

Nature'sWeb

Issue No. 29

Spring 2013

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Editor's Page

Birds Feeding on
the Mudflats

Captain Cockle:
Fish that fish
for fish...

The Elephant

The African
Savannas

Emma Chase,
Deelish Garden
Centre

Colour In

Wordsearch

Reading a
Weather Chart

Learn More

The World
Around Us

Green Fingers

Fun Page

Elephant
Pop-up Card

Nature's
Noticeboard

In a Flap!



Image © Robbie Murphy

The Little Egret, a relative of the Grey Heron, showing off its large wingspan as it searches for food in Kinish Harbour, Sherkin Island, Co. Cork.

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Editor's Page

A Snowstorm in Boston...

Having braved Hurricane Sandy in December, the east coast of the US was hit with yet more extreme weather in February 2013. One of my brothers lives in Boston, MA, where 61 cm (24 inches) of snow fell during a snowstorm in just 24 hours. In Boston, 80-100 km per hour winds created huge snow drifts, blowing snow up the side of houses, creating deep pockets of snow and knocking out electricity for hundreds of thousands of homes. A state of emergency was called for a 24-hour period and only workers such as emergency service providers and medical staff were allowed on the main roads. Everyone else had to stay indoors so as to allow ploughs to clear the roads more easily and also to ensure people did not become trapped in their vehicles. My brother is not too fond of the snow. Homeowners in Boston have to keep public footpaths outside their home clear of snow and ice. That's a lot of digging for him!

Images courtesy of Peter Murphy



All this snow fell in 24 hours!



Clearing the snow is tough work...



...but great to play in!

AS GAELGE! We are delighted to have teamed up with An Gúm, who have begun to translate Nature's Web into Irish. Issues are now available, as gaeilge, at:
http://www.gaeilge.ie/ForasnaGaeilge/An_Bhunscoil.asp



Courtesy of BIM

What you need:

450g / 1lb crabmeat (or alternatively cod or any white fish, smoked fish or salmon)
2 large potatoes
110g / 4oz flour
1 egg - lightly beaten
2 tbs horseradish
2 tbs fresh coriander, roughly chopped
Juice of 1 lime
Salt and freshly milled pepper

Coulis:

2 red peppers - halved & seeds removed
5 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoons lemon juice
Salt and freshly milled pepper

Crab Rösti with a Red Pepper Coulis

Method:

- Peel & grate potatoes using largest side of grater.
- Combine with the crabmeat, add all other ingredients & mix well.
- Heat oil in pan & place tablespoons of mixture onto pan.
- Fry until golden brown on one side, turn rösti & repeat on other side.

Coulis

- Brush peppers with oil & season & bake in pre-heated oven at 180°C / 350°F / Gas 4 for 15-20 mins.
- Remove from oven, place in a bowl & cover with cling film.
- Skin & blend to a puree.
- Add olive oil and lemon juice and season.

Place potato cakes in centre of hot plates & drizzle the red pepper coulis around them. Garnish with lemon curl.

Brought to you by BIM & Emma Moran, Dundalk IT.
For more fish recipes visit www.bim.ie

Welcome to the
Spring Edition of
Nature's Web!



Dear Reader,

Welcome everyone to the Spring issue of Nature's Web. As the days brighten and get warmer, many of us will want to be out in the garden. In this issue, Emma Chase from Deelish Garden Centre, Skibbereen, Co. Cork, tells us what it is like to work with plants every day and how she got involved with gardening in the first place. We look at the elephant, the world's largest land mammal, and we also examine the African savanna, the African elephant's natural habitat. Check out nature news from around the world on page 11 and enjoy a giggle with the jokes on page 13.

We would love to hear your views and comments and suggestions for future articles. Have a good read!

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Bird Life



Kinish Harbour, Sherkin Island, Co. Cork.

Birds Feeding on the Mudflats

Kinish Harbour is a sheltered muddy shore in the centre of Sherkin Island, Co. Cork. With each tide, the sea flows in and out of the shallow harbour through a narrow channel. At high tide the harbour is full of water but at low tide it becomes a huge mudflat, with only a narrow channel of water flowing at the mouth of the harbour. Mudflats will be familiar to many people around the coast, particularly those who live near river estuaries (the place where the river meets the sea).



Redshank

Redshank (see its orange-red legs) with a lug worm in its beak.



Black-headed Gull

The colour of birds' feathers often varies from season to season and between young and adult birds. Here a Black-headed Gull in winter plumage, doesn't seem black-headed at all!

Food, Glorious Food!

It is tempting to think of a mudflat as dirty and boring because it is full of mud but actually the mud makes it really interesting, particularly for birds. We see mud but they see food! The mud itself is full of life, such as clams, razorshells, shrimp and worms, while the water has fish such as flounder and mullet. The birds know this and are quick to swoop in to feed when the tide goes out. Sometimes they can just pick off the food from the surface, such as crabs scurrying along the top of the mud, or a worm buried deep beneath. Different birds have adapted their feeding behaviour to maximise the amount of food they catch. Here are some of the birds feeding seen in Kinish Harbour.



Oystercatcher

Oystercatchers like to eat cockles and mussels.



Little Egret

Greenshank

Image © Robbie Murphy

The Greenshank's green legs and slightly upturned beak, tells it apart from other waders. The Little Egret is a large bird and a cousin of the Grey Heron.



