

## For Teachers

Or if you are a young learner, persuade your teacher to help you and your classmates answer the following questions:

- Do birds have lunchtimes?
- Do different birds prefer different foods?
- Does the same kind of bird eat just the one kind of food?
- What kind of food table do birds prefer?
- Does the colour or shape of a food table attract birds? Or frighten them away? Which colour works best?
- How many different birds have you and your class spotted around your homes?
- Can you design a bird table that also keeps out squirrels?



- Find out which birds migrate and which live in Portencross all year round. Where do they come from and where do they go? Why do they migrate?



## Curriculum for Excellence Links

### Science

- SCN 1-02a
- SCN 2-01a
- SCN 2-14a

### Technologies

- TCH 2-01a
- TCH 1-11a/TCH 2-11a
- TCH 1-11b/TCH 2-11b
- TCH 1-14a/TCH 2-14a
- TCH 2-15a

### Maths

- MNU 1-01a
- MNU 2-03a
- MNU 1-03a
- MNU 2-11c
- MTH 2-17c

## About Portencross Castle

Portencross has been inhabited for thousands of years. An archaeological dig found evidence of an Iron Age settlement on Auldhill, just behind Portencross Castle. The Iron Age lasted from around 800 BC to 100 BC.



Portencross Castle was constructed in three phases starting in 1360. It was the home of a branch of the Boyds. The lands around Portencross were given to the Boyds of Kilmarnock by King Robert I as reward for their help at the Battle of Bannockburn. A number of Royal Charters were signed at the castle and it had close links with King Robert II during that period.

After the 1600s, it was occupied by local fishermen. The roof was destroyed in a gale in January 1739. By the 20th century, the Adams of Auchenames owned the castle. It became a scheduled ancient monument in 1955.

## Friends of Portencross Castle

This leaflet was produced by Friends of Portencross Castle (FOPC).

FOPC is a recognised Scottish Charity (No. SC028181) dedicated to conserving the castle and providing access to the building.

In 2007 FOPC was awarded grant support from The Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland and the Architectural Heritage Fund. With additional support from local charities, North Ayrshire Council and many individuals, FOPC was able to raise just over £1 million pounds for the costs of the project.

Grant support does not include maintenance. As a result FOPC has to raise costs for staff, maintenance, education materials, website and overheads. We will remain open with the help of donations and by having events and functions at the castle.

**Please donate if you can. You can become a Guardian of Portencross Castle. Find out more from our website [www.portencrosscastle.org.uk](http://www.portencrosscastle.org.uk) or pick up details at the castle during opening hours.**



Front Cover: Goldfinch by Kerry Nimmo from a joint FOPC and West Kilbride PS family learning project

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# BIRDS AROUND PORTENCROSS CASTLE



[www.portencrosscastle.org.uk](http://www.portencrosscastle.org.uk)

When you visit Portencross, you might also see Redshank, Crow, Greater Spotted Woodpecker, Goldfinch, Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Peregrine Falcon, Raven, Greenshank and Dunlin.

Scientists have found many species in the study of the Portencross Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This site runs from the Castle to Fairlie. See Report 210 on [snh.org.uk](http://snh.org.uk).

Some of the interesting species they found were:

- Shelduck
- Red-breasted Merganser
- Montagu's Harrier
- Corncrake
- Ringed Plover
- Lapwing
- Black-tailed Godwit
- Black-headed Gull
- Little Tern
- Sandwich Tern
- Arctic Tern
- Roseate Tern
- Cuckoo
- Short-eared Owl
- Rock Pipit
- Wheatear
- Grasshopper Warbler
- Linnets
- Reed Bunting
- Corn Bunting

Other species sited or heard along that shoreline included:

- Fulmar
- Gannet
- Shag
- Mute Swan
- Mallard
- Wigeon
- Moorhen
- Common Sandpiper
- Bar-tailed Godwit
- Whimbrel
- Common Gull
- Herring Gull
- Great Black-backed Gull
- Black Guillemot
- Razorbill
- Meadow Pipit
- Pied Wagtail
- Dunnock
- Song Thrush
- Blackcap Whitethroat
- Willow Warbler
- Goldcrest
- Long-tailed Tit
- Magpie

**Activity**

Displayed opposite are types of birds which have been spotted at Portencross Castle. Put a tick beside the name of the bird you spot.



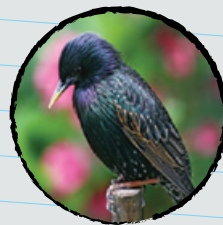
Blue tit



Blue tit



Wood pigeon



Starling



Great Tit



Chaffinch



Green Finch



Swallow



Cormorant



Ringed Dove



Robin



Lesser Black-backed Gull



Herring Gull



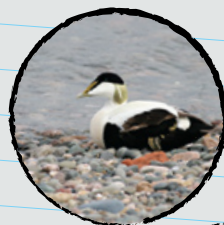
Jack Daw



House Sparrow



Curlew



Elder Duck



Blackbird



Wren



Oyster Catcher



Grey Herron

All images courtesy of Paul Weston [www.birdimages.co.uk](http://www.birdimages.co.uk)