



Birds

Snap that app

Age: 7-14

Topic: IT and Computing

Time: 1 hour



Learning through Landscapes

If you would like to develop your outdoor learning knowledge and skills, take a look at our range of training courses: ltl.org.uk/outdoor-learning-training

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What should learners already know?

- Identification skills let us know which species we are seeing around us.

What equipment will I need?

- An iPhone or iPad
- Access and permission to download applications to this device

How can we show the learning?

- Using information technologies to understand biodiversity is a useful way to support pupils to become digitally literate while gaining knowledge about scientific methods of classification and identification.
- Which apps did the children find the easiest to use?
- Challenge children by asking them what features they would incorporate if they were designing their own app.
- Did children learn any new facts from the apps? If so, what did they find out? Did they find things out about local birds?
- Ask children to reflect on why identification is useful. Why is it important that we know what species are around us? This is what helps us understand our natural world, and lets us interact with wildlife more effectively!



The suggested apps link data to scientific projects and will help pupils to understand data representation; data analysis; algorithms; the role of technology in science; and how to use different devices and apps to design and create different programmes.

How will learners explore this?

1. Develop bird identification skills with the use of interactive apps! Below are a few suggestions:
2. Bird ID British Birds – costs £2.99. Includes British Isle garden birds, woodland birds, heath and moorland birds, waders, seabirds, and migratory birds.
3. Merlin Bird ID by Cornell Lab – requires iOS 11.0. This simple app identifies birds for regions, including Europe, through questions or photo upload.
4. Collins British Bird Guide – costs £12.99. Includes 262 common birds from the British Isles. You can search species by location, time of year, and plumage traits.
5. Birds of Britain Pocket Guide – the ‘Lite’ version is free and developed by British naturalists. Includes information about over 200 birds with maps, notes on diet, appearance, lifespan, habits, and distribution.
6. Bird ID Nord University – European bird guide in English. Features fun quizzes so you can test your knowledge.
7. iBird UK Pro – costs £13.99. A comprehensive field guide to birds from UK and Ireland.
8. Bird call: BirdNET is a prototype application developed by Cornell University. You can record bird call with your location and the app will analyse and make a prediction as to which bird can be identified.



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