Curlew

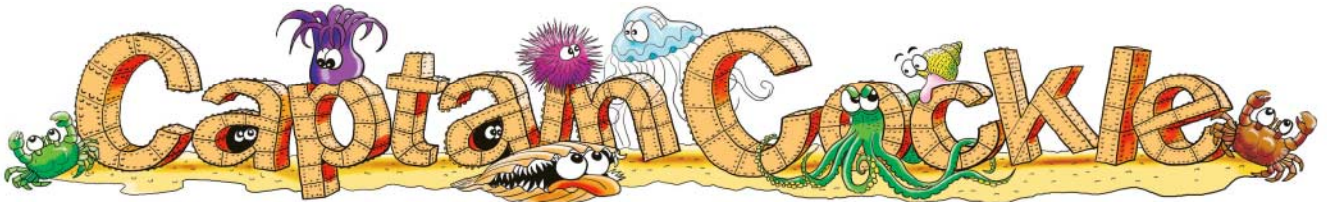
The Curlew is Europe's largest wading bird, its long downcurved beak helps identify it. Can you see the worm it has caught?



Hooded Crow

It's not just waders that visit the shore. This Hooded Crow is feasting on a crab.

Aquatic Life



Fish that fish for fish...



Masters of Disguise...

Unlike many other predatory fish, Angler Fish wait for their food to come to them rather than actively hunting. In shallow waters, Angler Fish are masters of disguise, blending in perfectly with the bottom and luring smaller fish to their jaws with a specially adapted dorsal fin that acts like a fisherman's rod - mimicking a tasty morsel of food.

While shallow water species of Angler Fish are flattened from top to bottom to blend in with the seabed, deep water species of Angler Fish are flattened from side to side so that they can't be seen easily from the top, the bottom or from dead ahead. Most deepwater species have a luminous lure powered by phosphorescent bacteria to catch unwary prey.



In deep sea angler fish, the problem of finding a mate in the vast darkness of the ocean has been overcome. The female Angler Fish emits a powerful chemical which attracts tiny male Angler Fish (which are forty times smaller than she is) to her. Each male then attaches himself to her skin with his teeth and hangs on. Over a period of time, the mouth of the male fuses with the body of the female. His own blood system connects with hers to the point where he is no longer a separate animal, and he becomes a 'lump' on the female's body, capable of fertilising her eggs for the rest of her life.

For more Fun Facts see www.spindriftpress.com/childrens-books

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The Elephant

Elephants are the largest land mammals in the world. They have a huge body, a large head, big ears and a long trunk. The trunk is actually its nose and part of its upper lip. It is used to breathe, to smell, to trumpet (the noise it makes), to grab things and to suck up water - it doesn't drink the water through its trunk but squirts it into its mouth or over its body when bathing. Elephants are very intelligent animals. They are also easily trained and are used as work animals, particularly in Asia. There are two species of elephant, the Asian and the larger African elephant. The African elephant has a fuller, more rounded head and bigger ears (said to be shaped like a map of Africa). The Asian elephant has a long tapered lower lip, while the African's is short and round. Both male and female African elephants have tusks (unless they have been deliberately removed to deter poachers), while only some male Asian elephants have tusks. The tusks are used for splitting bark, moving tree trunks and for display and defence.



Threat from Humans

The biggest threat to elephants are humans. They not only build and farm land on which elephants live but also hunt and kill elephants for their tusks. Elephant tusks, which are actually huge teeth, are made of ivory, prized as a decorative material by some. Since 1990 it has been illegal to sell ivory, unless it is very very old, but it is still sought-after. There has been a huge increase in poaching in recent years, despite many efforts to prevent it.

Facts for African Elephant

Sub-species: African Forest Elephant & African Savanna Elephant.

Height: 4 - 5 m.

Weight: 4 - 7 tonnes.

Colour: Grey.

Lifespan: 60 years.

Food: Bark, leaves, branches, grass and fruit.

Habitat: Grassy savanna plains.

Location: Central, eastern & southern Africa.

Status: Vulnerable.

Elephants and their family

Family is really important to elephants.

The mother, or most experienced of the females, is the head of the family and is known as the matriarch. She and other females live together in a group, sometimes joining other groups to form large herds. Living together gives the females protection from predators such as lions, tigers and hyena. Baby elephants are particularly vulnerable to attack.

Male elephants live separately from the females but come together to breed.

A male elephant is called a **bull**, a female is called a **cow** and a baby elephant is called a **calf**.



Relatives & Ancestors

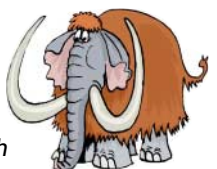
Elephants have no close relatives. The closest appears to be a surprisingly small animal called the Hyrax (or Dassie), a small furry mammal native to Africa.

The elephant has a well-known ancestor - the mammoth - a very large mammal that looked similar to today's elephant. Mammoths lived about two million years ago. The population started to dwindle about 10,000 years ago, finally becoming extinct 4,500 years ago. Some mammoths have been found preserved in ice and in frozen soil in Alaska and Russia, giving us lots of information about these ancient animals.

