Written submission of oral representation made by Alan Collett on Tuesday 18th May 2021 at the Open Floor Hearing.

My name is Alan Collett and thank you for permitting me to express my views on why the Sizewell C DCO should be rejected.

I had prepared a script to read this evening and I will submit it as part of my written representation but so much of what I wanted to say has been said. However I am delighted to say that in a significant speech today by the Environment Minister George Eustice he has today fully endorsed everything I was going to say. So now the decision to reject Sizewell C must surely be written on the wall.

Let me quote the Environment Secretary from his speech which quite understandably given today's marathon hearing, you may not have had time to read.

I quote – I think the events of the last twelve months have led people to appreciate the difference that nature makes to our lives more than ever before. There is an increased awareness of the link between our own health, and economic prosperity, and that of the planet— as highlighted by the recent Dasgupta Review on the economics of biodiversity. This is the report which I asked you to consider as part of my Principle Issues representation so I assume you did.

Mr Eustice continued his speech by saying: And restoring nature is going to be crucial as we build back greener from the pandemic. Nature is going to be key pillar of our work as host of the UN Climate Change Conference. To meet that target we must protect and restore nature, with nature-based solutions forming a key part of our approach to tackling climate change.

The UK is sadly one of the most nature depleted countries in the world. Over the last 50 years, much of the UK's wildliferich habitat has been lost or degraded, and many of our once common species are in long-term decline. Between 1932 and 1984, we lost 97% of our species-rich grassland. Five species of butterfly have disappeared from England in the last 150 years. And our farmland bird indicator stands at less than half its value of 1970 – following a precipitous decline during the 1980s and 1990s, and further losses since.

We want not only to stem the tide of this loss, but to turn it around and leave the environment in a better state than we found it. I want us to put a renewed emphasis on nature's recovery.

Against this undertaking how on earth can we now proceed to destroy our very own local rainforest, our AONB, our SSSIs and risk destroying Minsmere?

I first visited Minsmere some 55 years ago and have been captivated by wildlife ever since. Fuelled by my concerns for Minsmere, my wife and I have produced a wildlife book called 'M is for Minsmere' to highlight what might be lost if the Rspb's fear becomes a reality. I will be sending this to you as part of my written submission (see attached) and I ask you to read this book with your family, friends, children and grandchildren and ask them whether they would be happy for you to make a decision which has the potential to destroy the homes of these animals, birds and insects as well as 6000 other species of flora and fauna.

Many people will read the claims made by EDF in their latest community newsletter, and I quote, EDF is confident its 'plans will (and I stress the word EDF uses is 'will') not have an impact on Minsmere'. How can they claim that level of confidence when the RSPB say it will be catastrophic for wildlife.

So who's right? Those who have worked for 75 years to preserve this special place for wildlife or EDF whose primary interest is to showcase their nuclear technology prowess and achieve financial gain.

So, I trust the Inspectors' decision will endorse the government's new aims and indeed follow the relevant and

important precedent set by the rejection of the application last year to build a nuclear power station at Wylfa on Angelsey for amongst other reasons the risk of environmental damage. Given the similarities between that scheme and Sizewell, both in terms of location, wildlife habitat sensitivities and project content, I see no reason for you to arrive at any different conclusion and I urge you to reject this application.

This is the end of the representation I made at the Open floor hearing on Tuesday 18th May but at the end of the hearing I answered a question which had been asked relating to the age of Coronation Wood. This wood was planted in 1911 at the coronation of Queen Mary and at the time the Dry Fuel Store was built for Sizewell B it was stipulated that the wood should be maintained as a visual barrier as part of that permission. This wood has now been felled having been granted permission by East Suffolk Council and this raises the concerns that mitigation agreed now in connection with Sizewell C may not be maintained during the lifetime of the new powerstation.

Post OFH Written Submission

This is the text of what I was going to originally say in my Open Floor Hearing oral submission but deferred to this written submission in view of the speech made by the Environmental Minister that morning.

May I start by reading from a government website because this is the background against which your decision has to be made.

An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is land protected by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. It protects the land to conserve and enhance its natural beauty. It is nationally designate important landscape cared for by a team and the thousands of people who live in, work in and visit it.

