

Nature'sWeb

Issue No. 30

Summer 2013

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Editor's Page

The Blackbird

Fastest, Largest,
Smallest - The
Fantastic World
of Fish

A whale called
'Baltimore'

Sea Cliffs

Willie Duffy -
Fota Wildlife Park

Wordsearch

Colour in:
Summer Splash

Learn More

The World
Around Us

Swallow Mobile

Fun Page

Safety Sam at
the Seaside

Water Safety

Nature's
Noticeboard

Happy Days!



Image courtesy of Susan Murphy Wickens

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A Colourful Cloud

Welcome to the
Summer Edition of
Nature's Web!

Dear Reader,



Welcome everyone to the Summer 2013 issue of Nature's Web. In this issue we learn more about Blackbirds, a common sight in Irish gardens. Captain Cockle tells us about the fastest, largest and smallest fish and Micheal Cottrell explains how he got to name a humpback whale! We find out what type of work Willie Duffy carries out as Head Warden at Fota Wildlife Park in Co. Cork and we learn from Irish Water Safety how to be a little safer by the sea this summer. 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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Michael Ludwig

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My brother Robbie has been out with his camera again. In one of his landscape photographs he noticed this "rainbow" effect on one of the clouds. Known as **cloud iridescence**, the coloration is caused by the cloud deflecting, or scattering, the sun's rays. This effect is not very common. In order for it to happen the droplets that make up the cloud must be tiny and of the same size. It is likely to be seen on thin clouds or on the edge of larger clouds.

Iridescent clouds usually occur nearer the sun, so if you ever search for one, protect your eyes by hiding the sun behind a building. You should never look directly at the sun as it can damage your eyes.



Images courtesy of Robbie Murphy

As **GAEILGE!** 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

KEDGEREE SALAD



Photo courtesy of www.bim.ie

What you need:

- 450g / 1 lb smoked fish*
- 225g / 8 ozs cooked long grained rice
- Choose from finely chopped: roasted red or green pepper, corn, spring onion, peanuts, pineapple chunks, hard boiled egg
- 3 tablespoons mayonnaise
- Chopped parsley
- Salt and freshly milled pepper
- Bayleaf
- Lemon slice

*You can substitute smoked coley, cod or haddock.

What to do:

- Place fish in cold water (parsley stalks, bay leaf and lemon slice added)
- Bring to simmer and cook gently for 4-5 minutes. Remove, flake and chill.
- Combine all the ingredients in a large bowl.
- Fold in mayonnaise.
- Sprinkle with lots of chopped parsley and serve.

To serve hot:

- Combine cooked onion and curry powder with rice, fish, eggs and seasonings.
- Stir in cream and heat or bake until heated through. Serve piping hot with lots of chopped parsley.

Serves 4

Brought to you by BIM.

For more fish recipes visit www.bim.ie

The Blackbird

Scientific Name: *Turdus merula*

Irish Name: Lon dubh

Blackbirds are a common sight in the garden. They are also very vocal and produce beautiful flute-like songs, which can be clearly heard in the dawn chorus (see below).

As members of the thrush family, blackbirds have similar characteristics to their relatives - a pointed beak, a plump body and a long tail. They can often be seen hopping along the ground, with their tails up in the air.

Blackbirds are resident in Ireland but some also arrive in autumn from other parts of northern Europe, to overwinter in Ireland. It is not unusual for blackbirds to have a number of broods during the breeding season, which is from early spring until late summer. Each brood produces three to five eggs and these are laid in nests made from grass, leaves, twigs or mud. Chicks are born without feathers and cannot see for about nine days. It is a few weeks before they are strong enough to begin leaving the nest under the care of their parents.



Photographs courtesy of Robbie Murphy



What is the Dawn Chorus?

In early summer mornings, just before the sun comes up, the night's silence is broken by the sound of bird song. Huge numbers of birds take part in this chorus, some to attract a mate, others to defend their territory.

FACT FILE:

Colour: Male has black plumage, orange bill and orange ring around its eye. Female is brown all over, paler underneath, with some spots on breast. Her bill is dark.

Length: 23.5-29 cm

Diet: Worms, insects and their larvae, fruit, snails, seeds and berries.

Habitat: Gardens, parks, farmlands and woodlands.

No. of eggs: 3-5

When is a black bird not a blackbird?

Crows, ravens, rooks and choughs are all black in colour but they are not blackbirds. They belong to the crow family, while the blackbird belongs to the thrush family.

The male blackbird (above left) is a smaller bird, with a orange beak and an orange ring around its eye. The chough, seen above right, also has a coloured beak but it is red and the bird itself is much larger.



Blackbird (male)



Chough



Blackbird (female)



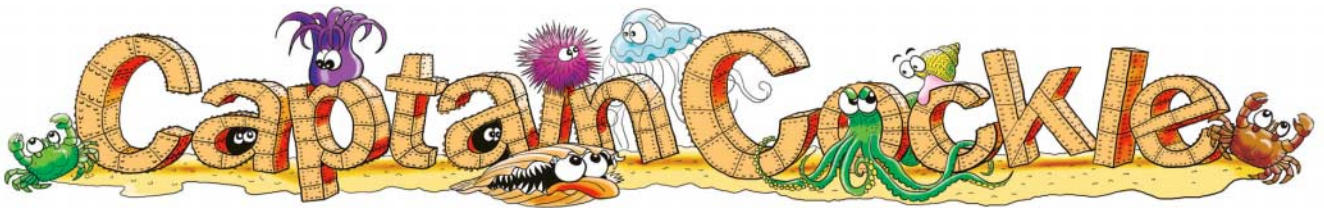
Song Thrush

And when is a blackbird NOT black?

