

# Nature's Web

Issue No. 24

Winter 2011

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## DECK THE HALLS

Photo SMW

## And who are you?

One Sunday morning last August, Michael Barry came around to the side of his house to find a female sparrow hawk standing on the path. She didn't appear to notice him and just stood there, not feeding or carrying anything. Michael rushed in to get his camera and on his return found the sparrow hawk had been discovered by "Trixi" the family's very old, totally deaf, and almost blind dog... clearly at least one of her senses was still working.



Courtesy of Michael Barry

Michael has a bird feeder in the front of the house and the hawk often swoops on it, from around the side of the house. This time she obviously decided to take a short cut through the side window, which does not open!! When Michael came upon her, she was standing stunned from the impact. He observed her for a short while and within five minutes she was well enough to fly again, seeking the shelter of the hedge and then the open field beyond. She appeared to recover just fine.

I think the sparrow hawk was lucky that poor old Trixi didn't have much get up and go and we were lucky Michael was there to capture this fabulous picture!

Welcome to the  
Winter Edition of  
Nature's Web!

Dear Reader,



Welcome everyone to the winter issue of Nature's Web. In this issue we feature the sparrowhawk, prompted by Michael Barry's encounter (see left). Jennifer Care encourages us to build an "insect hotel" and we show you some of the creepy crawlies that might visit it. Vet Fachtna Collins takes time out to tell us all about his work with animals and what his work day is like. Finally, thanks to Met Éireann, we find out a little more information about the wind. 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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Foreign Correspondent:

Michael Ludwig

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## SEAFOOD CHOWDER

with Dillisk  
& Carrageen



Photo courtesy of BIM

### What you need:

- 450g/1lb pollock, cod or other white fish fillets - skinned & cubed
- 225g/8oz shellfish - mussels, prawns etc..
- 100g/4oz salmon - cubed
- 25g/1oz butter
- 55g/2oz streaky bacon - cut into strips
- 1 kilo/2lbs mixed vegetables - onion, leek, carrot, celery, potatoes - diced
- 570ml/1pt water
- 7g/¼oz dillisk
- 7g/¼oz carrageen
- 570ml/1pt milk
- salt and freshly milled pepper

### What to do:

- Cook bacon strips in butter until crisp. All all vegetables except potatoes.
- Season and cook without colouring for 5 minutes.
- Add water, dillisk and carrageen and cook for 10 minutes.
- Add potatoes and milk and simmer until potatoes are soft.
- Add fish and shellfish and cook for 3-5 minutes.
- Check seasoning and serve sprinkled with parsley and chives.

Dillisk is a purple reddish seaweed and carrageen is a bushy reddish-purple seaweed.

Brought to you by BIM & Colm Wyse, DIT.  
For more recipes visit [www.bim.ie](http://www.bim.ie)

# The Sparrowhawk

**Scientific Name:** *Accipiter nisus*

**Irish Name:** Spoiróg

The Sparrowhawk is a small bird of prey. There are other birds of prey in Ireland, such as kestrels and goshawks, but sparrowhawks are probably the most common. It is estimated that there are about 11,000 pairs of sparrowhawks in Ireland and they can be seen in every county. They breed in suitable woodland areas, building their nest in trees, but they are scarce in the west where the tree cover is lower than elsewhere. Those that are resident in winter are joined by birds from Britain and Europe during these months.

The sparrowhawk has blunt tipped wings and a long tail. Its bill is small and hooked and is suitable for eating meat. It has long yellow legs and long talons. The female bird is larger than the male. Both have banded plumage on their tails and underparts. The adult male has bluish-grey back and wing and orange-brown bands on its chest. The female and young birds have brown backs and wings and brown banding underneath.

## The Young

The sparrowhawk builds its nest, usually from twigs, in the fork of trees. It will lay 4 to 5 eggs in May, pale blue and spotted brown in colour. When small, the chicks are covered in soft white feathers and will stay in the nest for about 26-30 days.



## A Bird of Prey

The Sparrowhawk has adapted to hunting in confined spaces and can fly through branches and small gaps to catch its prey. It can be seen in large parks and gardens and will sometimes prey on the birds that visit birdfeeders. It mainly eats small birds, such as thrushes, tits, woodpigeons and sparrows.



A Sparrowhawk.

## FACT FILE

**Colour:** Adult male is blue-grey back and wings. orange-brown banding on chest. Female is brown back and wings and brown banding underneath.

