



CHORUS

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Project Production - Fran Harrison & Chris Brotherston, Macphail Centre
Subject Experts - Melanie Gaff, Highland Council Ranger & Paul Copestake
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CHORUS :

Like the Dawn Chorus of birds joining together in song. The visual image of so many diverse birds - stacks of them. Members of the community coming together producing something both collective and diverse.

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The inspiration for this community project started by seeing all the birds being very busy in and around my garden, I asked myself what did I know about the birds I saw? Not a lot...but I expected a lot of people did. Perhaps like me, there were more people out there that knew a few of the regulars but were unaware of the abundance of what was available to delight the eye in and around Ullapool.

As a visual artist what better way of getting to know something than by looking closely at it in many different ways? A community project with the Macphail Centre was the way forward. A call out to the local community to send us photographs that they had taken of any garden, sea and mountain birds proved a very exciting start. The amount and quality was spectacular.

Using these images of birds and working with local birdwatcher, Paul Copestake, we compiled lists and species of the birds, looked at their natural habitat and planned the painting workshops.

Highland Council Ranger, Melanie Gaff, along with Paul led us on guided bird walks around the shore and village, spotting birds that we see and hear every day, this time giving a name to them and ways of recognising them again by shape and sound. We had a 'bird spotting day' on a very windy Monday, asking the village to tell us what they have seen on that day from their own doorsteps. We also asked for recordings of bird song and were rewarded with some lovely sightings and sounds.

One of the best things for me was being invited by Paul Copestake to an early morning session of ringing and recording birds for the British Trust for Ornithology. It was so exciting to see and hold these birds up close,

to see their colour and feel their fragile shape was a pleasure and to finally hear their indignant squawks as they were set free! A rare treat for anyone to take part in.

So the painting workshops began with participants choosing their bird with as much delight and deliberation as walking into a cake shop and choosing a cake!

What bird? Small or large box? Shall I choose a bird I know? What's that little one there? Each box is inspired by the photograph which offered the shape, colour and habitat of the bird which was then painted observationally onto the box with acrylic paints, sometimes on both sides showing very different aspects of the bird, perhaps in flight or feeding. The workshops were such fun and the results are beautiful, each box with their own character.

The aim of the project was to inspire and capture the imagination of many people, for people to share their skills, knowledge and enthusiasm and a chance to learn and take part in something new. By taking part in Chorus I have certainly learned a whole lot more about bird life not just in my own garden but by coast and hill too. Judging by the grand total of 100 boxes I am sure that everyone who took part knows a lot more too.

Eleanor White

CHORUS Lead Artist



Participant Artists

Painters

Isla Macpherson - Arctic Tern
James Stewart - Arctic Tern
James Nairn - Barn Owl
Jean Wilder - Barnacle & Greylag Geese
Kirsty Sears - Black-throated Diver
Paul Driver - Blackbirds
Mhairi Driver - Blackcap
Heather Wallace - Blue Tit
Joanna Wright - Bullfinch
Hannah Fisher - Chaffinch
Jennifer Morrison - Chiffchaff
Libby Nairn - Coal Tit
Katy Whitham - Coal Tit
Katie Campbell - Collared Dove
Nathan Chapple - Common Gull
Libby Nairn - Cormorant
Celia Charity - Cuckoo
Eva Faber - Curlew
Sheila Robertson - Dipper
Julia Ridgman - Dunlin
Katy Campbell - Dunnock
Rachel Horsburgh - Eider Ducks
Jo Christofferson - Fieldfare
Helen Meek - Fulmar
Sandy Cutler - Gannet
Jan Kilpatrick - Glaucous Gull

Alice Keppel - Goldcrest
Karen Reeve - Golden Plover
Jackie Macleod - Goldfinch
Ailsa Strange - Goosander
Ian Campbell - Great Tit
Sade Mcleod - Greater Black-backed Gull
Caroline Cooper - Greater Spotted Woodpecker
Velvet Lawton - Greenfinch
Aileen Macartney - Greenshank
Rebecca Tyson - Grey Wagtail
Janis Breckenridge - Guillemots
Tony Bennet - Heron
Frances Fogg - Herring Gull
Maria Ross - Hooded Crow
Alexia Campbell - House Martin
Adrianna Barwicka - House Sparrows
Katie MacDougall - House Sparrows
Frances Fogg - Icelandic Gull
Melanie Gaff - Jackdaw
Gemma Middleton - Kestrel
Lesley Butler - Lapwing
Cara Fraser - Lesser Black-backed Gull
Fran Harrison - Little Grebe
Jean Wilder - Longtailed Tits
Sheila Robertson - Meadow Pipit
Carrie Urquhart - Merlin
Evie Strange - Mistle Thrush