Hyrax



Mammoth



The African Savannas

The African savannas are dry grasslands dotted with trees and forests. The savannas are warm or hot places and have two seasons - dry and wet. The lack of rain in the long dry season creates drought conditions and the high rainfall during the wet season brings much-needed water. The plants and trees that grow in the savanna, and the animals that call it home, have adapted to its extreme conditions.



Fires in the Savanna

During the dry season, the grasslands of the savanna can easily catch fire. These fires are important for renewing the grasslands. Though fire may destroy plants above ground, many have deep roots that are not affected. Once the rains come these plants send up new shoots, creating younger plants. It is mostly insects that are killed in the fires. Larger animals can usually run away from the flames and some smaller ones can find safety in underground holes.



Where are the African savannas?

The African savannas are mainly in the eastern and southern regions of Africa, occurring on either side of the equator between the rainforests and the deserts. The forests of the savanna are not lush and thick like the rainforests. Instead the trees are more scattered, allowing light to reach the ground underneath and grasses to grow. Savannas are not found just in Africa. There are also savannas in Madagascar, South America, Australia, India and southern Asia.

Some Animals of the African Savannas

The African savannas are home to a huge variety of wild animals, many of which we think about when we talk of Africa. Large herds of grazing animals, such as zebra and wildebeest, roam the vast grassy plains, while others inhabit smaller habitats. Wherever they call home, they have all found ways of coping with the extreme conditions.

The zebra's stripes break up its outline, making it hard for predators to pick out a single animal from a herd.

Many seeds in the savanna need to go through a digestive system before they can germinate. A lot of plants rely on the elephant for this.

There are large lakes and rivers in the savannas, which are home to the water-loving hippopotamus.

The lion's tan coloured fur helps it blend in with its surroundings, making it easier for the lion to sneak up on its prey.

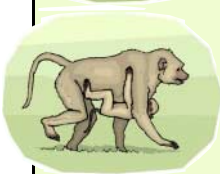
The largest migration of mammals in the world is when wildebeest move to greener pastures.



The giraffe uses its long neck to reach leaves in tall acacia trees, leaves which other animals cannot reach. Acacia trees are umbrella-like trees found in the African savanna.



Rhinoceros have specially adapted lips for feeding.



Baboons are very adaptable and can live in many different habitats, as long as they are near a water source.



Hyenas are scavengers, eating the animals that other animals have killed. Their jaws and teeth are specially adapted for breaking bones.



All in a Day's Work

Emma Chase – Garden Centre Worker

PROFILE

Emma Chase works at Deelish Garden Centre in Skibbereen, Co. Cork. The centre has been there for over thirty years and so is really part of the community. It specializes in rare and exotic plants, which is fascinating (www.deelish.ie).



Images courtesy of Emma Chase

Have you always been interested in plants?

To be honest, not really. I began working at Deelish Garden Centre simply as a summer job and the interest grew slowly. But after several years there I became aware that I really had grown very fond of all sorts of plant life and I wanted to learn more.

What training did you receive?

Well, when I realized that I wanted to work with plants I enrolled in the Horticultural programme at Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa in Cork City. That meant getting up very early each morning and driving up to the city and then back again each evening for nearly a year; I must have been eager. At the end of the course I took the RHS exam and received a certificate of Horticulture.

What is a typical day for you?

Well, that's one of the great things about this work – each day is different. Some days I find myself taking cuttings of various plants; other days I spend potting them up. Of course there is a lot of retail work which means answering all sorts of varied questions about plants and diseases and their cultural needs. You also have

to know the Latin names of literally hundreds of plants. Oh, and when I'm not working with plants I am on the computer doing the accounts for the business.

What's the best thing about your job?

I get to deal with a wide range of plants and a wider range of people. One of the things that I've discovered is that no matter how much I learn about plants, there is much more that I don't know. I think that the same thing could be said of people.

What's the worst thing about your job?

That's easy. Getting on the waterproofs on a cold, wet windy day to get together an urgent order or to complete an outside job that just has to be done, despite the weather.

If you weren't doing this job what would you do?

I would be pursuing art in some form. I don't know whether it would be illustration or photography or commercial art, but I've always had an interest in graphic art.

What advice would you give to someone wanting to do your job?

Just get stuck in. The theory and the study is important, but the most important thing you can do is simply to do it. You will never run out of things to learn.

And finally, what's the best advice about your job that you've ever been given?

Basically, don't worry, be happy. And if you are not happy with your job, you shouldn't be there – find another one.



Above: Conservatory Plants.

Below: Vegetable and flower beds in summer.

April Showers!



Reading a Weather Chart

Met Éireann, the Irish National Meteorological Service, is the main provider of weather information in Ireland. To help us visualise what type of weather is on the way, forecasters create weather charts by using satellite imagery, radar information, maps and local knowledge. These charts are shown during weather forecasts on telly, in newspapers and online (www.met.ie). Here is information to help you understand them:

Isobars

Isobars are the lines on a weather chart and these join points of equal pressure. When the lines are close together, the wind is strong. When the lines are far apart, the wind is light. The wind blows almost parallel to the isobars.

Charts showing isobars are useful because they identify features such as **anticyclones** and **depressions**, which are associated with particular kinds of weather.

L = centre of a low pressure area/depression

This is usually associated with unsettled weather.

It brings strong winds, rain belts and perhaps snow in winter.