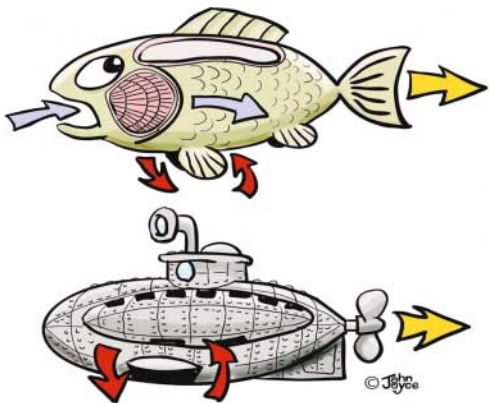
Just to confuse matters, the female blackbird (bottom left) is not black! It looks

more like a song thrush (bottom right), with brown plumage and pale, speckled breast.

Aquatic Life



Fastest, Largest, Smallest - The Fantastic World of Fish

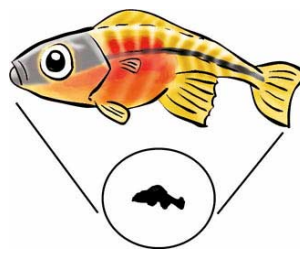


Fish - Nature's Natural Submarines!

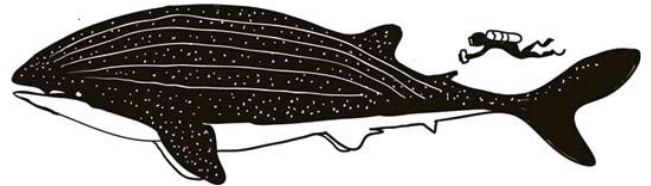
The developers of the modern submarine must have got their inspiration from that natural submarine - the fish. Like a fish's swim bladder, submarines have 'ballast tanks' containing air that allows them to float at 'neutral buoyancy' without having to put any effort into staying at a particular depth. The fish's powerful tail is replaced by a propeller and the fins that allow a fish to 'fly' underwater are replaced by diving planes. Unlike the crew of a submarine however, fish can even breathe underwater with their gills - blood filled membranes that absorb oxygen from the water and allow carbon dioxide to be released.

Images and text copyright © John Joyce

The Smallest and Largest Fish



The smallest fish so far recorded lives in the forest swamps of the Indonesian island of Sumatra and belongs to the carp family - which includes the common goldfish. It is only 7.9 mm long and so small that it will easily fit onto your fingernail.



The largest fish in the world is the Whale Shark, which is harmless and feeds on plankton by filtering seawater. The largest ever recorded was 12.65 metres long and weighed 21.5 metric tonnes. The largest gathering of Whale Sharks occurred in 2011 when over 400 gathered off the coast of Mexico, to feed on eggs produced by tunny fish.

by John Joyce

For more Fun Facts check out

www.spindriftpress.com



Speedy Sailfish Clock Over 100 Kms per Hour

The Indo-Pacific Sailfish (*Istiophorus platypterus*) lives life in the fast lane! Not only is it the fastest swimming fish in the sea - clocking up an incredible 100 kilometres per hour (68 miles per hour) - faster than a cheetah can run - it also grows at an incredible rate. Young sailfish hatch from eggs within 36 hours and grow to be two metres long within twelve months. They feed on squid, flying fish and anchovies and can retract their large dorsal fin when travelling at speed. Sailfish are found in the warmer water regions of the Pacific and the Atlantic, where they grow to a maximum size of around three metres. The largest sailfish ever captured was caught in 1994 and weighed 64 kilos.

To see a great video of sailfish in action, check out the great National Geographic video on http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spkjQ3c_AjU

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A whale called 'BALTIMORE'

By Micheal Cottrell

Bank Holiday Monday of St. Patrick's weekend 2013 is one that will live in my memory as a special day - the day that we were the first people in Ireland and possibly the world, to see and record a new Humpback whale to the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group ID catalogue (www.iwdg.ie). I was granted the honour of naming the whale, but this was a task that deserved to be shared by all involved.

How did all of this come about? I was on a fishing trip off Kedge Island, Baltimore, West Cork, with David O'Neill and Pat Collins when David drew our attention to something he saw in the water. Grabbing the binoculars I studied the object and made the ID that it was a Humpback Whale, slowly circling, blowing and tail fluking. The position and time were logged and phone calls made, to Pádraig Whooley sightings co-ordinator with IWDG, and to Youen Jacob and Simon Duggan, Baltimore. Youen and Simon contacted Mark and Robbie Murphy on Sherkin Island, who brought along young whale watchers Aidan, Jason and Dylan Murphy for the adventure. They all headed to the area, with cameras capable of zooming in

close enough to capture the detail necessary for ID purposes. These photographs were then submitted to the IWDG and it was confirmed as being a new whale to the Irish catalogue and, as it was a young animal, possibly to the international catalogue. To be fair to all involved in the ID process, the naming was shared and HBIRL#22, the 22nd Humpback whale in the Irish catalogue, becomes known as 'Baltimore'. The boats and the people involved are all connected with Baltimore, and the whale was first logged off Baltimore. My own particular reason for the name is that Humpback Whales are global travellers, and wherever in the world this Humpback is seen and its ID checked, its name will come back as Baltimore. A world ambassador for the Baltimore area, and all who come from here.