Ishbel Hartley - Oystercatcher
Helen Meek - Oystercatchers
Eleanor White - Peregrine Falcon
Natasha Campbell - Pheasant
Laura Cochran - Pied Wagtail
Velvet Lawton - Ptarmigan, in summer
Allan Edwards - Ptarmigan, in winter
Canna Maclean - Puffin
Ishbel Driver - Purple Sandpiper
Jo Christofferson - Raven
Alice Marshall - Razorbill
Joni Bluefield - Red-breasted Merganser
Tamara Lawton - Red-throated Diver
Libby Nairn - Redpoll
Alex Fotheringham - Redshank
Mandie Walsh - Redwing
Pam Keale - Ring Ouzel
Esther Butler Bennett - Ringed Plover
Katie Whitham - Robin
Fiona Driver - Robin
Rowan Strachan - Robin
Andy Bluefield - Robin
Danielle Hardy - Robin
Anne Edwards - Rock Pigeon
James Stewart - Rock Pigeon
Mairi Driver - Rock Pipit
Jennifer Aird - Rook
Peter White - Rooks
Alexia Campbell - Sand Martin
Julia Ridgman - Sandpiper

Jo Christofferson - Sea Eagle
Sue Smith - Sedge Warbler
Jean Wilder - Shag
Eleanor White - Siskin
Susan Brown - Skylark
Hannah Fisher - Snow Bunting
Rebecca Fiddes - Song Thrush
Andrew Usher - Sparrowhawk
John Matheson - Sparrowhawk
Sandra Kelsey - Starling
Jan Kilpatrick - Starlings
India Campbell - Stonechat
Laura Cochran - Swallow
Freda Bastow - Swallow
Annie MacDougall - Swallow
Lesley Strachan - Tawny Owl
Christine Morrison - Treecreeper
Christine Green - Turnstone
Angie Ford - Waxwings
Mandie Walsh - Waxwings
Eireann Strange - Wheatear
Andrew Simpson - Whooper Swan
Murdo Brudenell - Whooper Swan
Eleanor White - Widgeon & Mallard
Helen Ross - Willow Warbler
Kay Charlton - Willow Warbler
Tom Talbot - Woodcock
Kath Foote - Wren
Angus Foote - Young Buzzard
Willie Inglis - Young Buzzard

Photographers

Cliff Astrand
Kate Copestake
Alan Downey
Reiner Luyken
Katie McDougall
Karen Otter
Sue Pittman
Max Pittman
John Port
Rachel Paterson
Mandie Walsh
Andy Williams

Walkers

Melanie Gaff -
Walk Leader 18/04
Paul Copestake -
Walk Leader 19/04
Frith Angell
John Angell
Nancy Angell
Tacita Angell
Fran Harrison
Stephen Keeler
Eleanor White
Geoff Wilkinson
Shirley Wilkinson
Andy Williams
Ian Williams

Bird Spotters

David Bastow
Liz Beer
Andy Bluefield
Joni Bluefield
Chris Cooper
Ann Falconer
Fran Harrison
Sue Hopkinson
Michael Hopkinson
Jim Inglis
Jan Kilpatrick
Kirsty Lavelle
Susan Leslie
Effie MacKenzie
Katie McDougall
Judy McEllin
Rowena Oliver
Rachel Paterson
Bernard Planterose
Carol Sykes
Eleanor White

Sound Recording



“I was delighted to be part of the project. It’s not something I usually do, but the buzz at the workshops was perfect.”

Tom Talbot

“We loved being able to join in the painting workshops as a family – we brought our baby Sebastian who was 6 weeks old! It was fascinating to learn just how many birds there are in Ullapool, and the girls now look out for them and can identify them.”

Katy & Iain Campbell Plus Alexia, India & Sebastian



“We loved it, the painting, of course, the amazing efforts of everyone and the community feel of the whole thing, led by the gifted and inspirational teacher Eleanor White. Thank you to all concerned for making it happen,”

Sheila & Hannah



“I really enjoyed the community art project, and how lots of people take part and then it all comes together in one piece, the power of this is amazing.”