In the northern hemisphere, wind around a low pressure system blows anticlockwise.

H = centre of a high pressure area/anticyclone

This is usually associated with settled weather.

It brings cloudless skies.

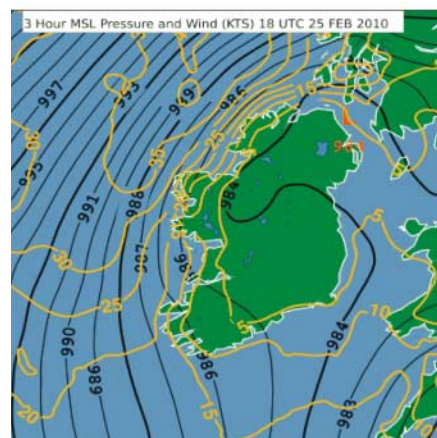
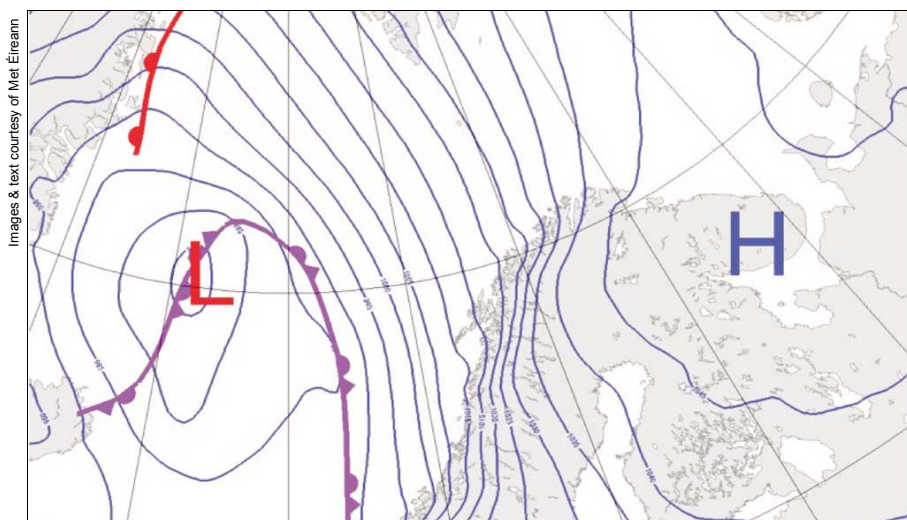
In winter clear skies and light winds can mean frost and fog.

Wind around a high pressure system blows clockwise.

L

H

Can you read this weather chart?



Weather chart with isobars, 25 Feb 2010

What are fronts?

A **warm front** is the edge of a warm air mass. It looks like this on a weather chart:



Ahead of a warm front there is usually a wide belt of rain.

Behind the warm front the temperatures increase and the rain gradually eases.

A **cold front** is the edge of a cold air mass. It can move twice as fast as a warm front. It looks like this on a weather chart:



Ahead of a cold front there is a narrow rain belt.

Behind a cold front the weather is brighter but the temperature is cooler.

An **occlusion** brings weather similar to a warm front. It looks like this on a weather chart:



It usually forms when a cold front catches up with a warm front.

The information on this page is from Met Éireann's Primary School Resources page on www.met.ie/education, where parents, teachers and children will find resources on weather-related topics that have been designed for use in primary schools in Ireland.

Learn More



Only €2.10 each including postage or €12.00 (plus €2.00 p&p) for all eight! 32pp each

Sherkin Island Marine Station has published a range of colouring books, guides and activity books for children. Each 32-page *Colouring & Guide Book* gives you the chance to colour, identify and learn about the wildlife around Ireland. *Safety Sam's Activity Book* is filled with activities to encourage safety for children. *My Nature Diary* contains lined pages to fill in a daily record of sightings and nature news.

A Beginner's Guide to Ireland's Wild Flowers

With the help of this pocket-sized guide, beginners of all ages will be introduced to the many common wild flowers found around

Only €8.50 inc. postage



Ireland's Hidden Depths has just been published by

Sherkin Island Marine Station. Ireland's amazing marine life, glorious kelp forests and spectacular undersea scenery are featured in over 200 spectacular photographs by nature photographer Paul Kay. 277 x 227 mm 160 pps
Only €17.99 plus €2.00 postage



Sea Life DVD:

"On the Water's Edge"

Produced by Sherkin Island Marine Station, the DVD 'On the Water's Edge', features a short film on life beside the sea.

Presented by Audrey Murphy, it includes 6-10 hours of interactive material for children of all ages. Only €6.00 plus €1.30 p&p.



A Beginner's Guide to Ireland's Seashore is a pocket-sized guide, suitable for beginners of all ages. This book will help you to explore the wonders of marine life found on the shores around Ireland.

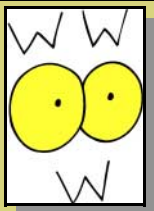
Only €8.00 inc. postage



"An A to Z of Geology" explores the fascinating world of rocks and geology - a world of volcanoes, tsunamis, earthquakes, diamonds, gold and even dinosaurs! Produced by Sherkin Island Marine Station, in association with the Geological Survey of Ireland.

