










Image: Felicity Wood, Arbory School

**2019-2020**

Many schools participated in 'on-site' activities, including:

-  Assemblies
-  Class based activities
-  School grounds field based activities
-  Habitats: local, national and international
-  Local environment
-  Migration with geography links
-  Citizen Science: RSPB Schools' Bird Watch

Where do I start?

**Record numbers**

I am delighted to say that Manx BirdLife has now visited and worked with every primary school on the Island. Through the Education Programme, I have worked with over 4500 young people on and off school sites and delivered around 70 sessions per year since taking on the role in 2016. So this really is a big thank you from me, to you all for allowing me into your schools and classrooms to deliver our key conservation messages through the ever evolving programme of activities.



Image: Chris Kirk, Foxdale School

**Thank you**

Whilst your schools were reduced to hub sites only throughout the COVID-19 pandemic on the Island, you were all kind enough to place Manx BirdLife education resources on your websites. Through links, specially created pages and signposting, children were still able to engage with Manx BirdLife in a very different but easy way. Thank you all for continuing to engage with the Charity throughout this time. Resources will remain at: <http://manxbirdlife.im/education-programme/> so can be used by children over the summer if they so wish.

Look out for more being added throughout Manx Wildlife Week 28<sup>th</sup> Aug-6<sup>th</sup> Sept.

In the next academic year, to ensure the core messages (Education, Conservation and Sustainability) from UNESCO Biosphere in Education are considered, I will be looking to make sure that many of the sessions on offer link to one or more of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals and/or the Eco-Schools programme. Already it is easy to pick out how some sessions support the UNSDG's and Eco-Schools.

For example:

- ❖ Birdwatching: SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing
- ❖ Eco-School Topic: Healthy Living, Biodiversity, School grounds
- ❖ Habitats: SDG 15: Life On Land
- ❖ Eco-School Topic: Biodiversity
- ❖ Local environment: SDG 15: Life on Land
- ❖ Eco-School Topic: School Grounds
- ❖ Coastal and Sea birds: SDG 14 Life Below Water
- ❖ Eco-School Topic: Marine, Water



\*\*\*New\*\*\*

The Education Programme is ever evolving and there are now more assemblies and classroom activities than ever before. Some new activities are below.

### Ground nesting species assembly and/or class activity

Short 10 minute assembly highlighting the issues faced by ground nesting species, and/or activities discussing ground nesting species and playing games to demonstrate how vulnerable they are.

#### Terns assembly

Arctic Tern and Little Tern – short 10 minute assembly showing the plight of the terns nesting at The Point of Ayre and at the NNR. The Arctic Tern is the greatest traveller of all species, in its lifetime travelling the equivalent distance of 3 times to the moon and back! This is the only bird to see two summers, going from the Arctic to the Antarctic every year.

#### Protection of species – Literacy work

Including poster design, newspaper articles and news style reading/broadcasts.

#### Plastics class activity

Surveying school grounds/local area to produce tally cards on what plastics and/or other litter is found.

#### Plastics around the world

In many areas of the globe, birds inadvertently feed on plastic floating on the water, mistaking it for food, and many times this ingestion leads to death and even the death of their young.

Manx BirdLife will also be looking to promote and support certain days throughout the year. A quick look ahead at the calendar gives these dates:

5 <sup>th</sup> October:	<b>World Habitat Day</b>
27 <sup>th</sup> Nov-5 <sup>th</sup> Dec:	<b>National Tree Week</b>
16 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> Jan:	<b>RSPB Big Schools Birdwatch</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb:	<b>World Wetlands Day</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> Feb:	<b>National Nest Box Week</b>
20 <sup>th</sup> March:	<b>World House Sparrow Day</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> May:	<b>International Dawn Chorus Day</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> June:	<b>World Environment Day</b>
7 <sup>th</sup> June:	<b>World Swift Day</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> June:	<b>World Oceans Day</b>
19 <sup>th</sup> June:	<b>World Albatross Day</b>
22 <sup>nd</sup> June:	<b>World Rainforests Day</b>

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all again for engaging with Manx BirdLife. I always thoroughly enjoy visiting you and your classes and hearing all about the different birds the children have seen and, for those having repeat visits, listening to the things that the children have remembered!

This next academic year, I am hoping Manx BirdLife will engage with even more young people and deliver even more sessions. Early in September, I am eager to work with parent helpers and adults other than teachers to equip them with the necessary tools to run nature clubs on their own school sites. It may be that your school already has a gardening club, or an Eco-Schools club or similar and you are willing/wanting to extend this. The manual (currently in draft format) will give guidance and activity ideas that can be completed on school sites with very little if any extra work! I will contact you with regards to this in September.

All that is left for me to say is that I hope you have a very happy and safe summer break. You have all earned a well-deserved rest and I look forward to seeing you and working with you again next year.



## Find out more

If you would like more information about the Manx BirdLife Education programme, please contact:

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