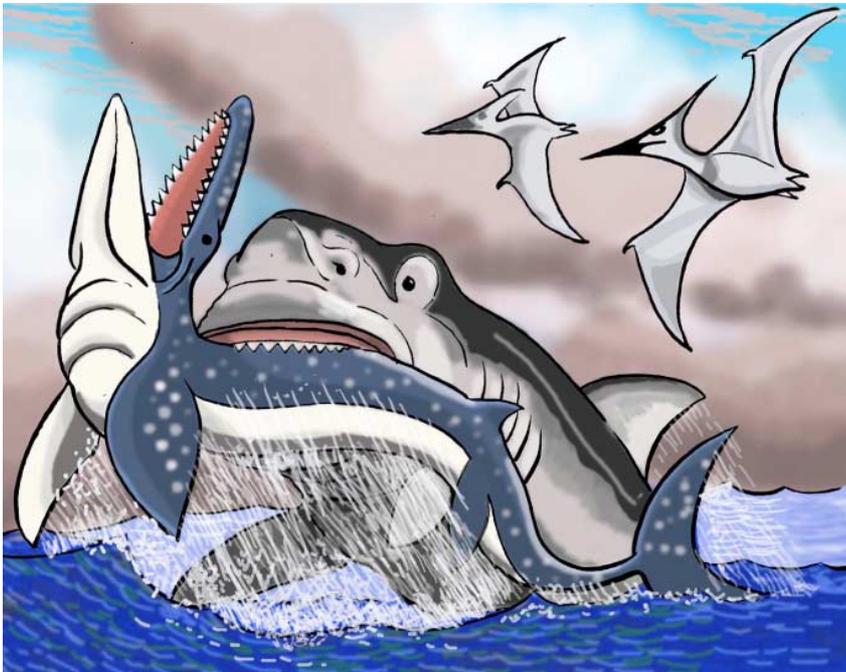
**Length:** Wingspan 60-75cm.

**Diet:** Mainly small birds.

**Call:** A shrill kew-kew-kew when alarmed.

**Egg:** Lays 4-5 in May; pale blue and spotted brown.

## Prehistoric Super-Shark

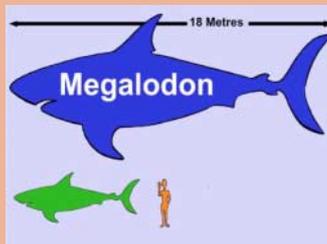


**Imagine a Great White Shark as long as a single-decker bus!**

That was the prehistoric shark *Carcharodon megalodon* - the biggest predatory fish that ever lived. *Megalodon* is thought to have lived as long as 18 million years ago and to have become extinct during the Pleistocene epoch, some 1.5 million years ago. Scientists believe that *Megalodon* became extinct due to an abrupt cooling of the Earth's climate, together with changing ocean circulation and shortage of food, which are also thought to have brought about the extinction of another large-bodied marine predator *Basilosaurus* (seen right battling with *Megalodon*) at around the same time.

"*Megalodon*" (which means 'big teeth') could grow up to 18 metres long - three times longer than today's Great White Shark (shown left in green) and weighed up to 70 metric tonnes. It is likely to have fed on prehistoric whales.

The probable size of *Megalodon* has been estimated from the size of fossil teeth at around 47 metric tonnes. Teeth from this ancient shark have been found all over the world - from Europe, North America, India and Japan in the north, to South America, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa in the south.



### Smart Sharks?

Sharks are far more than the dumb "eating machines" shown in books and films, recent studies have indicated that many shark species possess powerful problem-solving skills, similar to dolphins and whales. Indeed their brain-mass-to-body-mass ratio is similar to those of mammals and other higher vertebrate species. Whale biologist Peter Best reported as many as seven White Sharks apparently working in concert to move the carcass of a partially beached Pygmy Right Whale (*Caprea marginata*) into deeper water in 1987 at Smitswinkle Bay, South Africa to make it easier to eat. Sharks have even been known to engage in play (a trait also observed in dolphins and monkeys). Porbeagle sharks have been seen repeatedly rolling in seaweed and have even been observed chasing a playmate trailing a piece behind them.



**Captain  
Cockle's Log**

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[www.captaincockle.com](http://www.captaincockle.com)



# An Insect Hotel

If you have a garden, you have probably noticed lots of different creepy crawlies. Some are pests, such as aphids (e.g. greenfly, which suck sap from plants), but some are useful for your garden. For example, lacewing larvae and ladybirds eat aphids, while all kinds of bees and butterflies help to pollinate plants. Some of these useful critters hibernate over winter and need somewhere suitable to do so. Try and keep them in your garden by building them an "Insect Hotel"! Ask an adult to help.

## You will need:

A thick wooden box (no lid needed) drilled with holes of various sizes, to allow the insects access to different parts of the box.