Only €5.99 plus €1.00 postage

To order books, send your name and address along with a cheque or postal order made payable to Sherkin Island Marine Station to: Sherkin Island Marine Station, Sherkin Island, Co.Cork. Ireland. Visit: www.sherkinmarine.ie



Useful Web Addresses

There are lots of websites to be found on the internet that will give you further information on topics we have covered in this newsletter. Here are a few that may be of interest:

A Snowstorm in Boston: http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2013/02/snowstorm_dumps_on_northeast.html

Mudflats: <http://www.birdwatchireland.ie/Default.aspx?tabid=401>
<http://www.conservancy.co.uk/learn/wildlife/mudflats.htm>

Captain Cockle: www.spindriftpress.com/childrens-books <http://www.arkive.org/anglerfish/lophius-piscatorius/>

The Elephant: <http://www.african-elephant.org/faq/elefaq.html> <http://worldwildlife.org/species/asian-elephant>

The African Savannas: <http://kids.nceas.ucsb.edu/biomes/savanna.html>
<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Animals/AfricanSavanna/default.cfm>

Deelish Garden Centre: <http://www.deelish.ie/>

Giant Bubble Bath in Australian Town: <http://www.kiwikidsnews.co.nz/sea-foam-covers-australian-town>

Dogs are smarter than we think:

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/02/130218-dogs-animals-science-mind-smart/>

Meteor Blazes a Trail Across Russia: <http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/ap130218.html>
http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/asteroids/news/asteroid20130215.html

World's Oldest-known Wild Bird:

http://www.usgs.gov/blogs/features/usgs_top_story/worlds-oldest-wild-bird-a-new-mom-again/

Green Fingers: <http://www.ecofriendlykids.co.uk/recyclinghome.html> <http://www.kiddiegardens.com/index.html>

Reading a Weather Chart: <http://www.met.ie/forecasts/atlantic-charts.asp>

We cannot be responsible for the content of external websites, so please observe due care when accessing any site on the internet.



The World Around Us



"Foreign Correspondent"
Michael Ludwig reports on some interesting goings on in the natural world.



Giant Bubble Bath in Australian Town!

In late January, the residents of Mooloolaba, Australia, woke up to find their small coastal town had been partly buried by sea foam (spume). Stormy weather had whipped up big seawaves and they, in turn, created a huge amount of spume. Then the wind carried it into the town. In some places the foam was almost 3 metres high! Spume is created when seawater containing large quantities of dissolved organic material, such as plankton from algal blooms, is agitated. The foam became quite a spectacle for residents and tourist alike. Many of the people were photographing and playing in the giant bubble bath.

Dogs are smarter than we think!

It seems dogs understand what humans can and cannot see. A recent study at the University of Portsmouth in the UK studied 84 dogs and humans placed in rooms with different light levels. They were commanded not to touch tempting food treats, but as the room got darker the dogs took more food more quickly. Researcher Dr. Juliane Kaminski, who led the study, said it shed new light on dogs' ability to understand humans ability to watch them. Dog might understand us more than we except, but we may never really understand them. So, the next time the lights go on in the kitchen, it might be just the dog at the fridge!



Meteor Blazes a Trail Across Russia

On 15th February 2013, the largest meteor to hit the Earth in over 100 years, landed about 80 km from Chelyabinsk, Russia. It entered the atmosphere at a speed of 18 km per second and for about 30 seconds it created a very bright trail in the sky. Huge amounts of energy, released by the meteor, created blast shockwaves injuring about 1,200 people in Chelyabinsk, many by glass shards from broken windows. The meteor, which was about 15 metres in diameter and thought to weigh up to 10,000 tonnes, broke up before it hit. Only fragments of the meteor (called meteorites once they land) have been found. Because the pieces are so valuable, people were running around trying to "cash in" on the event! Want to buy a rock?

The World's Oldest-known Wild Bird Hatches a Chick

At the age of 62, a Laysan Albatross, known as "Wisdom", is the world's oldest recorded wild bird. Despite her great age 'Wisdom' has hatched a chick for the last six consecutive years. Having first received an identification band in 1956, when she was estimated to be about five years old, she has worn five identification bands since then. Being able to identify 'Wisdom' has given scientists invaluable information about the bird. The chief of the North American Bird Banding Program at the US Geological Survey is amazed by her accomplishments and at how she has re-written the record books.



After returning from foraging at sea on November 29, 2012, Wisdom (left) attempts to nudge her mate off the nest for her turn at incubating the couple's egg.

'Wisdom' spends much of her life flying thousands of miles around the Pacific Ocean. However, like other albatrosses, once a year she lays a single egg on Midway, a remote island northeast of Hawaii. Midway is a US national wildlife refuge and home to the world's largest albatross colony, where approximately 70% of the world's population nest.

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Green Fingers!

In the Winter 2012 issue of Nature's Web we talked about the waste pyramid and how we can reuse the waste we produce in other ways. The garden is a great place to recycle and you would be really surprised at what you could reuse, especially when growing seeds. Check out these tips below. Remember that when growing seeds, the compost should be kept moist but not too wet!



Put empty toilet rolls on a plastic tray. Fill the rolls with compost and sow a seed in each (such as peas and beans). The whole rolls can be planted in the ground, without disturbing the roots, when the seedling is large enough.



Egg trays make good seed trays. Moisten the tray first, fill with compost and put a single seed in each section. Place inside a resealable plastic bag to prevent them drying out. When the seedlings are big enough transplant them.