Joni Bluefield



Sparrows & Finches

Brambling

All year

Bullfinch [a] [c]

All year

Chaffinch [h]

All year

Goldfinch [d]

All year

Greenfinch

All year

House Sparrow [b] [f]

All year

Redpoll [c]

All year

Siskin [g]

All year

Snow Bunting

Winter

Twite

All Year



[a]



[c]

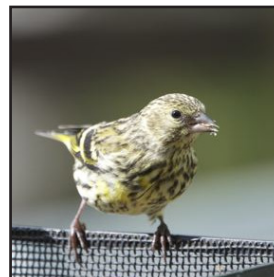


[b]

[f]



[g]

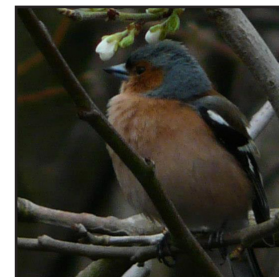


[c]



[d]

[h]



Thrushes etc.

Blackbird [b]

Gardens - All Year

Dunnoek

Gardens - All year,

Fieldfare [h]

Trees, Farmland - Winter

Mistle Thrush

Woodland, Farmland - All Year

Redwing [a] [g]

Bushes, Trees, Farmland - Winter

Ring Ouzel

Mountains - Summer

Robin [c] [j]

Gardens, Woods, Farmland - All Year

Song Thrush

Gardens - All Year

Stonechat

Scrub - Summer

Waxwing [f] [i] [k]

Gardens, Shrubland - Winter

Wheatear [d]

Open Space - Summer



[a]



[f]



[g]



[j]



[b]



[c]



[d]



[h]



[k]



Tits, Warblers, etc.

Blackcap [a]

Woodland and Shrubs - Summer

Blue Tit [f]

Gardens, Woods - All Year

Chiffchaff [d]

Woods - Summer

Coal Tit [b]

Gardens, Pine Woods - All Year

Goldcrest [h]

Pine Woods - All Year

Great Tit [e]

Gardens, Woods - All Year

Greater Spotted

Woodpecker

Woods, Mature Gardens - All year

Sedge Warbler [g]

Marsh, Wetland - Summer

Long Tailed Tit

Woods, Shrubs - All Year

Treecreeper

Woods, Gardens - All Year

Willow Warbler [i]

Birch, Woods - Summer

Wren [c]

Shrubs, Woods, Moors - All Year



[a]



[b]



[f]



[c] [d]

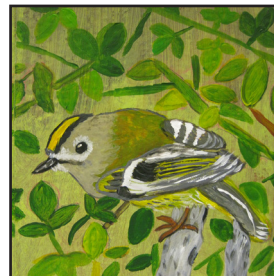


[g]



[e]

[h]



[i]



Birds which are also birds

Dipper [d]

Rivers - All Year

Grey Wagtail

Rivers - Summer

House Martin

Houses, Farms - Summer

Meadow Pipit [a]

Farms, Coasts, Moors - Summer

Pied Wagtail [g]

Rivers - All Year

Rock Pipit [f]

Coasts - All year

Sand Martin

Rivers - Summer

Skylark [c] [h]

Farmland, Moors - Summer

Starling [b]

Urban - All Year

Swallow [e]

Houses, Farms - Summer



[a]



[c]



[b]



[f]



[c]



[d]



[h]



[g]

Game, Cuckoos & Owls

Barn Owl [d]

Farmland - All year

Collard Dove

Urban - All year

Cuckoo [e]

Scrubs, Open land - Summer

Pheasant [f] [g]

Ptarmigan [c]

High Mountains - All year

Red Grouse

Mountains, Moorland - All year

Rock Dove [a] [b]

Coastal - All year

Tawny Owl

Woodland - All year

Wood Pigeon

Woods, Farmland - All year



[a]

[e]



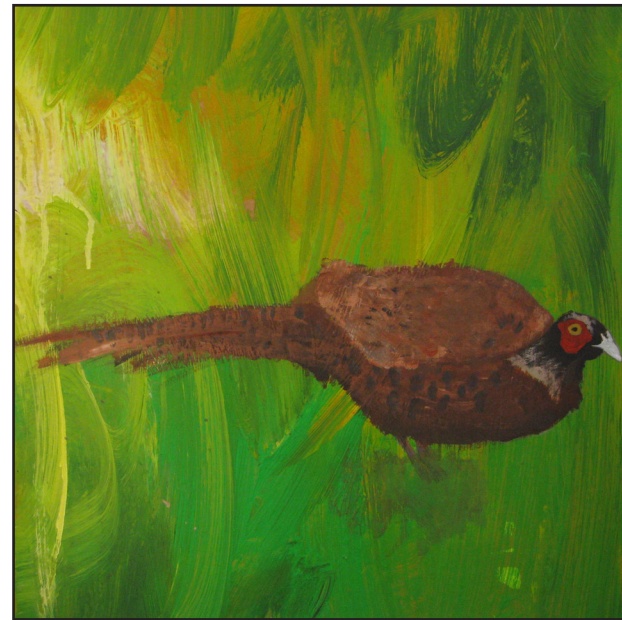
[b]

