



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

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

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Spring has arrived in the Flow Country with birds and school children returning to this special part of the world. Pennyland Primary 3s have been working closely with the Education Team from the Flows to the Future Project to find out all about birds, why the Flow Country is so important for rare species and to make bird boxes. The children have also visited the RSPB Scotland Forsinard reserve to learn more about this amazing landscape and in particular hen harriers. Hen harriers are a nationally rare bird but are a speciality of the Flow Country.

On their visit to 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 bird, 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.

They used their eagle eyes to spot tiny creatures while pond dipping and even found some basking lizards on the Dubh-lochain Trail boardwalk.

At school the Primary 3's looked at different nests, how they are made and how important it is not to disturb them in the wild. They went on a nesting material hunt and made a nest for their chosen bird. They also found out about the different egg sizes and colours made by different birds, and made little eggs from clay to put in their nests. They went on to find out some fascinating facts such as that great tits can lay as many as 12 eggs!

Hilary Wilson, Learning Development Office 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.'

The outdoor learning activities at RSPB Forsinard are provided as part of the Peatland Partnership's Flows to the Future Project supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The visitor centre at RSPB Forsinard is now open daily for the season. There will be a special family day during the Easter holidays on Wednesday 17 April from 10 until 12 and 2 until 4. The event is free and it would be helpful if people could advise if they plan to come by emailing [beki.pope@rspb.org.uk](mailto:beki.pope@rspb.org.uk) . If you have a class or youth group who are interested in 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)



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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.

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## CONTACT DETAILS

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