Images courtesy of Robbie Murphy

'Baltimore' or HBIRL#22, the 22nd Humpback whale in the Irish catalogue of whales (www.iwdg.ie).



The village of Baltimore, Co. Cork, which now has its own ambassador travelling the world's oceans.



'Baltimore' the Humpback Whale, passing by the Beacon, which marks the entrance to Baltimore Harbour, West Cork.

Sea Cliffs

Sea cliffs are a harsh environment. Subject to pounding waves, high winds and are largely inaccessible. They provide a habitat for only the toughest of animals and plants.

Plants on Sea Cliffs

Some plants, for example Thrift, are ideally suited for growing on cliff faces. They must be tough enough to withstand the drying out affects of the sun and wind and have a strong root system to hold the plant in place during bad weather. Most plants are low growing to reduce exposure. Some plants can thrive on these cliffs due to the nutrients from the bird droppings. If droppings land on soil they provide the perfect base for new seeds to grow.

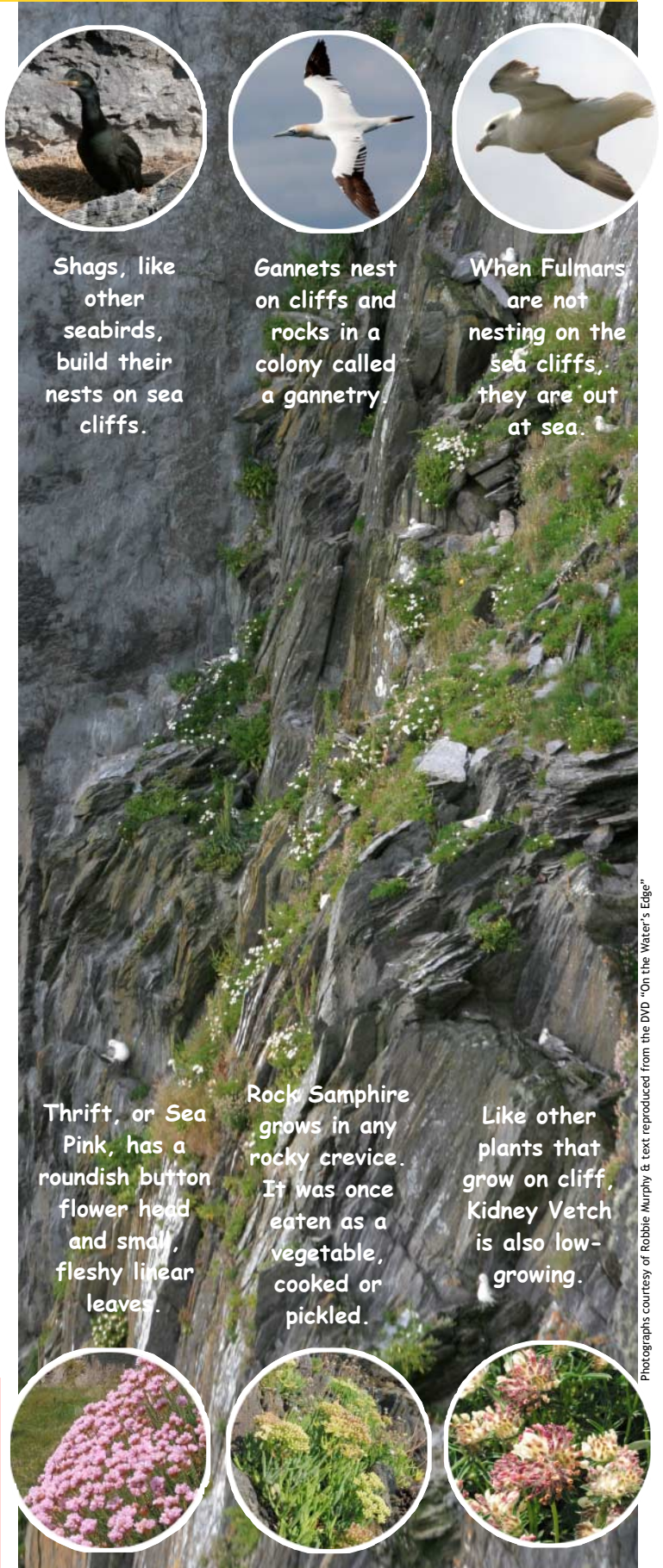
Birds on Sea Cliffs

Cliffs provide a habitat for many birds such as gulls, shags, gannets, auks, fulmars and landbased birds such as ravens and choughs. For seabirds, being this close to the sea means they have a feeding area nearby at all times. Seabirds often form a large group or colony on a cliff face in order to breed. A colony could be made up of anything from five pairs of birds to thousands of pairs. The advantage of being in a large group or colony means that there are many eyes looking out for predators. Steep cliffs will keep away predators like foxes and otters and will also give the birds a good height from which to take off. Being part of a large colony however can be tough as there is added competition for food and space. Unfortunately young birds may also die in these exposed places, either by falling from the nest or by being blown off in bad weather.



For many reasons cliffs can be very dangerous.

They are constantly being worn away by wind, rain and waves and so parts of them may collapse at anytime. You should not climb them, go near the edge, throw things over or sit at the bottom of a cliff.



Shags, like other seabirds, build their nests on sea cliffs.

Gannets nest on cliffs and rocks in a colony called a gannetry.

When Fulmars are not nesting on the sea cliffs, they are out at sea.