[f]



[c]

[g]



[d]

Crows

Hooded Crow

Open land, Coasts - All Year

Jackdaw [a]

Urban - All Year

Raven [f]

Mountains, Coasts - All Year

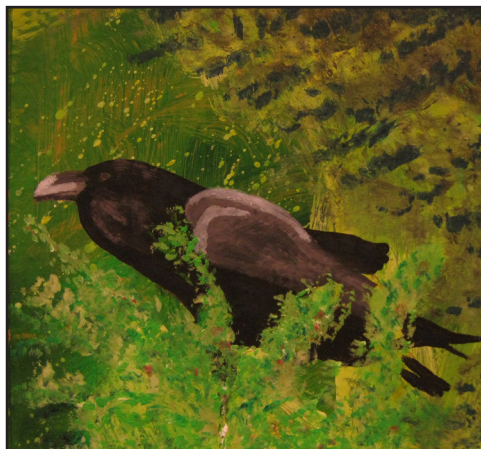
Rook [d] [h]

Farmland - All Year



[d]

[f]



Birds of Prey

Buzzard

Open Areas, Woods - All year

Golden Eagle

Mountains - All year

Kestrel [b]

Open Areas - All year

Merlin [c]

Wild Moorland - Summer

Peregrine [e]

Coastal Cliffs Mountains - All year

Sparrowhawk

Woods, Gardens - All year

White Tailed (Sea) Eagle

Coasts - All year



[a]



[b]



[c]



[g]

[h]



Waterfowl & Herons

Barnacle Geese [g]

Summer Isles, Coigach coasts - Winter

Eider [c]

All year

Goldeneye

Large lochs - Winter

Goosander

All year

Greylag Geese [b] [d]

Coasts - All year

large skeins autumn and winter

Mallard [i]

Coasts - All year

Red breasted Merganser [a]

All year

Teal

Coasts, Small lochs - All year

Whooper Swan [j]

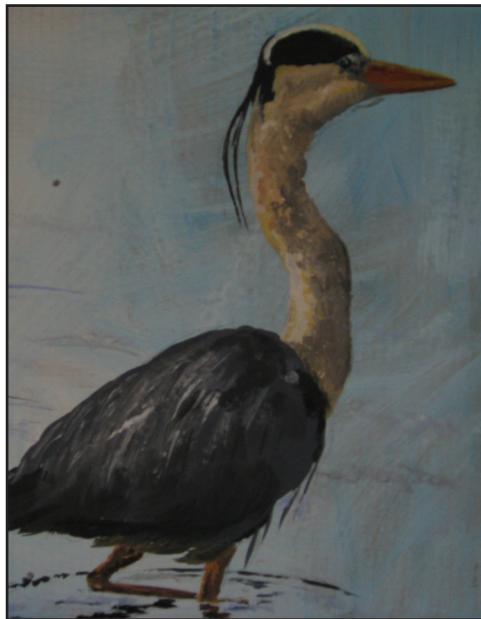
Freshwater Lochs in small numbers - Winter

Wigeon [f]

Coasts, Ullapool River - Winter

Grey Heron [c] [h]

All Year



[c]

[g]



[a]



[d]

[h]

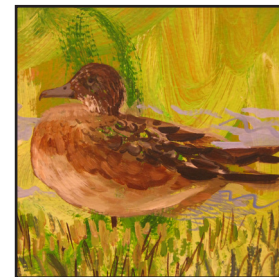
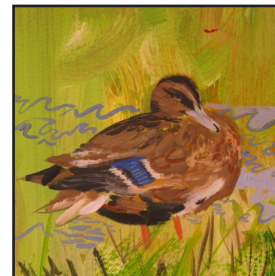


[b]



[c]

[i]



[f]

[j]



Waders

Common Sandpiper

Rivers and Lochs - Summer

Curlew [a]

All Year

Dunlin

Shore and Open moor - Summer

Golden Plover

Open Mountains - Summer

Greenshank [d]

Lochans - Summer

Lapwing

Grazing Land - Summer

Oystercatcher [b] [f]

Coasts - All year

Purple Sandpiper

Rocky Shores - Winter

Redshank

Coasts, Lochans - All year

Ringed Plover

Coasts - Summer

Snipe

Boggy Areas - All year

Turnstone [g]

Shore - Winter

Woodcock

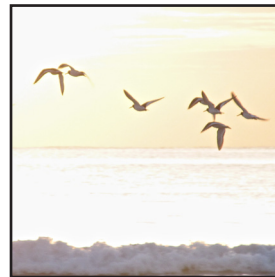
All year



[a]



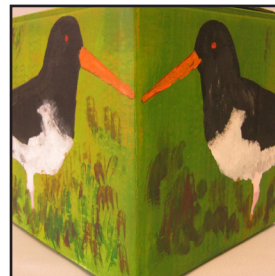
[c]



[b]



[d]



[f]



[e]



[g]

Gulls, Terns, Divers etc.