EN-1 states "Where a proposed development on land within or outside an SSSI is likely to have an adverse effect on an SSSI (either individually or in combination with other developments), development consent should not normally be granted. Where an adverse effect, after mitigation, on the site's notified special interest features is likely, an exception should only be made where the benefits (including need) of the development at this site, clearly outweigh both the impacts that it is likely to have on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest and any broader impacts on the national network of SSSIs."

More specifically, the relevant AONB website, which it should be noted is called landscapesforlife.org, states 'The Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB was designated in 1970 with the purpose of conserving and enhancing the habitats and biodiversity of the special heath land, woodlands, estuaries and coast'.

So if this is the designation and legal protection given to the land upon which EDF wish to build Sizewell C, why are we even contemplating such a scheme and are we now, having shamefully allowed the building Sizewell B in 1995, going to breach this commitment once again?

According to EDF's community newletter, EDF claim and I quote, "Sizewell C can deliver for East Suffolk and for Britain on several fronts at the same time - by lowering carbon emissions and fighting climate change, tackling the biodiversity crisis and helping to kick start the green recovery following the pandemic".

So do tell me, how do EDF intend to achieve all this <u>at the same time</u> particularly the lowering of carbon emissions when during the 12 years of construction an estimated 6.2 million tonnes of CO2 will be produced? I can't see that information in their Community Newsletter. Kwasi Kwatang the Business and Energy Secretary is quoted as saying 'EDF needs to bring as many people as possible with them' but if this is how they are doing it, then this newsletter is a gross misrepresentation of the reality and risks and shows a complete disregard for the concerns of local people.

Our prime minister recently said - "Britain's iconic landscapes are part of the fabric of our national identity – sustaining our communities, driving local economies and inspiring people across the ages. That's why with the natural world under threat, it's more important than ever that we act now to enhance our natural environment and protect our precious wildlife and biodiversity". And even today it is in the news that the government is to announce action to halt the decline of nature and wildlife.

I would also draw the Examining Authority's attention to the Government commissioned report called The Dasgupta Review – the economics of biodiversity and the United Nations report called Making peace with Nature which which were issued last year and which clearly state that we have been at war with nature (the UN's words not mine I might add) and that putting convenient business decisions ahead of preserving nature has to stop in order to preserve the future of our planet.

When related to the business decision behind Sizewell C, these reports raise the question as to whether during the construction of Sizewell, the true cost of using earth's natural resources and the resultant cost to nature have been correctly assessed and factored into the decision on the application before us?

So what do I mean by this? Some examples:-

- 1. Is the cost to nature of using of the atmosphere as a carbon sink for the CO2 generated during construction being factored in?
- 2. Is compensation being paid to those whose day to day air quality will be materially adversely affected?
- 3. Is the impact on nature for using the sea for cooling and thereafter as a store for the chemicals washed into it being correctly priced in?
- 4. Has the cost to nature of killing millions of fish and sea creatures during the life of the plant been correctly accounted for as Dasgupta is recommending?
- 5. Is the damage caused to wildlife and wildlife habitats explicitly assessed and compensated for?
- 6. Indeed is the damage caused to the environment of mining the uranium in a far off country to fuel the powerstation being openly assessed.

Dasgupta and the United Nations are stressing that where damage to Nature cannot be realistically avoided in full, then a proper price has to be paid.

Furthermore we cannot ignore the huge advances being made into producing low carbon energy from other nonnuclear sources at a significantly lower cost and which are rapidly making nuclear powerstations obsolete.

All these factors further support the precedent set in the rejection of the Wylfa scheme, where the key reason was the impact it would have on the environment and on the nation's network of SSSIs.

In the concluding section, the Authority's report on Wylfa stated that:

- the benefits relevant to biological diversity did not outweigh the disadvantages.
- terrestrial ecology and biodiversity are matters which should weigh substantially against the Order being made.

And - having regard to all the matters... the conclusion is that on balance the matters weighing against the proposed development outweigh the matters weighing in favour of it. The Authority therefore finds the case for development is not made and it recommends accordingly.

If that was the conclusion in that case, I can see no justification for reaching a different conclusion here and once again I urge the Examining Authority to reject the application relating to Sizewell C.

Finally I would add that I fully endorse the written representations made by Stop Sizewell C, Together against Sizewell C, the RSPB, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Aldeburgh Town Council and the Aldeburgh Society.