Thrift, or Sea Pink, has a roundish button flower head and small, fleshy linear leaves.

Rock Samphire grows in any rocky crevice. It was once eaten as a vegetable, cooked or pickled.

Like other plants that grow on cliff, Kidney Vetch is also low-growing.

All in a Day's Work

Willie Duffy – Fota Wildlife Park

Willie Duffy is Head Warden at Fota Wildlife Park, Carrigtwohill, Co Cork. The Park has been home to thousands of animals since it first opened its gates 30 years ago and aims to make each and every visit to the Park an enjoyable and valuable learning experience for all age groups.

www.fotawildlife.ie



Willie Duffy

Have you always been interested in what you do?

Yes, since I was young. I come from a farming background so I've always been interested in working outdoors and working with animals. I used to keep pet rabbits when I was younger so they were the first animals I had to take care of.

What training did you do to get where you are today?

I've been working in Fota Wildlife for the last 25 years. I started in Pets Corner and have worked my way up to Head Warden. I've been Head Warden for 10 years this year.

What is a day in your life like?

I start every day at 8am and begin with checking on the animals. The main responsibilities of my job are the day to day caring of the animals and managing the other wardens.

What is your main aim?

To win the lotto! ☺

What is the best thing about your job?

When baby animals are born in the park. Our main aim is conservation so it's great to see that in

motion and see how we're helping keep these animals from extinction.

What is the worst thing about your job?

The weather. Nobody likes to work in the rain!

Do you enjoy your work?

Of course, it's an interesting job that constantly changes with the different animals we have and with the different visitors that come through the park.

What equipment do you use?

We use a lot of farming equipment like tractors and woodchippers.

Where does your work take you?

I get to visit other zoos and wildlife parks to pick up animals that we're bringing back to the park. Last year I travelled to France to transport cheetahs back to the park.

Do you work alone or as part of a team?

Everyone in the park operates as a part of a team, we have many people that carry out different roles.

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

Stay in school, go to college and get a good education. Also, you should look for volunteering experience in many different types of animal care.

What would you do if you weren't doing what you do?

I'd definitely be working outside, maybe something in landscaping.

What is best piece of advice you have ever had?

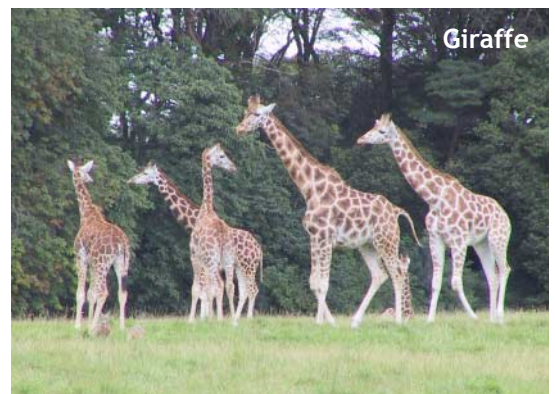
It's something my father told me when I was younger, "Make a mistake once, but do it again and it becomes a habit". It's served me well through my life. Never be afraid to make a mistake but don't repeat it.



Cheetah



Ring-tailed Lemur



Giraffe

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Wordsearch



Nature's Web Summer 2013 Wordsearch

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

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

Ballycroy

Baltimore

Blackbird

Cat

Cloud
iridescence

Comet

Ducklings

Fota Wildlife
Park

Humpback whale

Safety Sam

Sailfish

Sea cliffs

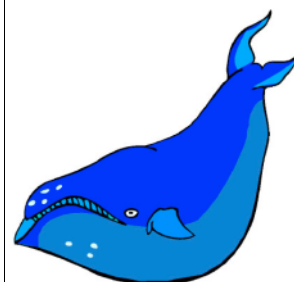
Summer splash

Swallow mobile

Swim bladders

Water safety

Whale shark



(over,down,direction) Ball's Bluff (2,5,5); Baltimore (16,9,5W); Blackbird (18,15,W); Cat (4,1,W); Cloud indifference (11,5E); Comet (12,5,5W); Ducklings (17,13,NW); Fota Wildlife Park (6,1,5); Humpback whale (18,5,5W); Safety Sam (11,12,N); Sailfish (3,4,5); See cliffs (8,1,E); Summer splash (18,12,NW); Swallow mobile (18,17,W); Swim bladders (5,12,N); Water safety (8,11,NE); Whale shark (7,5,5E); Willie Duffy (7,4,E).

Summer Splash!



Learn More

A Beginner's Guide to Ireland's Wild Flowers

Have you ever wanted to put a name to the wild flowers you see about you every day, or while on a walk, or on holiday? With the help of this pocket-sized guide, you will be able to do just that. Beginners of all ages will be introduced to the many common wild flowers found around Ireland. 206pp



Only €8.50 including postage

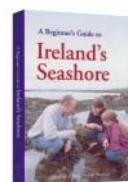
Sea Life DVD:

"On the Water's Edge"

Sherkin Island Marine Station has launched a dvd called 'On the Water's Edge'. It is made up of a short film on life beside the sea and is presented by Audrey Murphy. It includes 6-10 hours of interactive material for children of all ages. Available from: Sherkin Island Marine Station, Sherkin Island, Co. Cork. €7.35 including postage.



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.

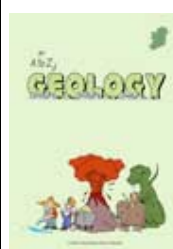


Only €8.00 including postage



Only €2.10* each or €14.00* for all eight! (*including postage) 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. My Nature Diary contains lined pages to fill in a daily record of sightings and nature news and Safety Sam Activity Book encourages safety in everything we do.