Arctic Tern [c]

Coastal, Islands - Summer

Common Gull

Coastal - All year

Black-throated Diver

Coastal, Large Lochs - All year

Glaucous Gull [b]

Harbour, Coastal - Winter

Great Northern Diver

Coastal - Winter

Great Skua [g]

Summer

Greater Black Backed Gull

Harbour, Coastal - Summer

Herring Gull

Harbour, Coastal - All year

Iceland Gull [f]

Harbour, Coastal - Winter

Lesser Black Backed Gull [e]

Coastal - Summer

Little Grebe [a]

Coastal - Winter

Red Throated Diver [d]

Coastal, Small Lochs - All year

Slavonian Grebe

Coastal - Winter



[a]



[b]



[c]



[e]



[f]



[d]



[g]

Seabirds

Cormorant [e]

All Year

Fulmar

Cliffs - Summer

Gannet

St Kilda! Minch, sea lochs - Summer

Shag [b] [c] [d]

All Year

Storm Petrel

Summer Isles - Summer



[a]

[d]



Black Guillemot [f]

Coasts : rocky shore - Summer

Guillemot

Sea - Summer

Puffin [g]

Sea - Summer

Razorbill [a]

Sea - Summer

Auks



[b]

[c]



[f]



[c]

[g]



Bird Sightings 22.04.13

We asked people to email or phone us with the birds they spotted from their doorsteps or on their way to work.

It was a blustery day on the 22nd April but there were still a lot of birds about.

People from across the village, from up the hill at Braes, across the lochside and Rhue and Elphin sent in their sightings.

All these sightings helped to validate the number of species that it is possible to see and hear in our community.

Birds Sighted:
House Sparrow, Rook, Chaffinch, Dunnock, Blue Tit, Robin, Blackbird, Hooded Crow, Great Tit, Col-lared Dove, Greenfinch, Mistle Thrush, Coal Tit, Common Gulls, Blackbird, Buzzard, Siskin, Redpoll, Ravens, Rock Pigeon, Pied Wagtail, Jackdaw, Wheatear, Kestrel, Bullfinch, Wren, Goldfinch, Waxwing, Red Throated Diver, Skua?, Swallow, Star-ling, Meadow Pipit, Redwing, Willow Warbler, Woodpigeon, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Tree Creeper, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Goldcrest, Song Thrush, Long Tailed Tit, Blackcap.

With the addition of some other sightings
- Saw a Herring Gull swiftly followed by a small black dog.
- Field Mouse - an honor-ary bird guest at the feeding table
- Five baby Robins starving hungry. The nest is made up in some old plant pots in our garage. The male & female Robins are constantly feeding the babies worms & bugs.

THANKS

A special thank you must go to Chris Brotherston and Fran Harrison at the Macphail Centre for their unending support, enthusiasm and their ‘can do’ attitude from the beginning of the project, also for their excellent organisational skills, setting up the workshops and last but not least, providing endless tea and biscuits to all the painters. It has been a pleasure to work with both of you.

Eleanor White

PHOTO CREDITS

Cover Image - John Port
Tits Wabelers etc.
[a] rachael Paterson
Thrushes etc.
[f] mandie walsh [k] Andy Williams

Sparrows and Finches
[f] Mandy Walsh [g] Karen Otter [h] Rachael Paterson
Game, Cuckoos & Owls
[f] kate copetake
Waterfowl & Herons
[b] Reiner Luyken [d] Reiner Luyken [h] Kate Copestake

Auks & Seabirds
[c] John Port [d] Kate Copestsake
Waders
[a] John Port [b] John Port [g] Karen Otter



CHORUS:

A Macphail Centre community art project led by Eleanor White.

The Chorus project encompassed many elements and many people, it grew from the original idea and spread its wings. A learning and creative project that is finalized in a collective installation of painted bird images, which is reformed in each venue it visits.

It illustrates the diversity of the birdlife in and around our community.



Bridge House
ART

Macphail
Centre