



**Press Release: 04 April 2019**  
**For immediate release**

## **Make way for the birds!**

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Spring has arrived at RSPB Forsinard with birds and school children returning to this special part of the world. Brora and Pennyland Primary Schools have been working closely with the Education Team from Forsinard and have since visited the RSPB reserve to learn all about this amazing landscape and, in particular, hen harriers. Hen harriers are a rare bird nationally but are a speciality of the Flow Country.

The children learned about why the Flow Country is the perfect habitat for the endangered hen harrier and found out about some of the particular habits of this birds, including 'sky dancing'. This happens in the spring when male and female hen harriers exchange food in mid-air as part of a spectacular display. Pupils made up their own sky dances and searched the skies using binoculars.

Brora children looked at different nests and how they were made. They went on a nesting material hunt and made a nest for their chosen bird. They also found out about different egg sizes and colours and made little eggs from clay to put in their nests. They found out some fascinating facts such as great tits might lay as many as 12 eggs! Pennyland pupils checked the pools to find out what small creatures live in the Flow Country and even found a couple of basking lizards on the Dubh Lochan Trail boardwalk.

The outdoor learning activities at RSPB Forsinard are provided as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund supported Flows to the Future Project. If you are interested in your class or youth group visiting the reserve please contact Hilary Wilson, Learning Development Officer at the Flows Field Centre. [hilary.wilson@rspb.org.uk](mailto:hilary.wilson@rspb.org.uk)

Hilary said, 'It is wonderful to see children so excited by the Flow Country and for them to get a sense of the scale of this beautiful landscape when they climb to the top of the Flows Lookout Tower.'



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## NOTES TO EDITORS

The Peatlands Partnership includes Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland, The Highland Council, RSPB Scotland, Plantlife Scotland, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, The Highland Third Sector Interface, The Flow Country Rivers Trust, and The Environmental Research Institute. It is chaired by Professor Stuart Gibb from the Environmental Research Institute.

RSPB Scotland is the lead partner in The Flows to the Future project, a Peatlands Partnership project, which gratefully acknowledges funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and from the following funders and supporters; Environmental Research Institute, European Regional Development Fund, Forestry Commission (Scotland), Peatland Action, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, The Highland Council, RSPB, WREN, Scotland Rural Development Programme, Scottish Government, Scottish Natural Heritage and The Tubney Trust.

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## CONTACT DETAILS

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