M is for Minsmere

An ABC of the wildlife we treasure and what we are in danger of losing





A book for nature lovers aged 2 to 102

Alan Collett

Authors' note

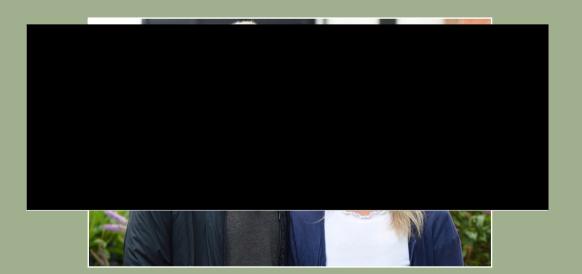
Living on East Suffolk's Heritage Coast, our home is surrounded by some stunning landscape which supports a wealth of wildlife. Nowhere is this more evident than at the Minsmere nature reserve.

Only now is the importance of our rural environment really being acknowledged, not just as a sanctuary for wildlife, but also as a place to sustain our own health and wellbeing. The recent global pandemic and David Attenborough's 'Planet' programmes have opened our eyes to the real value of nature and the need to preserve our world's biodiversity.

This book shows some of the species that have made Minsmere their home and what we could lose as a result of climate change, rising sea levels and the industrialisation of our Heritage Coast.

We urge you to support the RSPB and Suffolk Wildlife Trust to ensure that Minsmere and Sizewell Marshes are kept alive with wildlife for future generations to enjoy by going to...

loveminsmere.org



Book & illustrations © Alan Collett 2021

Alan & Christine Collett

To order a free digital copy of any of the illustrations in this book visit aldeburghsamazingswifts.co.uk and select 'Prints' from the menu.

Mis for Minsmere

"Look around...
and read Great Nature's book"



Minsmere & Sizewell Marshes





Originally owned by the Ogilvie family, Minsmere nature reserve is managed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

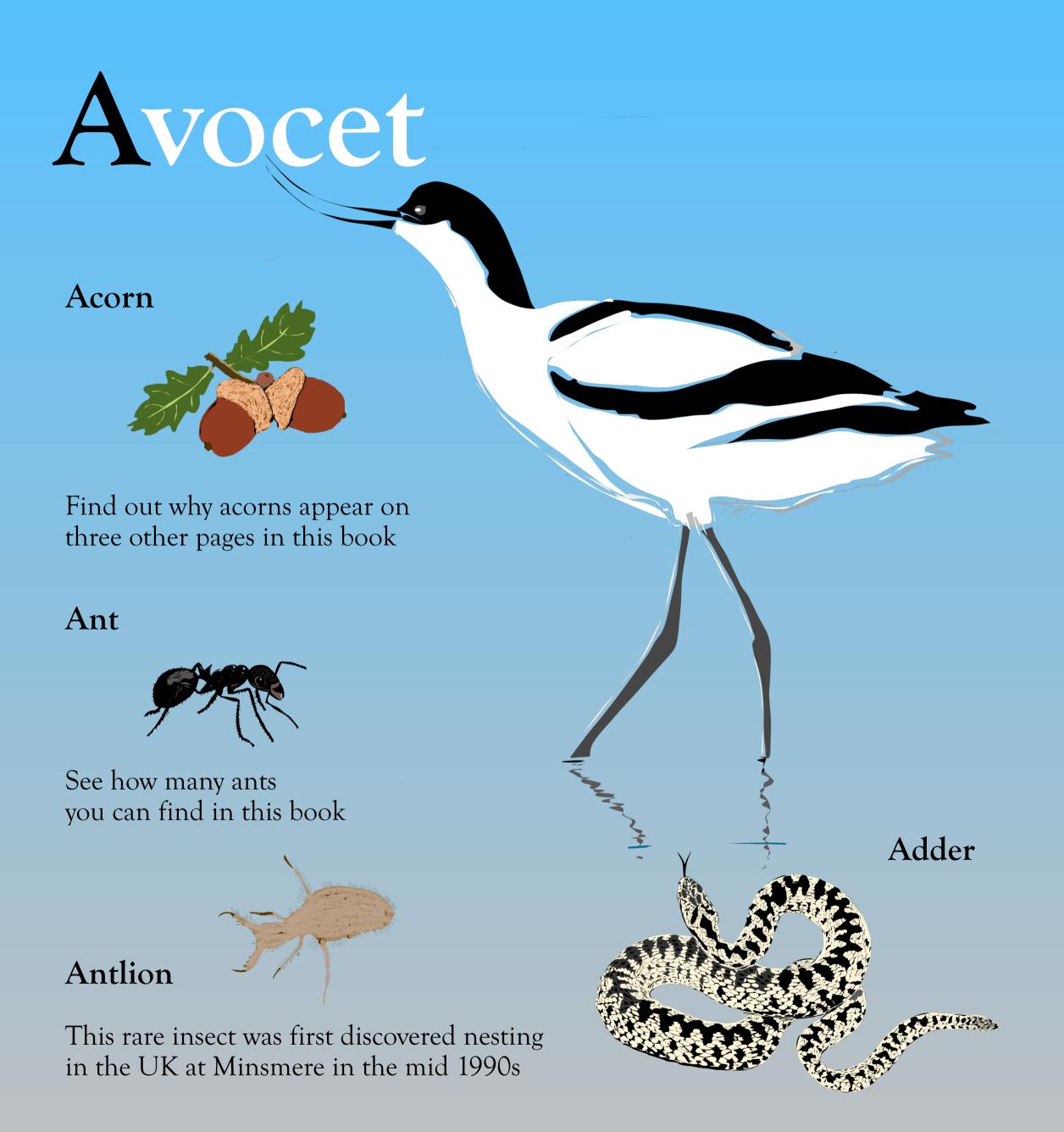
Soon after World War II it was decided to leave the marshes undrained as their ornithological value became appreciated.

