Ramsar Resource: Curriculum Linked Research Project – Migratory Birds

Suitable grades 3-4 or 5-6

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Online Learning Resources for Grades 3 – 6

Bellarine Catchment Network

In light of the Covid-19 Victorian Government measures, the Bellarine Catchment Network are offering free online learning resources for Primary School students in grades 3-6.

The content is Victorian Curriculum linked for years 3-6 for:

- Science Understanding (Science Curriculum)
- Geographical Concepts and Skills (Science Curriculum)
- Geographical Knowledge (Humanities> Geography Curriculum)

The Bellarine Catchment Network have created two research projects on the subject of:

- Wetland habitats
- Migratory birds

Both topics are linked to our local community and the Ramsar Wetland sites around the Bellarine Peninsula.

Students can choose whether to research a migratory bird or Ramsar wetland site and will utilise information online either via the suggested sites or their own research. Included is access to an interactive online map showcasing wetland types in other parts of the world and how they link to our place.
Students can choose how they present their work either as a written report, visual poster, video, power point presentation or other suitable delivery modes.

Our team would appreciate receiving feedback on the completed projects so that we can report our grant outcomes to the Victorian Government. A brief feedback template has been included for educators to fill out and can be emailed to rebecca@bcn.org.au .

If you have any queries, difficulties or would simply like further resources please contact rebecca@bcn.org.au . Goodluck and Happy researching!

1. Select one project to complete either:
   a. Migratory Birds or
   b. Ramsar Wetland Habitat
   Follow the instructions

2. Select either one migratory bird OR one Ramsar Wetland site to research

3. Read the appropriate year level questions

4. Research and answer the appropriate year level questions

5. Present your answers visually as a poster, powerpoint presentation, video etc

6. Fill in Completion Report and email to rebecca@bcn.org.au

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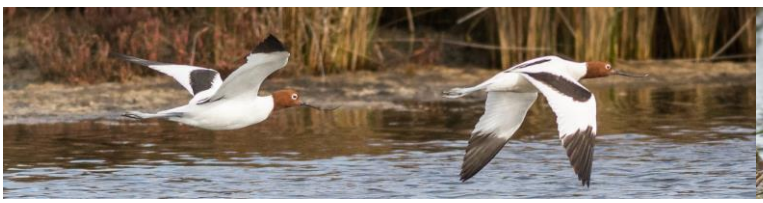
For Educators: Ramsar Overview Sheet

Ramsar Wetlands are internationally significant habitats which have been identified as a critical resource for fauna and flora worldwide. Globally there are 121 million acres of coastal wetlands, 18 million acres are protected under the Ramsar Convention today. Our region is home to the Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar Site comprising of: Mud Island, Swan Bay, Lake Connewarre, Werribee-Avalon and Point Wilson-Limeburner's Bay. These five sites represent 55,969 acres of the globes protected coastal wetlands.

The Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar sites were recognised by a global panel as significant because they have unique habitats which are rarely found throughout the world. They are essential habitat for migratory birds who fly from Australia to the Northern Hemisphere every year, making them the conservation responsibility of up to seven nations. In order for these bird species to survive into the future, all nations along their migratory journey agreed to co-operate and protect their habitat and they named this agreement after the city in which it was first signed – Ramsar in Iran.

In the last 20 years the health of Ramsar Wetland habitats has been steadily declining due to a number of factors, with a corresponding decline in populations of migratory bird species such as the Orange bellied parrot, The Red-necked Stint and Eastern Curlew. This has prompted a renewed effort to protect and conserve Ramsar habitats to prevent their extinction and the loss of migratory birds who call them their home for several months each year.

Bellarine Catchment Network have been entrusted with the protection of Ramsar sites in the Bellarine Peninsula and this year launched the 'Adopt a Ramsar site" program. It is one of many initiatives that are designed to raise the profile of Ramsar Wetlands and to foster stewardship of these precious habitats amongst the local community.



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For Educators: Completion Report

Please complete this form by indicating which project was completed and the number of students who undertook the projects, then email to rebecca@bcn.org.au. Images or examples of completed projects would be gratefully accepted!
The Bellarine Catchment Network will report this information to the Victorian Government to fulfill part of our grant outcomes.

Students School Details:

School Name:……
School Address: ……
Student Year Level/s: ……
If completed by multiple students, please indicate numbers:
……

Chosen Projects:

Please indicate the project/s your student/s completed:

- ❑ Research Project: Migratory Birds
- ❑ Research Project: Ramsar Wetland Habitats

What format did your student/s present their work in?

- ❑ Poster
- ❑ PowerPoint Presentation
- ❑ Video
- ❑ Oral Presentation
- ❑ Other (Please Specify)……
  ……
  .

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Research Project – Migratory Birds

Big Idea: 37 Migratory birds utilise Ramsar Wetlands throughout the Bellarine Peninsula as resting and feeding sites for 4 months of the year before flying back to the Northern Hemisphere to breed.

