



Nature's Web

Issue No. 7

Autumn 2007

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In this issue of Nature's Web, we focus a little on surveying wildlife. Taking part in these type of surveys is a wonderful way of learning to appreciate nature and our natural surroundings. We also focus on bulbs, as now is the time to start putting them into the ground. They are an easy way of putting colour into your garden and can be grown by gardeners of all ages and levels. Once planted, all you have to do is wait for them to appear next spring!

Sharks are exciting animals, especially if seen in Irish waters. We take a closer look at the ones that you would most likely see around here. We also talk to Tom MacSweeney, Marine Correspondent for RTE and presenter of "Seascapes". He tells us about his work and how much the marine environment means to him.



Photo: © Robbie Murphy

We mention a number of wildlife surveys in the newsletter and though some begin a little later in the year or in spring, now is the time to start preparing if you want to take part. Once you've identified which survey you are interested in, begin reading up on the animals or plants in question. The more information you are armed with, the more accurate and useful your observations will be. If the survey is web-based, then there is a good chance the site will contain all the information you need to begin your survey. Perhaps you need to register with the people co-ordinating the survey (always seek permission from a parent or guardian first). There is likely to be a form to fill out, perhaps one for each individual sighting or maybe all sightings will go on one sheet. Familiarise yourself with these and be sure to ask the co-ordinators if you have any questions or if you don't understand something on the form. It's better to ask than to find out all your hard work is wasted by filling something out incorrectly. Survey co-ordinators will be delighted to receive all your valuable contributions. It would be even more exciting for them if your whole class or school took part as well. Once you've done all your research, you are nearly ready to go. All you have to do then is keep your eyes wide open. And maybe by beginning your survey early you just might find an exceptional record!