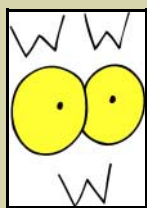
"An A to Z of Geology" explores the fascinating world of rocks and geology - a world of volcanoes, tsunamis, earthquakes, diamonds, gold and even dinosaurs! Produced by Sherkin Island Marine Station, in association with the Geological Survey of Ireland, the book aims to highlight the importance of geology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

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.

Or visit: www.sherkinmarine.ie where you can order by Paypal.



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:

Cloud Iridescence: <http://www.atoptics.co.uk/droplets/irid1.htm> <http://www.met.ie>
<http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/ap030311.html>

Blackbird: <http://www.birdwatchireland.ie/Default.aspx?tabid=437>
<http://www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdguide/name/b/blackbird/index.aspx>

Fastest, Largest, Smallest - The Fantastic World of Fish: www.spindriftpress.com
<http://whaleshark.org/> <http://www.arkive.org/indo-pacific-sailfish/istiophorus-platypterus/>
http://www.nhm.ac.uk/about-us/news/2006/jan/news_7501.html
<http://www.bio.davidson.edu/courses/anphys/2000/martin/introduction.html>

A whale called 'Baltimore': www.iwdg.ie <http://baltimoreseasafari.ie/whale-dolphin-watching/>
<http://www.baltimore.ie/>

Sea Cliffs: <http://www.cliffsofmoher.ie/> <http://slieveleaguecliffs.ie/>

Fota Wildlife Park: <http://www.fotawildlife.ie/>

Ballycroy National Park: <http://www.ballycroynationalpark.ie/>

Cat and Ducklings: <http://www.rte.ie/radio1/mooney/programmes/2013/0523/452096-thursday-may-23rd-2013/>

Comet Pan-STARR: http://science.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/2013/15mar_sunsetcomet/

The Cheetah Run 4 Mile Race: <http://www.fotawildlife.ie/blog/cheetah-run-4-mile-race-2013>

Irish Water Safety: www.iws.ie

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

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The World Around Us



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

Ballycroy National Park Fires

The 11,000 hectare Ballycroy National Park in Co. Mayo is special because of its blanket bog (see Nature's Web - Autumn 2012). This bog started developing after the last ice age. This April, the park had three days of devastating fire that engulfed large parts of blanket bog and heath. It was the first fire there in 40 years. Around 3000 ha of the Park were burnt along with another 2000 ha outside the park. The fire was so hot that it instantly destroyed lichens, mosses and liverworts that were unique to the habitat. Other species affected include frogs, lizards, and icky invertebrates such as beetles and spiders (food for birds). Now what should be larks, pipits and other moorland birds singing, all you hear as you walk is the crunch under foot of burnt plants. Everyone must wait to see how the park will recover.

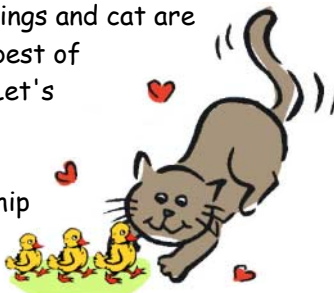


Firefighters tackling the fire in Ballycroy National Park.

Image courtesy of NPWS/Irene O'Brien

The cat that got the..... ducklings?

Ronan and Emma Lally from a small farm in Clara, Co Offaly, contacted the Mooney Show on RTE 1 recently to tell presenter Derek Mooney about a most peculiar event - their cat had adopted three baby ducklings! Ronan and Emma had bought duck eggs from a local lady and hatched them under a brood hen. The ducklings soon disappeared and it was feared that "The White Cat" as it is called, had taken them. Well it had, but only so that the ducklings could cuddle up with her newborn kittens! They were even spotted suckling on the cat. Weeks later, the ducklings and cat are still the best of friends. Let's hope this unlikely relationship continue!



Comet Pan-STARRS in Irish Skies

One of the brightest comets seen in the night sky over Ireland was visible from March to May this year. The comet was first discovered in June 2011 by astronomers using the Pan-STARRS survey telescope, which sits on top of the Haleakala volcano in Hawaii, so they named it "Comet Pan-STARRS". Comets are usually made of rocks and ice. This comet had quite a bit of dust compared to other comets and dust reflects sunlight. As the dust was swept off it made Pan-STARRS really visible and possible to see with the naked eye. By analysing the amount of dust and gas coming from the comet, scientists were able to estimate that the comet was 1 km in diameter, a fairly typical size for a comet. But that extra dust made it look bigger.



A close-up view of Comet Pan-STARRS using a telephoto lens from Sherkin Island.

Image courtesy of Robbie Murphy

Running with the Animals!

One of the most popular night time foot races in Ireland is The Cheetah Run 4 Mile Road Race. It goes through Fota Wildlife Park in Co. Cork. This year registration for the race sold out in just 2 hours and 40 minutes. The reason why it sold out so fast is that the participants get a chance to run alongside wild animals. This year's event was a big success and an internet sensation with footage of ostriches and zebras giving the athletes a run for their money! Check it out on: <http://www.fotawildlife.ie/blog/cheetah-run-4-mile-race-2013>.



Activity

Swallow Mobile



1. Print this page and cut out the swallow outline. With the white pencil, trace around the outline on black paper. If you are careful, you can fit five swallows onto one sheet of A4. It is best to trace all five outlines before you begin cutting.



