

## Heron by J K Annand

A humphy-backit heron  
Nearly as big as me  
Stands at the waterside  
Fishin for his tea.  
His skinnie-ma-linkie lang legs  
Juist like reeds  
Cheats aa the puddocks  
Soomin mang the weeds,  
Here's ane comin,  
Grup it by the leg!  
It sticks in his thrapple  
Then slides down his craig.  
Neist comes a rottan,  
A rottan soomin past,  
Oot gangs the lang neb  
And has the rottan fast.  
He jabs it, he stabs it,  
Sune it's in his wame,  
Flip-flap in the air  
Heron flees hame.

## Learning Resources

### Reading

Read the poem and listen to the audio file. Think about what the heron sees, hears, feels and thinks as he waits.

1. What size is the heron?
2. What does it look like?
3. Where does it live?
4. What does it eat?
5. How does it catch its prey?

Writing

**Task 1**

Many of Annand 's poems are about birds. look at the table below, which has Scots names for birds. Try and find out the equivalent words in English and write them in the table.

Do you know any other Scots names for birds?

<b>Scots</b>	<b>English</b>
houlet	
choukie-hen	
robin reidbreist	
laverock	
stirlins	
blackie	
mavis	
craws	
jaikies	
swallie	
sea-maws	
tommie norrie	

## Task 2

'His skinnie-ma-linkie lang legs'

Do you know where the poet got this description from?

1. Try to imagine the thoughts of a heron standing, staring into the water, waiting for a chance to catch something.
2. Find images of herons, if you can.
3. Try writing your own bird poem.
  - Before you begin to write, choose a bird that you can observe at school or at home.
  - Make notes on its size, appearance, colour, environment, sounds, feeding habits, behaviour and flight.
  - Think about what the bird will see and hear.