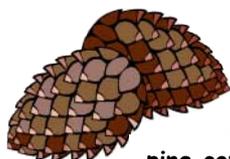
1. Put each of your materials into different compartments of your box, separating them with wooden boards if needed. Pack everything tightly so the insects stay snug.
2. Put your insect hotel somewhere sheltered from the wind and rain and off the ground. To keep out the damp, it is enough to stand it on old bricks.
3. Be happy that good garden insects can live in luxury in your "Insect Hotel" for the winter!

**MATERIALS:** *Twigs, sticks, blocks of wood, a brick with holes in, straw, corrugated cardboard, bamboo canes, dry leaves, bark and more....!*

By Jennifer Care



rolled newspapers



pine cones



logs drilled with holes



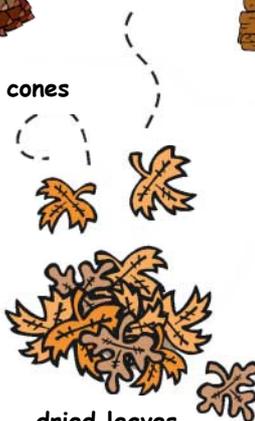
egg boxes



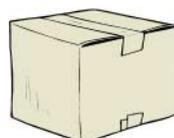
bamboo



tree bark



dried leaves



cardboard



bricks



straw



twigs

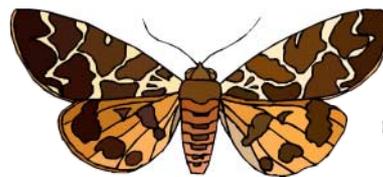
## Insect Hotel Guests!

On page 5 Jennifer Care shows us how to build an "insect hotel". These are some of the insects that might take up residence in the "hotel"...

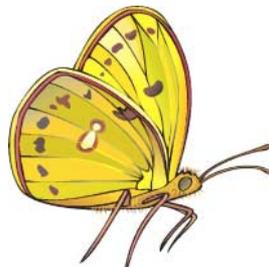


**Earwigs**

Earwigs do not like cold weather and so hide in the soil over winter to stay warm.

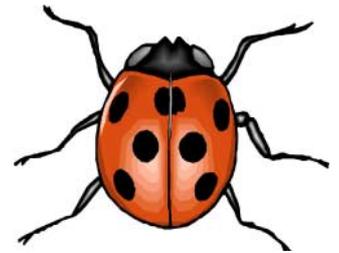


moth



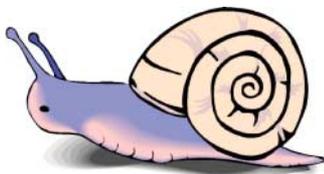
butterfly

**Butterflies & Moths**  
Most adult butterflies and moths feed on nectar, honeydew or sap.



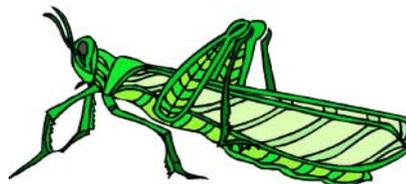
**Ladybirds**

Ladybirds are flying beetles and are very beneficial to humans because they feed on the greenfly that attack our plants.



**Garden Snails**

The garden snail spends the day resting with other snails, coming out at night to feed.



**Grasshoppers**

Grasshoppers have very long back legs to help them jump great distances.



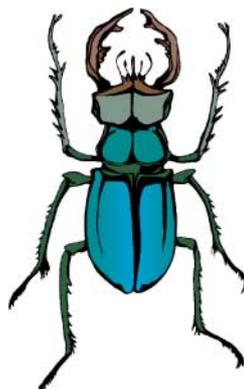
**Spiders**

The spider uses its web to trap flies and other small insects, and then eats them!



**Centipedes**

The centipede hides in dark places during the day and comes out at night to hunt prey.



**Beetles**

Beetles are the largest group of species in the animal kingdom, estimated at around 350,000 species worldwide.



**Lacewings**

Lacewings are good to have in the garden as they eat troublesome pests.

# All in a Day's Work

## Fachtna Collins – Vet

### PROFILE

Fachtna Collins is a Vet and works in the Schull, Aughadown and Bantry areas in West Cork. He works with both large and smaller animals.



### Where do you work?

I work out of two bases, one in Bantry town, with small animals and the other in the Schull/Aughadown area, mainly with larger animals.

### Have you always been interested in what you do?

I have. I grew up on a dairy farm in the mid 80s and from there I got a love of animals. If I weren't a vet I'd be a farmer.

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

When I finished my secondary education I got enough points to go into veterinary in University College Dublin. That was a five-year course and I qualified in 1996.

