

Editor's Page

Keep your eyes peeled!

Many will have seen the recent four-part programme on television about the Golden Eagle Trust and their great work to re-introduce certain birds of prey back into Ireland. They are currently trying to re-establish the populations of three species of bird: the Golden Eagle (in Glenveagh National Park, Co. Donegal), the White-tailed Eagle (in Killarney National Park, Co. Kerry) and the Red Kite (in Wicklow National Park, Co. Wicklow).

We paid a visit to their website last week (www.goldeneagle.ie) to get an update on their work and discovered that you can track the activities of a number of tagged birds on the site. There is also a list of reported sightings for each species, with a map to pinpoint the location of the sightings. It was interesting to see how far each species had travelled from the various National Parks. We were excited to see how close one of the White-tailed Eagles came to Sherkin Island, with a confirmed sighting, on 18th September, of a White-tailed Eagle on our neighbouring island of Cape Clear. Seeing such a striking bird in full flight must be an absolutely wonderful sight. We never thought it possible that these magnificent birds would come so close to us so we are definitely going to keep our eyes peeled on the skies from now on!



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The White-tailed Eagle.

Welcome to the
Winter Edition of
Nature's Web!

Dear Reader,



Welcome everyone to the winter issue of Nature's Web. Just as we were preparing to put the newsletter online, snow arrived on Sherkin, along with Twigg the Snowman (see cover)! With the weather on our minds, it's great to have Frank Clabby from Met Éireann giving us an insight into his work (page 7). We also learn a little about clouds (page 12) and the type of weather they bring, as well as information on the wolf, plankton and ivy. You can 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, comments and suggestions for future articles. Have a good read!

Susan

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The newsletter, edited originally by Audrey Murphy for Sherkin Island Marine Station, is now edited by her sister Susan.

SEAFOOD RECIPE

Irish Fish Stew or Chowder

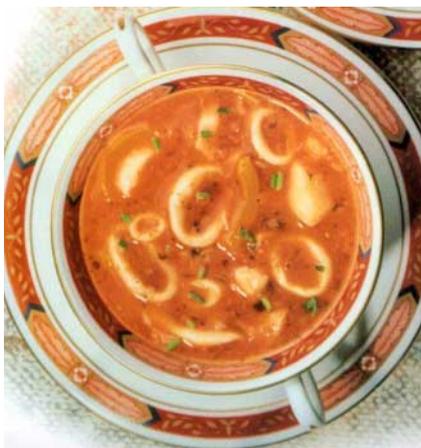


Photo courtesy of BIM

What you need:

- 450g/1lb cod or other whitefish cut in cubes*
- 225g/8ozs shellfish - mussels, cockles, squid, etc..
- 2 tablespoons oil
- Selection of winter vegetables - onion, garlic, carrot, celery, potatoes - chopped
- 450g/1lb fresh or tinned tomatoes
- 570 ml/1pt water or stock
- Salt and freshly milled pepper
- Lots of chopped parsley
- 7g/1/4oz carrageen - optional

What to do:

- Heat oil, add all vegetables except tomatoes and potatoes.
- Season well and cook without colouring over a low heat for 5-8 minutes.
- Add tomatoes, potatoes, carrageen and stock. Simmer for 10 minutes.
- Add fish. Cook for 2-3 minutes.
- Check seasoning and add lots of parsley before serving.

*You can substitute all kinds of fish and shellfish.

Serves 4

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