Yoghurt pots and similar containers are great for growing seeds. Remember to put a hole in the bottom to allow drainage.



Paint tin cans to make colourful flower and herb pots. Use acrylic paints so the paint doesn't wash off. If planting directly into the tin can, ask an adult to make a hole in the bottom with a hammer and nail.



Milk and similar cartons are good for growing smaller plants. They are sturdy and hold moisture in the compost. They may need cutting down if very tall. Remember to put a hole in the bottom.



Some vegetable trays are perfect seed trays. Make some drainage holes in the bottom and fill with compost. Scatter the seeds on the top and space out (depending on the seed) and cover with a light sprinkling of compost.



Peas and beans, which don't like their roots to be disturbed, can be planted in old pieces of rain gutter. Fill with compost, sow the seeds and when they are big enough, plant outside, sliding the row of seedlings into a prepared trench.



Newspaper can be shaped into compostable pots. There are a number of different ways to make them. It might take a little bit of detective work online (ask an adult for help) but it's an inexpensive way to make pots.



Once you have sown your seeds you will want to remember what's what. Clothes pegs, old plastic cutlery and lollipop sticks are great for using as labels. Write the seed type with a permanent markers.

Fun Page

How much did you learn?

The answers to all these questions can be found in the newsletter...see if you can remember!

- 1 Near which town in Ireland is Deelish Garden Centre?
- 2 How many inches of snow fell in 24 hours during the February snowstorm in Boston USA?
- 3 Savannas are cold places. True or false?
- 4 In shallow waters, Angler fish use which fin to lure smaller fish?
- 5 On the "Green Fingers" page, which vegetable seeds are marked with the lollipop stick?
- 6 From a recent study, do dogs take more or less treats when the room is dark?
- 7 How long do elephants usually live?
- 8 On which Irish island is Kinish Harbour?
- 9 What type of bird is on the front page?
- 10 What colour card was used to make the pop-up card?
- 11 Where did Emma Chase enrol in a horticultural programme?
- 12 What is the hooded crow on page 3 eating?
- 13 Are the winds stronger or weaker when the isobars are close together on a weather chart?
- 14 How old is the world's oldest known wild bird?
- 15 What was found partly covering the coastal town of Mooloolaba in Australia after a storm?
- 16 Russia was hit by a meteor recently. How long did the blaze from the meteor last in the sky?

Answers: (1) Skibbereen, Co. Cork. (2) 24 inches (61 cm) (3) False. (4) Dorsal fin. (5) Lettuce. (6) More. (7) 60 years. (8) Sherkin Island. (9) Little Egret. (10) Pink. (11) Coláiste Stiobhain Naofa in Cork City. (12) A crab. (13) Stronger. (14) 62 years old. (15) Sea foam. (16) 30 seconds.

Think of a Title!

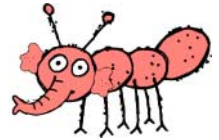
Can you think up a caption for this photograph of a robin feeding?



Image © Robbie Murphy

Nature Jokes

What is the biggest ant in the world?
An elephant.



Why didn't the skeleton go to the dance?
Because he had no-body to go with.

What is green, has four legs and two trunks?
Two seasick tourists!



What's the difference between an African elephant and an Indian elephant?
About 3000 miles.

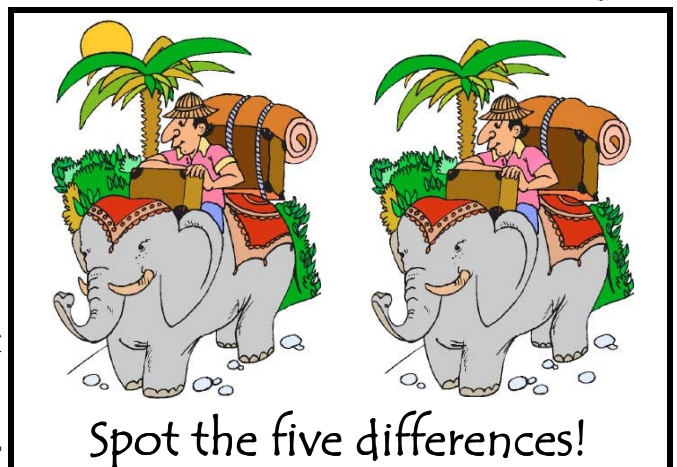


How do you find your dog if he's lost in the woods?
Put your ear to a tree and listen for the bark.



How well is your garden going to grow?
Only thyme will tell.

What do tigers wear in bed?
Stripy pyjamas.



Spot the five differences!

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Activity



Elephant Pop-Up Card

To make your own elephant pop-up card you will need:

- Half an A4 sheet of pink card
- 1 sheet of A4 paper
- Printer
- Colouring pencils or markers
- Glue
- Scissors

1. Print the page on the white paper, colour in the head and body and cut around each shape with scissors (you may need to ask a grown-up for help with this). If you don't have a printer, try drawing the head and body yourself.