### What is a day in your life like?

It varies as veterinary is seasonal. The spring would be extremely busy and other times would not be so busy. Spring would be the busiest because of cows calving, sheep lambing and all the associated problems. Other periods through the year would be more organised, with routine work such as fertility work (getting cows back in calf) and TB testing (tuberculosis eradication scheme), which involves skin testing of animals. Every animal in the country must be TB tested once every year.

### What is your main aim?

My main aim is to expand the business over the next couple of years and build it up so that it would be sustainable for 2 or 3 vets. That would make the call-out rota a bit easier.

### What is the best thing about your job?

The best thing is that, to a certain degree, I am my own boss and that I am out and about in the country. I could never see myself being in an office every day.

### Do you enjoy your work?

Yes, I do. Every job has good and bad days but the majority are good.

### What equipment do you use?

Restraining equipment for cattle, hoof knacks for lameness in cows, injectable and tablet medicines for animals.

### Where does your work take you?

It would take me anywhere from Skibbereen to Mizen, Durrus and Bantry.

### Do you work alone or as part of a team?

I have a vet's assistant and part-time secretaries. There are five of us in all - we are part of a team.

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

The main thing is that they would really need to like animals. It is not like most other jobs. It is a great job but it is not a 9 to 5 job or just 5 days a week. You can't walk away in the evenings and you are always on call, which takes a bit more commitment.

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

I would definitely be involved in some form of agriculture, be it farming or an agricultural advisor.

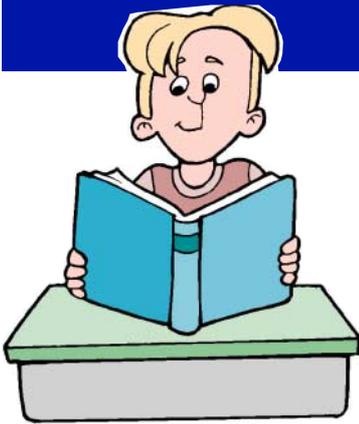
### What is the best piece of advice you have ever had?

Be nice to people and people will be nice to you.



Courtesy of Robbie Murphy

# Wordsearch



## Nature's Web Winter 2011

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



- Canary Islands
- Fachtna Collins
- Fibrous root system
- Fossil
- Inishowen
- Insect hotel
- Insect hotel guests
- Lobster
- Lough Hyne
- Megalodon
- Root
- Seafood recipe
- Sparrowhawk
- Tap root
- Trixi
- Vet
- Volcano
- Wind



ANSWERS: (Over, Down, Direction): Canary Islands (17,16,W); Fachtna Collins (15,1,S,W); Fibrous root system (1,5,E); Fossil (9,6,NE); Inishowen (2,5,SE); Insect hotel (2,12,NE); Insect hotel guests (18,1,S); Lobster (12,15,W); Lough Hyne (11,6,S); Megalodon (13,7,SW); Root (4,4,SE); Seafood recipe (14,18,N); Sparrowhawk (1,18,E); Tap root (7,8,NW); Trixi (13,11,E); Vet (3,1,SW); Volcano (1,17,N); Wind (15,10,S).

## Colour In

# Ready, Steady, Go!



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# Learn More



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

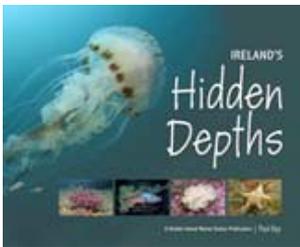
Sherkin Island Marine Station has published a range of colouring books, guides and activity books for children. Each 32-page *Colouring & Guide Book* gives you the chance to colour, identify and learn about the wildlife around Ireland. *Safety Sam's Activity Book* is filled with activities to encourage 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 Ireland. 206pp

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

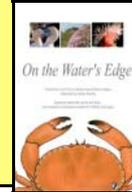


## Sea Life DVD:

### "On the Water's Edge"

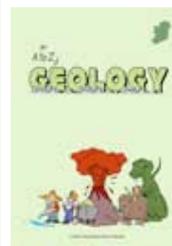
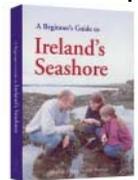
Produced by Sherkin Island Marine Station, the dvd 'On the Water's Edge', features a short film on life beside the sea.

Presented by Audrey Murphy, it includes 6-10 hours of interactive material for children of all ages. Only €6.00 plus 2.00 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.