2. Before cutting out the shapes, place another sheet of black paper underneath the first. This will give you two identical outlines with each cut. (If you don't have black paper, use light card and paint it black once the shapes have been cut.)



3. Tape the end of a piece of thread on to one of the outlines. Stick it on the side where you can still see some of the white pencil marks, as these will be hidden in the next step.



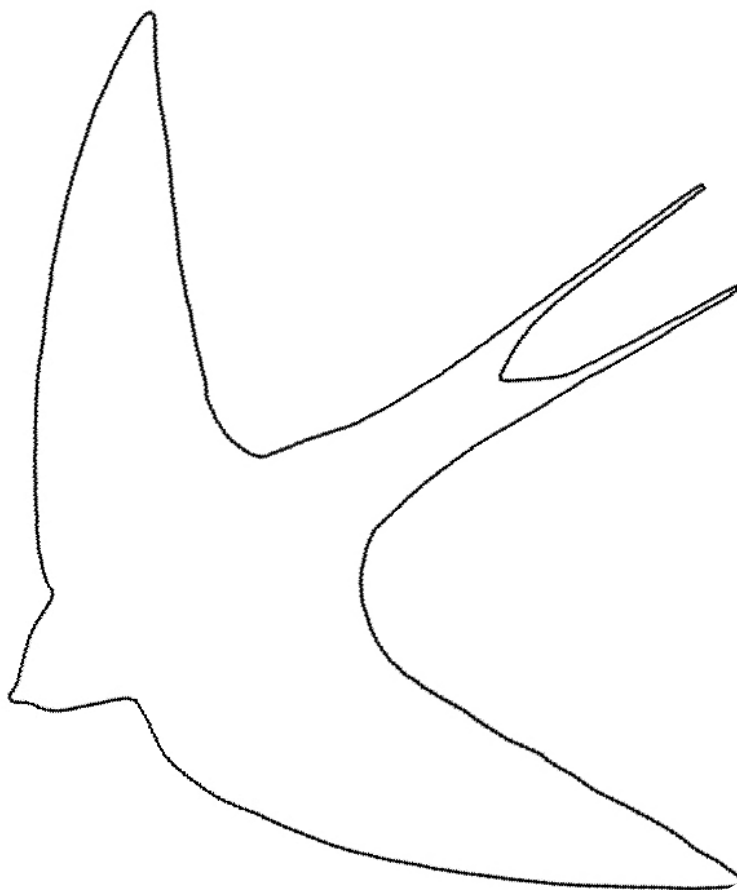
4. Make sure the second outline is turned the right way (the bird is not symmetrical) so that both outlines fit together exactly. Completely cover the taped side with glue and press the other side on top.



5. Tie each swallow on to the stick, varying the lengths of thread so each swallow can be clearly seen. Hang on a hook or nail.

You will need:

- 2 sheets black paper
- 1 sheet white paper
- printer
- scissors
- white pencil
- thread
- tape
- glue
- a stick



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 What colour are the flags that tell Safety Sam that the lifeguard is on duty?
- 2 To reduce exposure, plants that grow on sea cliffs are very tall. True or false?
- 3 How many acres of blanket bog and heath were engulfed by fires at Ballycroy National Park this spring?
- 4 Where does "The Cheetah Run 4 Mile Road Race" take place each year?
- 5 What is the largest fish in the world?
- 6 Do iridescent clouds have large or small water droplets?
- 7 Who was given the honour of naming the Humpback whale "Baltimore"?
- 8 What is Willie Duffy's job at Fota?
- 9 What is the first step on the Water Safety poster?
- 10 What type of bird is used in the mobile?
- 11 Where is the Pan-STARRS telescope situated?
- 12 To which country did Willie Duffy travel to last year, to bring back cheetahs to Fota Wildlife Park?
- 13 How many ducklings did Ronan & Emma Lally's cat adopt recently?
- 14 To which family of birds do blackbirds belong?
- 15 Which is the fastest swimming fish in the sea?
- 16 There are only a few birds in a colony. True or false?

Answers: (1) Red and yellow; (2) False. They are low-growing; (3) 3,000; (4) Fota Wildlife Park; (5) The Whale Shark; (6) Small droplets; (7) Micheal Cottrill; (8) Head Warden; (9) Don't swim alone; (10) Swallow; (11) On top of the Haleakala volcano in Hawaii; (12) France; (13) Three; (14) Thrush family; (15) The Indo-Pacific Sailfish; (16) False. There are many birds in a colony.

Think of a Title

Have fun with your friends making up a caption for this picture of a dog in his basket.



Nature Jokes



Why was the cat so small?
Because it only ate condensed milk.

What medicine would you give an ill ant?
Antibiotics.



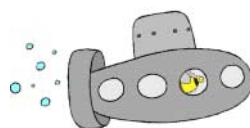
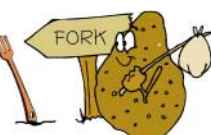
What happened when the swallow swallowed a teaspoon?
He wasn't able to stir.

How do you prevent a summer cold?
Catch it in the winter!

