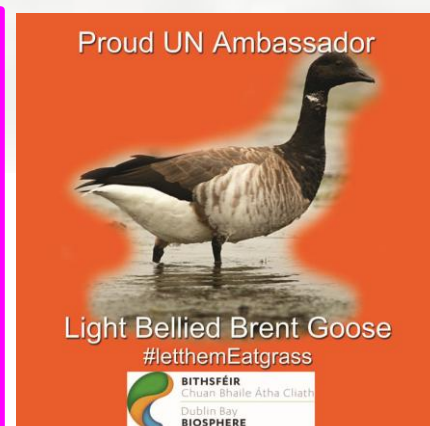
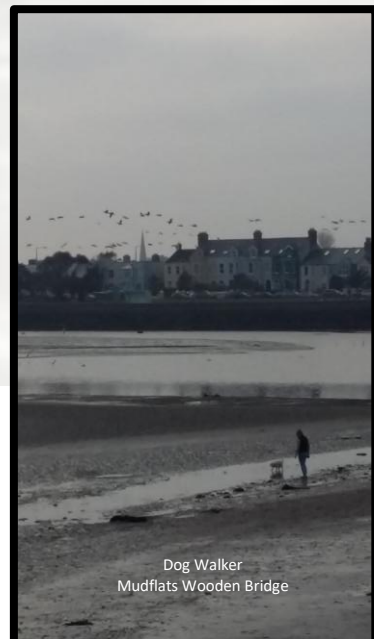


# My Brent Goose Story

Write or draw about your own experience  
Looking and learning about The Brent Goose  
at the Dublin Bay Biosphere



The **Light-bellied Brent Goose** is one of Dublin City's most iconic wintering bird species. It arrives at North Bull Island from the Canadian High Arctic each autumn in October and stays until late March. By January, they are regularly seen grazing on the City's playing pitches and open spaces, as the eelgrass (*Zostera*) which they usually eat at North Bull Island and Sandymount Strand has been depleted. If the geese are disturbed when they are feeding on grass or eelgrass they become stressed, will fly away and lose their fat reserves. This affects their ability to fly back a distance of 4,500km to the Arctic and to breed and produce the next generation of geese.  
People, dogs and dogs off a lead are the main causes of disturbance.

The **Brent Goose Project** invites people to become **ambassadors for the geese**. Their role is to raise awareness of the geese among family and friends, to practice and promote good behaviour when encountering the geese and other wildlife, and to recognise and promote the UNESCO Dublin Bay Biosphere as an integral part of their City. Ambassadors should visit part of the Biosphere (e.g. North Bull Island) to see and identify the geese as they graze on the mudflats, marshes, and open spaces. In the field, ambassadors could complete an activity which promotes and monitors the geese e.g., an exhibition, taking a ring reading or a flock and location count. Record counts of Brent geese on the BirdTrack portal. Let the BirdWatch Ireland Urban Birds team know about your completed project.

## Brent Goose Ambassador Word Search

N N Z Z K M M L A L X E W L R B H M W Q  
K S G F C A N N L C X B L G B Q X I O I  
T J V S N O I T A V R E S N O C O S O O  
A A S S Q Y T I S R E V I D O I B Z E D  
Q V B P E M M Z Z S I Y W S Q N Q A D M  
J A F G Q C J R C D A D R T A L F D U M  
H H Y U P M N P H W J R B A F N J E S B  
H B B I R D W A T C H N G J U Q P M C V  
E E L G R A S S B N R X T A H T X X C T  
J L I T C G M H E R B I V O R E S C X O  
K U K X X I W R W E U Q B G S Y D E P A  
C G S L P G C I H A A T F S Z E H I H Q  
A Q Y K K L Y E S K B I S S M S Y F H S  
R J D S V L X Y R H W M Z I G O L W Z N  
T W W A T U B G A X N U Y E D O B S I A  
D Y V R Z B M X M D B U T S C G D L I M  
R S Y C Z S C E T W U K J K J S S M T U  
I K E T N W B Q L U T X J P H S D R S H  
B N X I M R I E A N O I T A R G I M F K  
E M F C C N V M S E R E H P S O I B H U

### Find the following words:

Conservation
Bull
Saltmarsh
BirdTrack
Flock
Mudflat
Biodiversity
Estuary
Herbivore
Goose
Arctic
Eelgrass
Humans
Biosphere
Migration
Disturbance
Grass
Dogs
Birdwatch

Write down what comes into your mind  
when you see the following words:

Example: **Bread**

Butter

Jam

Brown

**Biosphere**

**Light-bellied Brent Geese**

**Biodiversity**

**Where would you find a biosphere in Ireland?**