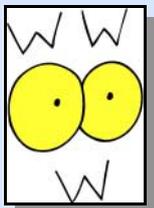
Only €8.00 inc. postage



"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](http://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:

Sparrowhawk: <http://www.birdwatchireland.ie/Default.aspx?tabid=395>  
<http://www.goldeneagle.ie/portal.php?z=152>

Super Shark: <http://www.captaincockle.com/>  
<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/sharks/glossary/Megalodon.shtml>

Insect Hotel: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/wildaboutnature/outandabout/makedo/insect\\_hotel.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/wildaboutnature/outandabout/makedo/insect_hotel.shtml)  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/bug\\_home/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/bug_home/)

Insects: <http://www.museum.ie/en/collection/irish-insects.aspx>

Vet: <http://www.ucd.ie/agandvet/veterinary%20medicine.htm> <http://www.ispca.ie/>

El Hierro, Canary Islands: <http://www.elhierro.travel/elhierro/index.php?idioma=1>

Lough Hyne: <http://www.skibberitage.com/hyne.htm>

Lobsters: <http://www.dinglenews.com/news.asp?id=4400> <http://www.dingle-oceanworld.ie/>  
<http://www.lahinchseaworld.com/aquarium/>

Inishowen Wildlife Club: <http://www.inishowenwildlifeclub.com/>

Roots: <http://library.thinkquest.org/3715/root2.html> <http://urbanext.illinois.edu/gpe/case1/c1facts2a.html>

Wind: <http://www.met.ie/climate/wind.asp> <http://www.met.ie/education/>

Fossils: <http://www.geoschol.com/>

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 strange goings on in the natural world.

## A new Canary Island?

Spain's seven Canary Islands may be about to get an eighth. The Islands were formed when volcanoes burst through the seafloor off the coast of north Africa. Volcanoes develop at "hotspots" (places where magma is close to the surface of the earth or seabed). It seems that a new "submarine volcano" has been erupting three miles off the southern coastline of El Hierro, the smallest of the Canary Islands. The volcano is just 60m below the sea surface and spewing gases and lava, which have been breaking through the sea's surface. Accompanying the eruption, more than 11,000 earthquake tremors have been detected on El Hierro. One was a magnitude 4.6, strong enough to be felt on other islands. This volcanic activity has put everyone on alert and has discouraged tourists from visiting.



A NASA satellite records the volcanic activity.

Courtesy of NASA



Courtesy of Robbie Murphy

## Lough Hyne's Unusual Visitor

The first sighting of a dolphin in an Irish salt-water lake was recently recorded at Lough Hyne, Co. Cork. The lake, which is Europe's first Marine Nature Reserve (MNR), is situated 5 km from Skibbereen in West Cork. Water from the sea enters it through 'The Rapids', a narrow tidal channel. The MNR is a unique habitat, home to a rich and varied population of rare and beautiful aquatic animals and plants, many of which are not found elsewhere in Ireland. The sighting of the dolphin was made by Jim Kennedy, a Skibbereen-based kayaking instructor, who filmed the dolphin over several days. Pdraig Whooley of the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group believes it is the first verified record of a cetacean using an Irish lake.

## Lobsters with a Difference!



Two interesting stories about lobsters have been reported in recent months. In Youghal, fisherman Kevin Murphy netted a giant lobster, weighing 5.4kg and over 76.2cm long. The average lobster usually weighs 0.9kg and is about 30cm long.

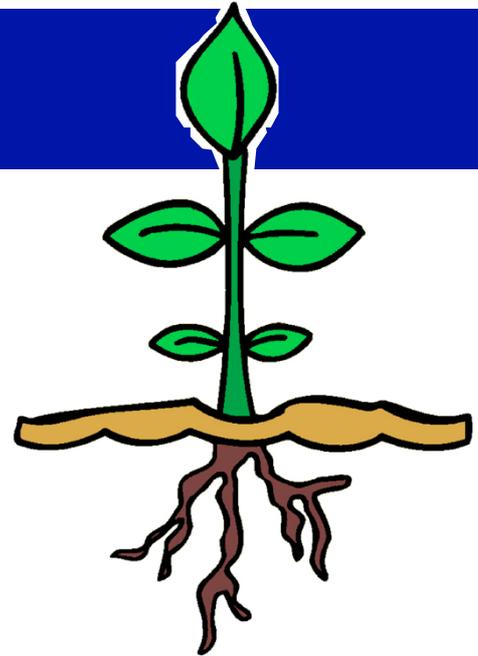
Jimmy, as the lobster became known, was thought to be between 50 and 80 years old, based on its size. Rather than ending up on a dinner plate, Kevin found a new home for Jimmy at Seaworld in Lahinch, Co. Clare. Meanwhile, at Dingle Oceanworld, Dingle, Co. Kerry, fisherman Eddie Moore found out that his rare white lobster, caught while fishing near the Blasket Islands, was a genetic variety of the common lobster, which as you know, are usually dark navy blue.