Overview: Through online research, students will choose one migratory bird species and learn about their basic information, the East-Australiasian flyway and understand environmental threats and ways to protect habitats whilst developing research techniques, comprehension and presentation skills.

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to…

- Represent and communicate observations, ideas and findings to show patterns and relationships using formal and informal scientific language
- Communicate ideas and processes using evidence to develop explanations of events and phenomena and to identify simple cause-and-effect relationships
- Understand that Living things can be grouped on the basis of observable features and can be distinguished from non-living things
- Understand that Living things have structural features and adaptations that help them to survive in their environment
- The growth and survival of living things are affected by the physical conditions of their environment

Resources Needed:

- Computer with internet access OR computer lab with internet access

Recommended research sites:

- https://ebird.org/explore
- http://www.birdlife.org.au/all-about-birds/australias-birds/find-a-bird/

Presentation:

Students can present their questions as written reports, visual posters, a video, power point presentation or other suitable delivery modes.

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Research Project – Migratory Birds

Research Questions for Grades 3 & 4

1. What is the ***common name*** of your ***migratory*** bird?
2. Why did you choose this migratory bird?
3. What kind of ***habitat*** does your bird depend on for survival?
4. What does your migratory birds eat?
5. What ***characteristics*** does your bird have?
6. How is your migratory bird *different* to the other migratory birds?
7. How is your migratory bird *similar* to the other migratory birds?
8. What is the East-Australasian Flyway?
    a. Follow this link: https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1zqoo072PmcaKipQ-6wxS0HPThDID-tUX&hl=en&usp=sharing
    b. Explore *the* ***East-Australasian Flyway*** map. Click on the bird icons to discover wetlands in other parts of the world and learn about their importance to *migratory* birds from our place and the connection to the Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar Sites.
9. Does your chosen migratory bird use the East-Australasian Flyway?
    1. If yes, what time of the year does your bird travel and what are its destinations?
10. Can you find other animals with similar ***adaptations***?
11. What are some ***threats*** that your bird faces?
12. Name three ways that you can help protect your bird.

Research Questions for Grades 5 & 6

1. What is the Common name of your ***migratory*** bird?
2. What is the ***scientific*** name of your migratory bird?
3. What is the East-Australasian Flyway?
    a. Follow this link: https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1zqoo072PmcaKipQ-6wxS0HPThDID-tUX&hl=en&usp=sharing
    b. Explore *the* ***East-Australasian Flyway*** map. Click on the bird icons to discover wetlands in other parts of the world and learn about their importance to *migratory* birds from our place and the connection to the Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar Sites.
4. Does your chosen migratory bird use the East-Australasian Flyway?
    1. If yes, what time of the year does your bird travel and what are its destinations?
5. What does your migratory bird eat?
6. Your bird will have ***adaptations*** such as a beak length and shape that helps them to catch and eat their prey. What is your chosen birds beak length and shape and how do you think it helps them to feed?
7. Your bird will have adaptations such as legs that could be very short, or very long. Which leg length does your bird have and why do you think this could be helpful?
8. Migratory birds are different colours at different times of the year.
    a) What does your birds *breeding plumage* look like? Can you find a picture?
    b) What does your birds *non-breeding plumage* look like? Can you find a picture?
9. What are some threats that your bird faces?
10. Name three ways that you can help protect your bird.

Research Project: Migratory Birds.

Choose one bird from the following list to research:

Species	Image
2. Asian Dowitcher	
3. Bar-tailed Godwit	
4. Black-tailed Godwit	
5. Broad-billed Sandpiper	
6. Common Greenshank	
7. Common Redshank	
8. Common Sandpiper	
9. Curlew Sandpiper	

Species	Image
10. Double-banded Plover	
11. ★ Far Eastern Curlew	
12. Great Knot	
13. Grey Plover	
14. Greater sand plover	
15. Lesser Sand Plover	
16. Latham's Snipe	
17. Grey-tailed Tattler	

Research Project: Migratory Birds.

Choose one bird from the following list to research:

18. Little Curlew	
19. Little Ringed Plover	
20. Long-toed Stint	
20. Marsh Sandpiper	
21. Oriental Plover	
22. Oriental Pratincole	
23. Pacific Golden Plover	
24. Pectoral Sandpiper	

25. Pin-tailed Snipe	
26. Red Knot	
27. Red-necked Phalarope	
28. ★ Red-necked Stint	
29. Ruddy Turnstone	
30. Ruff	
31. Sanderling	
32. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	

Research Project: Migratory Birds.

Choose one bird from the following list to research:

33. Swinhoe's Snipe	
34. Terek Sandpiper	
35. Wandering Tattler	
36. Whimbrel	
37. Wood Sandpiper	
38. ★ Orange-Bellied Parrot	

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