or individually. It can be extended for individuals with the persuasive writing task.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/natures-home-magazine/birds-and-wildlife-articles/migration/>

The Questions

Swallows and Swifts eat, sleep and mate as they fly. They gather materials for nest as they fly they never come to land except to lay an egg and feed their young.

The Godwit fattens up to make the journey

The barrier that migrating birds face in the Mediterranean is being shot. Countries like Malta continue the annual tradition of shooting migrating birds. This may have been appropriate when they needed food and the flocks of birds were vast but this is no longer the case.

Persuasive writing task

Getting the article to work will require their listener/ reader to empathise with the species of bird. These countries need to change their laws and the politicians are swayed by opinions of the most powerful rather than the voices of the many. They may want to write to the children of the men who do the shooting. It is the voice of the younger generation that will impact the most on the future.

Further discussion - Laws are important for allowing or preventing free passage across a border. Do all species have rights?