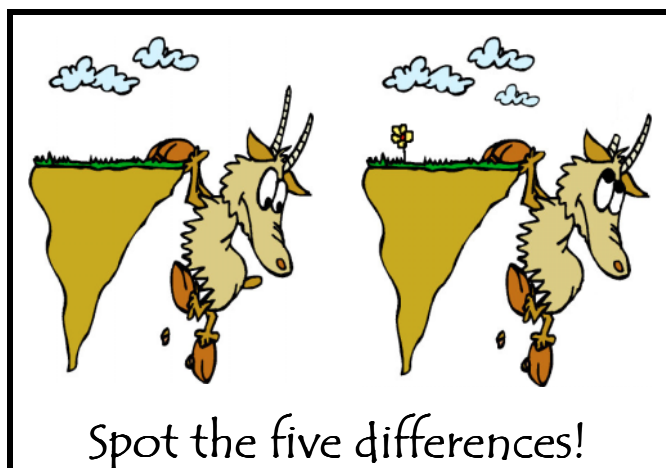


If a goat jumped into a swimming pool, what is the first thing he would do?
Get wet.

Why did the potato cross the road?
He saw a fork up ahead.



What buzzes, is black and yellow and goes along the bottom of the sea?
A bee in a submarine.



Safety Activity

Safety Sam at the Seaside

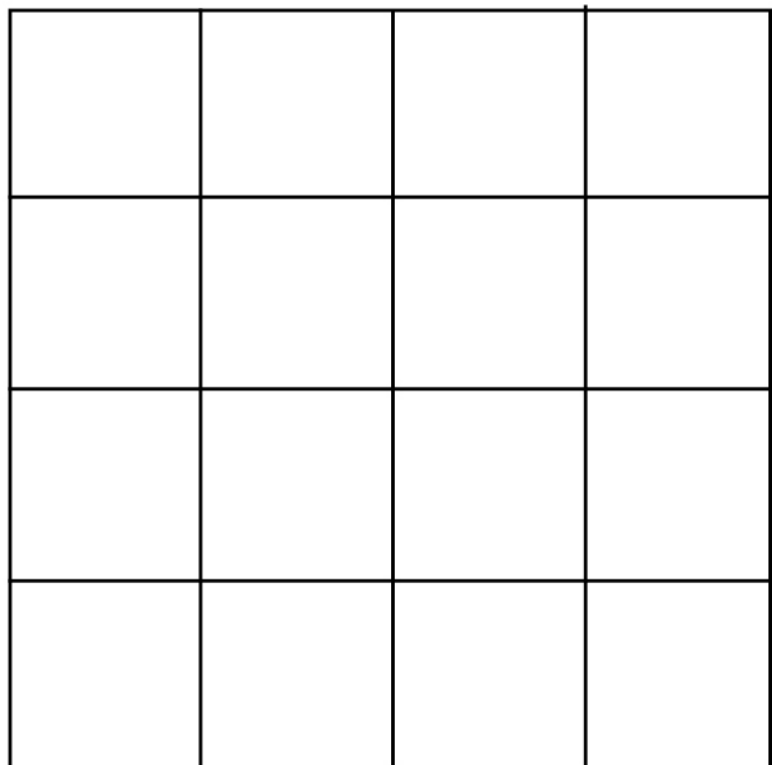
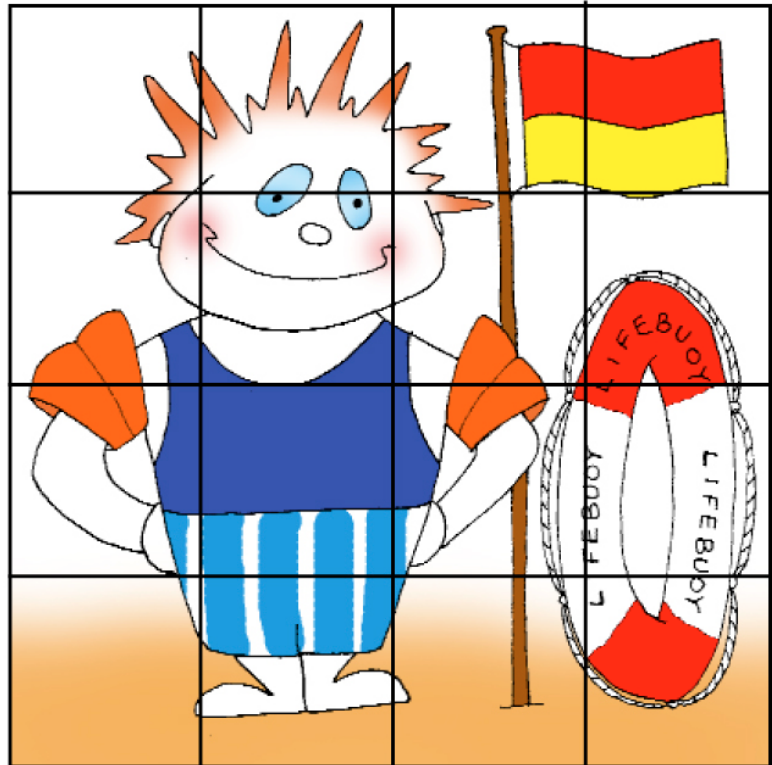
Safety Sam is on his holidays at the seaside. He is learning to swim so he is wearing his armbands to help him float. He knows he must be careful when swimming and must never swim alone. He swims in shallow water and always swims across the beach and not out to sea. Before he goes into the water he makes sure that he is swimming between the two red and yellow flags because then he knows that a lifeguard is on duty.



Sam is having fun on his holidays and he wants you to have some fun too so he is asking you to draw the picture of him at the beach. Copy each square above in the same square below until all the picture is complete. Then colour in Safety Sam at the Seaside. You can also cut up the squares to make a jigsaw.