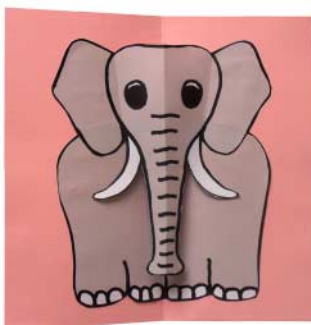


2. Fold the card and body in half and glue the body to the card, with the centre folds lining up.

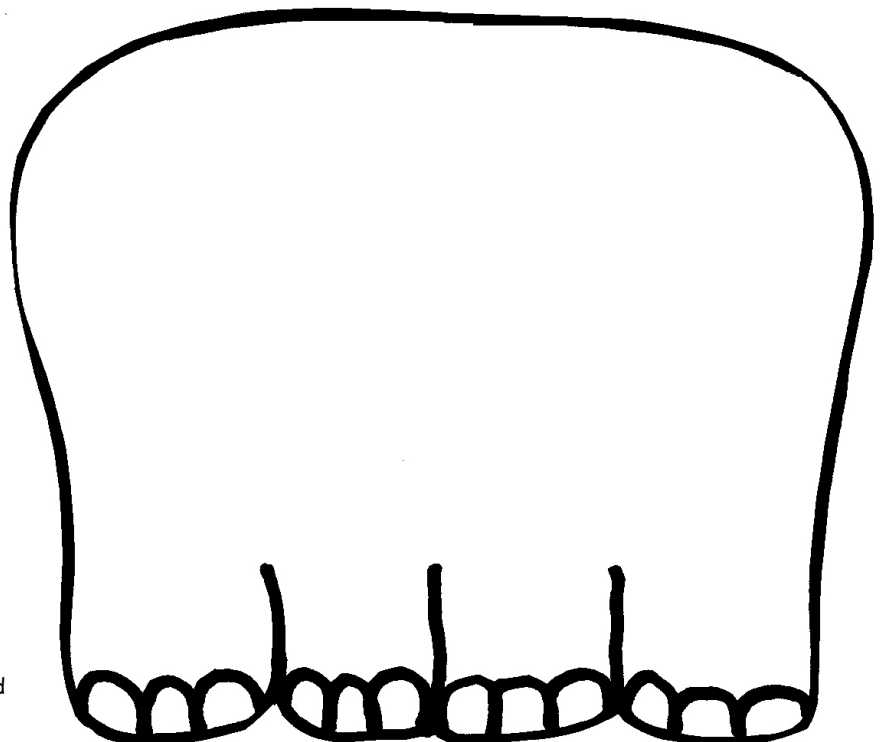
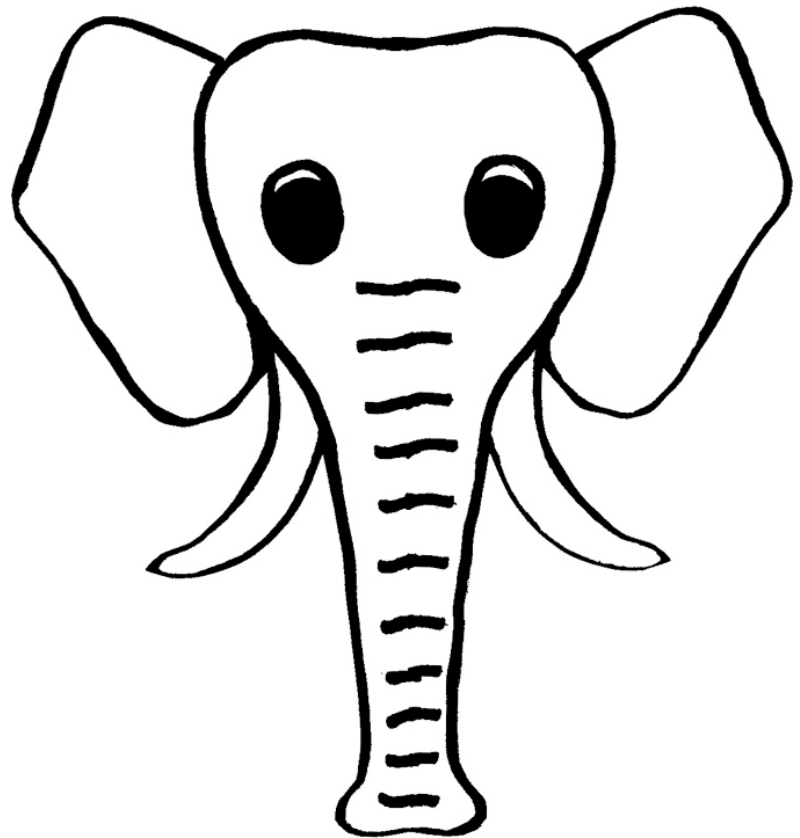


3. Fold the head in half, right down the centre of the trunk, so the back of the ears touch.

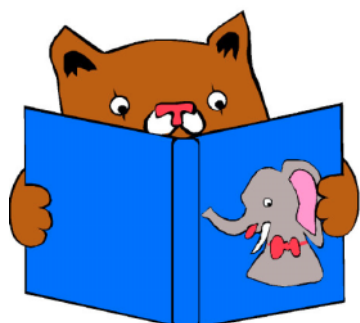
4. Fold the ears inwards and put glue on the back of each ear.



5. Flatten the card and with the head flattened out glue it in place. When the card is opened and closed the head will pop up!



Nature's Web Wordsearch



Nature's Web Spring 2013 Wordsearch

Try out this giant wordsearch containing words found in this issue of the newsletter.



