

PRESS RELEASE

20th October 2018



BRAND-NEW NATURE SERIES COMING TO RTÉjr
MONDAY 5th NOVEMBER - 11:45 & 14:55 DAILY



Passionate wildlife warriors –Kealan Doyle, Ciara Dolan, Sarah Sarsfield and John Lusby have teamed up to show us that there is a wealth of Irish nature right under our noses - we just need to know where to look for it!

On hand to help are a team of nature-mad Wild Kids. Join them as they explore different habitats up and down the country, from the coast to the city, discovering the plants, animals, bugs, birds and bees that live around us. This insightful series gives parents and kids lots of ideas on how to explore the abundance of nature that surrounds us.

Ep1. KESTRELS – TX Monday 5th November

Join Ciara, John and Wild Kids Jemma, Jess and Sonny, as they learn about Irish birds of prey and the types of creatures they like to eat. With Ciara they set traps to find field mice and bank voles while John shows them how he weighs, measures and rings kestrel chicks.

Ep2. THE IRISH BOG - TX Tuesday 6th November

Found all over Ireland, Irish bogs are hopping with all kinds of interesting plants and animals. Full of wet ponds, peat surfaces and grasslands - there's so much wildlife to discover! In this episode, Wild Kids Nancy and Euan join Kealan to collect frogspawn that will turn into frogs; examine damselflies and Emperor Caterpillars with Sarah and come nose to nose with an Irish bog newt.

Ep3. BADGERS – TX Wednesday 7th November

One of Ireland's most secretive animals, badgers can be tricky to spot as they only come out after dark. In this episode, John teaches Wild Kids Bridie, Caitlin and Cian some detective skills to find the badger's home underground while Sarah takes them on a hunt around the forest to look for the different creatures that badgers like to eat.

Ep4. HERONS – TX Thursday 8th November

Irish rivers are home to a range of wildlife and this week, Wild Kids Ryan, Keelin and Megan learn all about the Heron – a common Irish bird with a razor-sharp beak and keen eyesight. Sarah gives them clues to discover a heron's hunting ground and Kealan shows them how to catch all the juicy little fish and frogs that herons feed on.

Ep5. SANDY SHORE – TX Friday 9th November

It's the height of summer and Wild Kids Mia, Roxanne and Alex join presenters Kealan and Ciara to explore the sea, sand and rocky shoreline discovering disappearing shrimp, lugworms, hermit crabs and flatfish.

Ep6. BARN OWLS – TX Monday 12th November

In this episode, Wild Kids Ava, Elizabeth and Andrew team up with Ciara and John to learn all about barn owls that live in ruined castles all over the Irish countryside. With Ciara, they examine pellets to discover the bones of all the shrews, voles and other little creatures an owl likes to eat while John shows them some gorgeous baby owl chicks.

Ep7. GARDEN BIRDS – TX Tuesday 13th November

Buzzing with birds, bees, butterflies, insects, hedgehogs and other animals, gardens are the perfect place to look for wildlife right under our nose! John shows the Wild Kids Bridie, Jeffrey and Samuel how to make fat balls to attract birds into their garden and Sarah uses a print tunnel to reveal the secret animals that hide in the garden at night.

Ep8. SAND DUNES – TX Wednesday 14th November

In Ireland, our seashore and sand dunes are full of wild surprises. With Ciara, the Wild Kids Jemma, Jess and Sonny find lots of moths, butterflies and hungry caterpillars among the marram grass while on the seashore, Kealan shows them how to find baby shark eggs disguised as something magical – a mermaid's purse.

Ep9. CITY WATERWAYS – TX Thursday 15th November

City waterways and canals are home to a host of hidden wildlife. In this episode of Wild Kids, Oisín, Camellia and Victoria find a swan and her baby cygnets with Ciara while John shows them how to use nets to see who lives underneath the surface of the water.

Ep10. ROCKY SHORE – TX Friday 16th November

It might not look like it at first, but Irish rock pools are teeming with life from sea stars and barnacles to limpets and crabs. Follow Kealan, Ciara and Wild Kids Mia, Roxanne and Alex as they discover that this habitat is just like a warzone - everyone wants to eat each other!

Ep11. THE PARK – TX Monday 19th November

Irish parks are full of life. There's ponds, woodlands and meadows and all kinds of interesting creatures to be found. Loads of birds live on top of the water, but so many things are living under the surface - all trying to eat each other! Kealan, Sarah and Wild Kids Keelin, Meaghan and Ryan go on a hunt for the moorhen and get come nose to nose with some water boatman insects and pond skaters.

Ep 12. BATS – TX Tuesday 20th November

Night time throws up all kinds of interesting wildlife, animals and insects. This week, Wild Kids Bodbh, Kayleigh and Faye search for the lesser horseshoe bat with John and watch as it darts out at night to feed. And Sarah takes them to look for one of the bats favourite food – moths, that come in all shapes and sizes.

Ep13. WOODLANDS – TX Wednesday 21st November

Home to all kinds of animals, plants and insects, Irish woodlands are a great place to explore and investigate. This week, John, Ciara and Wild Kids Brandon, Alex and Annie learn all about our supporting our native Irish trees and the wildlife that inhabit them – including a friendly native Irish red squirrel!

Ep14. SEALS – TX Thursday 22nd November

Common seals are often found on the sandy banks of an estuary – the name given to the place where a river meets the sea. In this episode, Kealan, Sarah and Wild Kids Maya, Kayla and Eoin creep up to where the seals sleep and even inspect their poo. And when the tide goes out, they discover a hidden world of cockles, mussels, shrimp and shellfish.

Ep15. DEER & FOXES – TX Friday 23rd November

Urban areas are home to all sorts of wildlife. In the Phoenix Park in Dublin, John leads the Wild Kids on a hunt for clues to find wild deer; they learn how to search for deer hair on a bush and track deer footprints. Meanwhile a fox has made a cosy home for herself and her cubs in a city back garden.