For more water safety information check out the Irish Water Safety poster on "Water Safety" on page 15.

From "Safety Sam's Activity Book", produced by Sherkin Island Marine Station.



Special Feature

Safe Swimming

14 Steps to Safe & Enjoyable Swimming



1 Swim with others, never alone.



2 Digest food before swimming.



3 Never swim when you're hot or tired or in the dark.



4 Avoid swimming in strange places.



5 Never swim out after drifting objects.



6 Don't stay in the water too long.



7 Don't swim out to sea.



8 Swim parallel and close to the shore.



9 Obey Lifeguards and swim between the flags.



10 Never use inflatable toys.



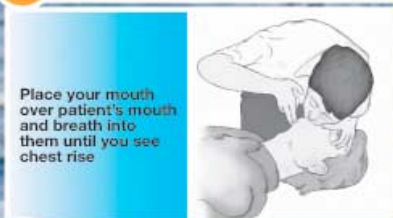
11 Pay attention to signs on the beach.



12 Never bully others or make them take risks.



13 Learn to use equipment before trying it out.



14 Learn Basic Life Support.



MARINE EMERGENCIES **999** OR **112**
Call 999 or 112 and ask for Marine Rescue

REMEMBER THESE RULES - ENJOY YOURSELF - COME HOME SAFELY



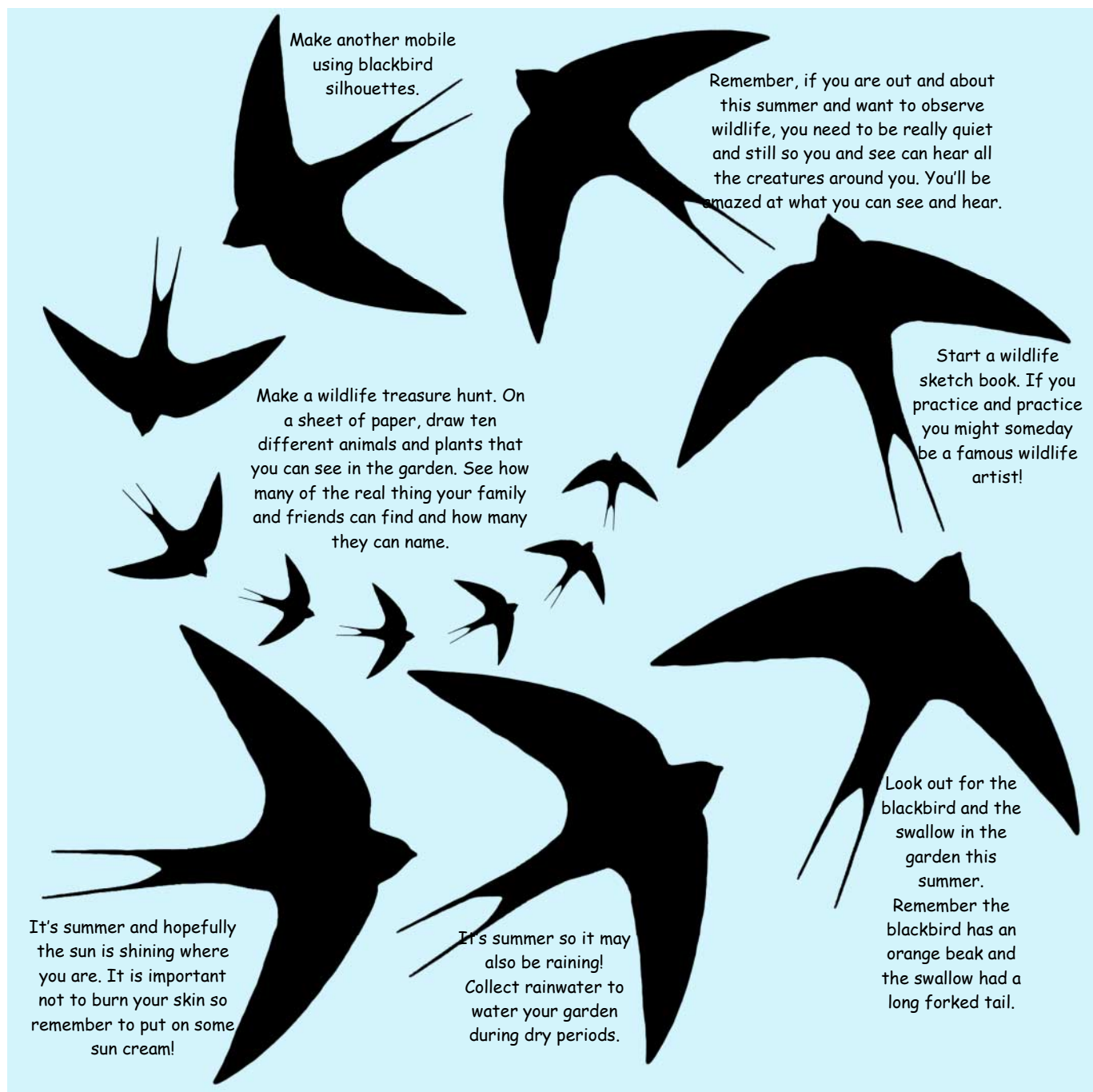
Irish Water Safety
Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann
Irish Water Safety is the statutory & voluntary body established to promote water safety in Ireland.
Is Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann an t-ábhar d'ionannais a bunaíodh le sábháilteacht uisce a chosúil in Éirinn.

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Nature's Noticeboard!

Summer 2013



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