African elephant

Angler fish

April showers

Asian elephant

Cold front

Deelish Garden Centre

Dogs

Emma Chase

Green fingers

Kinish Harbour

Laysan albatross

Meteor

Mudflats

Popup card

Savanna

Sea foam

Snowstorm

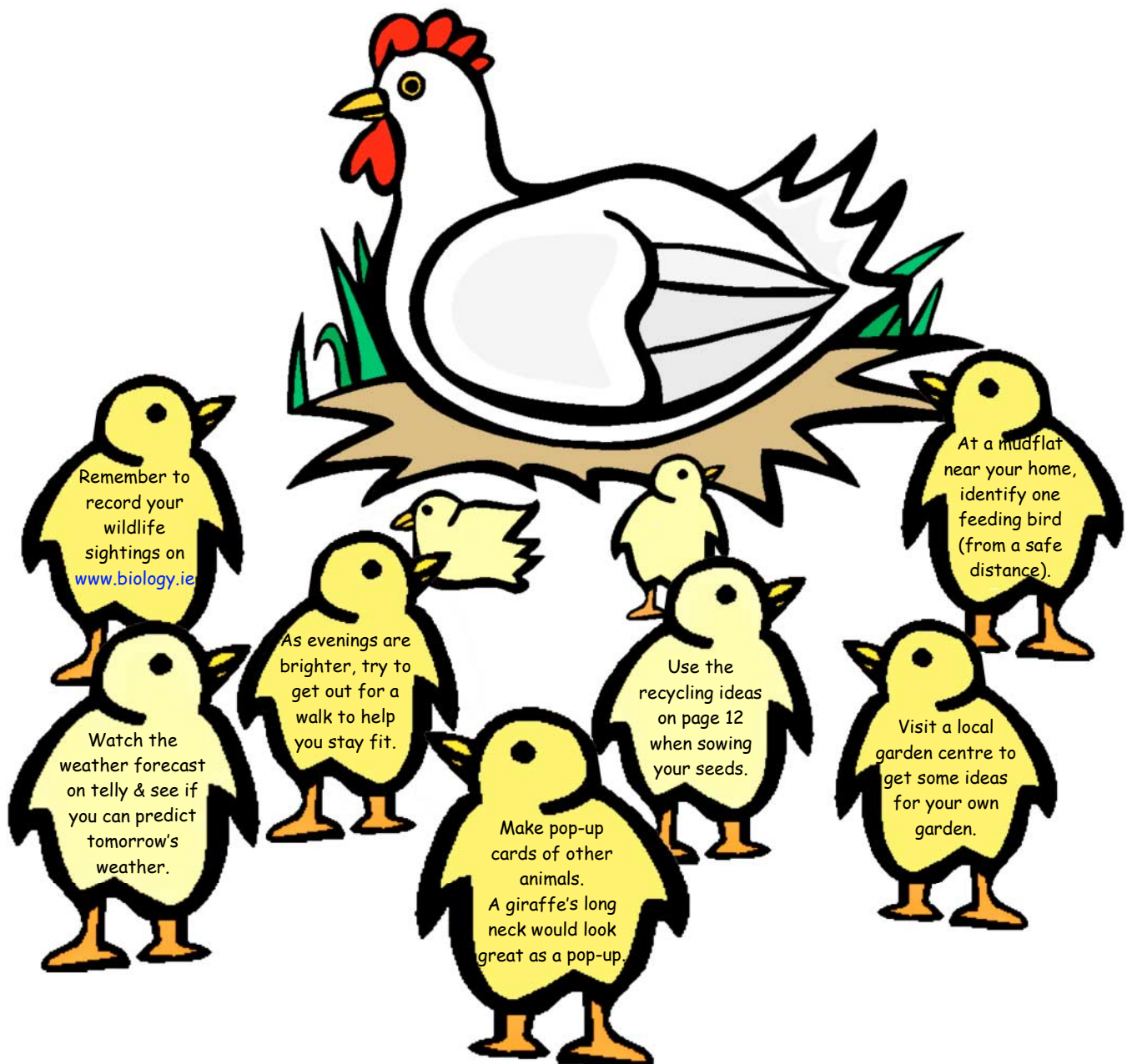
Weather chart



SOLUTIONS: (Over, Down, Direction) African elephant (2,15,NE); Angler fish (9,15,NE); April showers (18,8,SW); Asian elephant (4,7,SE); Cold front (8,19,E); Deelish Garden Centre (1,19,N); Dogs (11,8,E); Emma Chase (10,9,SE); Green fingers (13,6,W); Kinish Harbour (18,1,S); Laysan Albatross (3,7,E); Meteor (5,13,NE); Mudflats (9,1,W); Pop up card (2,9,S); Savanna (17,7,NW); Sea foam (17,16,N); Snowstorm (13,9,SW); Weather chart (4,19,N).

Nature's Noticeboard!

Spring 2013



Sherkin Island Marine Station would like to thank *PharmaChemical Ireland* for their support in making this newsletter possible. We would like to thank those who have contributed to this newsletter especially Emma and Rain Chase, John Joyce, Michael Ludwig, Joe Lyons, Matt Murphy, Peter Murphy, Robbie Murphy and Jez Wickens.

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