## A Treat for Club Members

The Inishowen Wildlife Club is a group of people interested in the flora and fauna of the Inishowen Peninsula in Co. Donegal. They often assist in surveys and species counts for national organisations. On one of their outings at the end of November, they came across a troop of Red Squirrels that were rushing to and fro, collecting nuts and other food from feeders hanging along the Nature Trail in Lisnagrath Wood. The squirrels, along with a large flock of Coal Tits, were not perturbed by their audience and went on busily collecting food for their winter stores. To find out more about the clubs activities, check out: [www.inishowenwildlifeclub.com/viewsandnews.htm](http://www.inishowenwildlifeclub.com/viewsandnews.htm)



# Roots

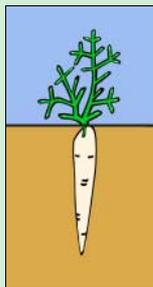


**R**oots absorb water and the raw materials from the soil that the plant needs for making food. Nearly all land plants have root hairs. These fine hairs absorb water and dissolved mineral salts from the soil to help the plant grow. Roots, as well as storing food, also anchor the plant in the ground. Not all roots grow in the ground however. Some grow on walls or other plants, such as ivy growing on a tree.

## THE MAIN TYPES OF ROOT

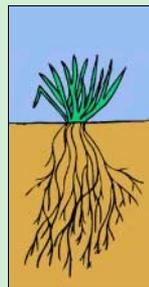
### Tap root

Some plants have one main root known as the tap root. Many smaller branch roots may grow from the tap root.



### Fibrous root system

Other plants have no main root but many roots of roughly the same size. This is known as a fibrous root system.



## Root Vegetables

Some tap roots are fleshy and can be eaten by humans. Examples of tap roots that we eat are carrots, turnips, parsnips, beetroots and radishes. Known as root vegetables, they are filled with lots of nutrients as they are giant stores of food for the plant.

## Unusual Roots

Mangrove swamps are found in tropical and sub-tropical places. Mangrove trees grow in salty coastal waters, in areas rich in sediment. This photograph below of a red mangrove tree, shows its unusual roots. The tree props itself above the water level with stilt roots, where it can absorb air through pores in its bark.



Ta Prohm Temple, in Cambodia, is an amazing sight. Roots of the Bayan tree have grown and wound themselves around the walls and towers of the temple.



## What else has roots?

It is not only plants and trees that have roots. Hair, teeth and nails also have them and they have similar functions to plant roots. The roots in a tooth, help to anchor it in the mouth. Hair and nail roots, as well as acting as anchors, provide important cells to help the hair and nails to growing.



# Fun Page

## How much did you learn?

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

- Who discovered that the jet stream existed?
- When did the animal, featured on the Dot-to-Dot page, become extinct?
- How heavy was the lobster that Kevin Murphy caught in Youghal?
- Which one of these would you NOT use when making an insect hotel: straw, plastic bags, egg boxes, twigs?
- What was Michael Barry's dog called?
- The Canary Islands are off the coast of Australia. True or false?
- Fachtna Collins grew up on which type of farm?
- From which direction do the prevailing winds come from in Ireland?
- What colour are the sparrowhawk's eggs?
- A ladybird is a beetle. True or false?
- What are the two main types of root?
- The prehistoric super-shark is called a "Megalodon". What does it mean?
- How many Marine Nature Reserves existed in Europe before Lough Hyne?
- In which county in Ireland are the Inishowen Wildlife Club based?
- What is the best advice Fachtna Collins ever got?

Answers: (1) World War II Fighter Pilots. (2) At the end of the last Ice Age. (3) 5.4kg. (4) Plastic bags. (5) Trixi. (6) False. They are off the north African coast. (7) A dairy farm. (8) Southwest. (9) Pale blue & spotted brown. (10) True. (11) Tap root and fibrous root system. (12) "Big teeth". (13) None. It was the first. (14) Donegal. (15) Be nice to people and people will be nice to you.

## Think of a Title!

Have fun with your friends making up a title for this picture of a female Wild Turkey.



Courtesy of Elaine R. Wilson www.naturespageonline.com

## Nature Jokes



What birds spend all their time on their knees?

Birds of prey.

How can you drop an egg six feet without breaking it?

By dropping it seven feet – it won't break for the first six.



What do you get if you cross an apple with a Christmas tree?

A pineapple!

What happens when it rains cats and dogs?

You can step in a poodle!



Why did the man cut a hole in his new umbrella?

So he could tell when it stopped raining!

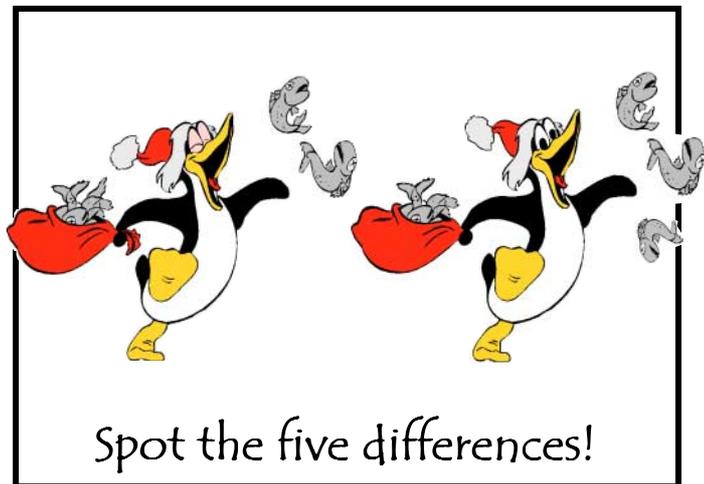
Where do snowmen go to dance?

A snowball!



What has two humps and is found at the North Pole?

A lost camel!



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# Wind



## What is the wind?

Wind is moving air.



## How is wind formed?

The heat from the sun produces pressure differences in the atmosphere, which causes air to move as wind. Warm air is lighter than cold air.

## Can we see the wind?

It is not possible to see the wind but we can see its effect on things around us. For example, when it blows leaves up off the ground. We can also hear the wind, particularly when it is very windy. Wind is a force. If you walk against a strong wind you can feel a force.



## What is wind chill?

Wind chill is the cooling effect of wind on skin. If the wind is strong, it causes heat loss on the skin and a person or animal feels cold.

## What is a windmill?

Windmills were once used to grind wheat to make flour. Today they are used to generate electricity.



## Where is the windiest place in the world?

The windiest place in the world is the George V Coast in Antarctica, where winds of 320 km/hr have been recorded.

## What are the prevailing winds in Ireland?

The prevailing wind in Ireland comes from the southwest. Wind in Ireland is most likely to come from this direction.

## What instruments do we use to measure wind?

A basic anemometer measures wind speed using rotating cups. A weather vane is used to indicate the wind direction. They are often seen on the steeples of churches.



## Measuring Wind

Wind is usually measured in kilometres per hour, in knots (1 knot = 1 nautical mile per hour) and with the Beaufort scale - a scale devised by Sir Francis Beaufort (see page 15 of the Autumn 2006 issue of *Nature's Web*).



## Different types of wind

### Trade Winds

The trade winds are steady winds flowing towards the equator. In the 18th century, sailing ships used them as guides for crossing the Atlantic Ocean.



### Jet Streams

Jet streams are very strong winds blowing about 10 km above the earth. They can be up to 4,000 km long but no more than 500 km wide. They were not discovered until World War II when fighter pilots found that their air speed reduced when they flew against the jet stream.



### Sea Breezes

On a hot, sunny day the temperature of the sea hardly changes but the land heats up quickly. The warm air over the land rises and cool sea air moves in to replace it. This movement of air forms light winds called sea breezes. At night, the opposite occurs and land breezes are created.



The information on this page is from Met Éireann's Primary School Resources page on [www.met.ie/education](http://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.

## DOT-TO-DOT

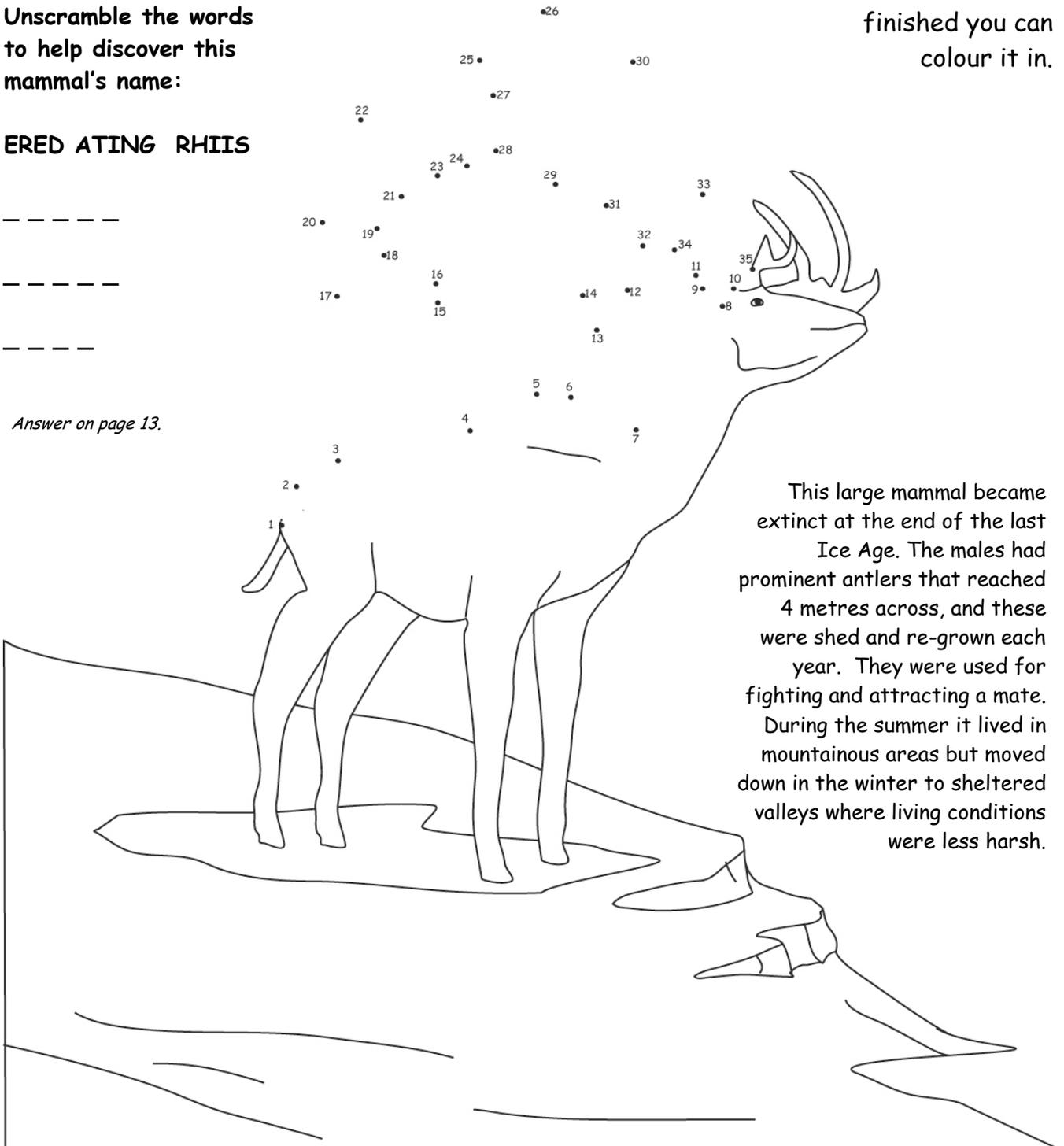
Unscramble the words to help discover this mammal's name:

ERED ATING RHIIS

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Answer on page 13.

Finish the drawing and identify the famous Irish fossil mammal. When it's finished you can colour it in.



This large mammal became extinct at the end of the last Ice Age. The males had prominent antlers that reached 4 metres across, and these were shed and re-grown each year. They were used for fighting and attracting a mate. During the summer it lived in mountainous areas but moved down in the winter to sheltered valleys where living conditions were less harsh.

# Nature's Noticeboard!

## Winter 2011



Local charities are always looking for old clothes. If you can't pass them on to someone, put them to good use rather than in the bin.

Check out our native trees on [www.treecouncil.ie](http://www.treecouncil.ie) and try to find one near you.

Make a special notebook by covering it in paper. Cut pictures and words out of old magazines and glue them to the cover to make a beautiful gift.

Make paper shopping bags into gift bags. They can be decorated with bows or ribbons. Glue small pieces of old wrapping paper over the name of the shop.

Use clothes pegs to reseal bags of snacks, cereals and other items. It will help keep food fresh longer and stop the contents spilling.

Do you know where your house water comes from? Try to find out the journey it takes to get to your house. Is there anything you can do to cut down on the amount of water you use?

Instead of buying biodegradable plant pots, cut kitchen paper rolls and toilet rolls in half. Pack them onto a tray so they won't tip over and then fill with compost. When the seedlings are big enough, the whole pot can be planted in the ground.

Sherkin Island Marine Station would like to thank *Pharmaceutical Ireland* for their support in making this newsletter possible. We would like to thank those who have contributed to this newsletter especially Michael Barry, Jennifer Care, Fachtna Collins, John Joyce, Michael Ludwig, Robbie Murphy and Jez Wickens.

Visit the Sherkin Island Marine Station website at [www.sherkinmarine.ie](http://www.sherkinmarine.ie)



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