Before the reserve was acquired in 1947, Avocets were discovered breeding and they have now become the emblem of the RSPB.

Bert Axell was appointed Warden in 1959 and under his pioneering management many new areas were created and others preserved to enable the wildlife to flourish.

Minsmere, with its precious wetlands, woodland & sandy heathland is a nature reserve of international importance and provides an extensive variety of habitats for over 6,000 species.

Sizewell Marshes, managed by Suffolk Wildlife Trust is one of the best wetlands in East Anglia for wildflowers. It is also a stronghold for otter, water vole and kingfisher and barn owl can often be seen.



Badger



Butterfly





Blue Tit



Badgers

Badgers live in underground burrows known as setts which they dig with their long, sharp claws. They are very tidy animals and regularly clean out their homes they don't even take food inside. Badgers have a varied diet including earthworms, plant bulbs, fruit and birds' eggs.

Bittern

The Bittern is one of Minsmere's iconic inhabitants. This secretive bird, which belongs to the Heron family, is very difficult to see as it skulks amongst the reedbeds but sometimes its characteristic 'boom' can be heard out over the marsh.



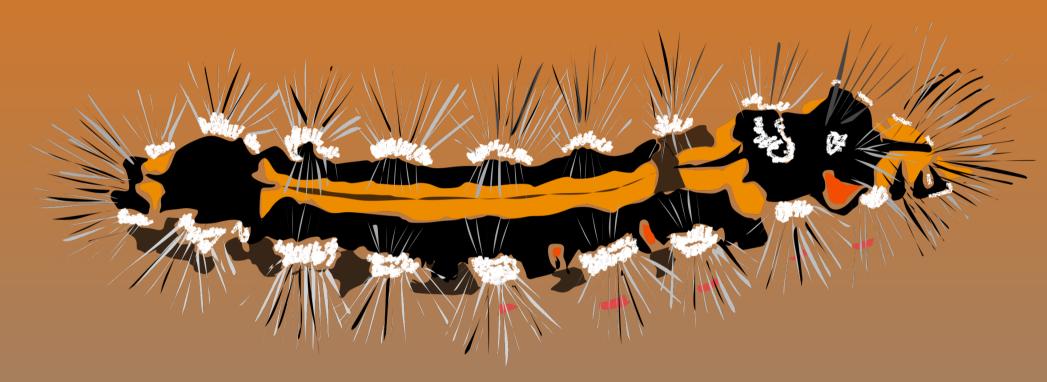


Bat



Stag Beetle

Caterpillar



Find out what this caterpillar finally turns into on page 'Y'





This one will evolve into a Cinnabar Moth

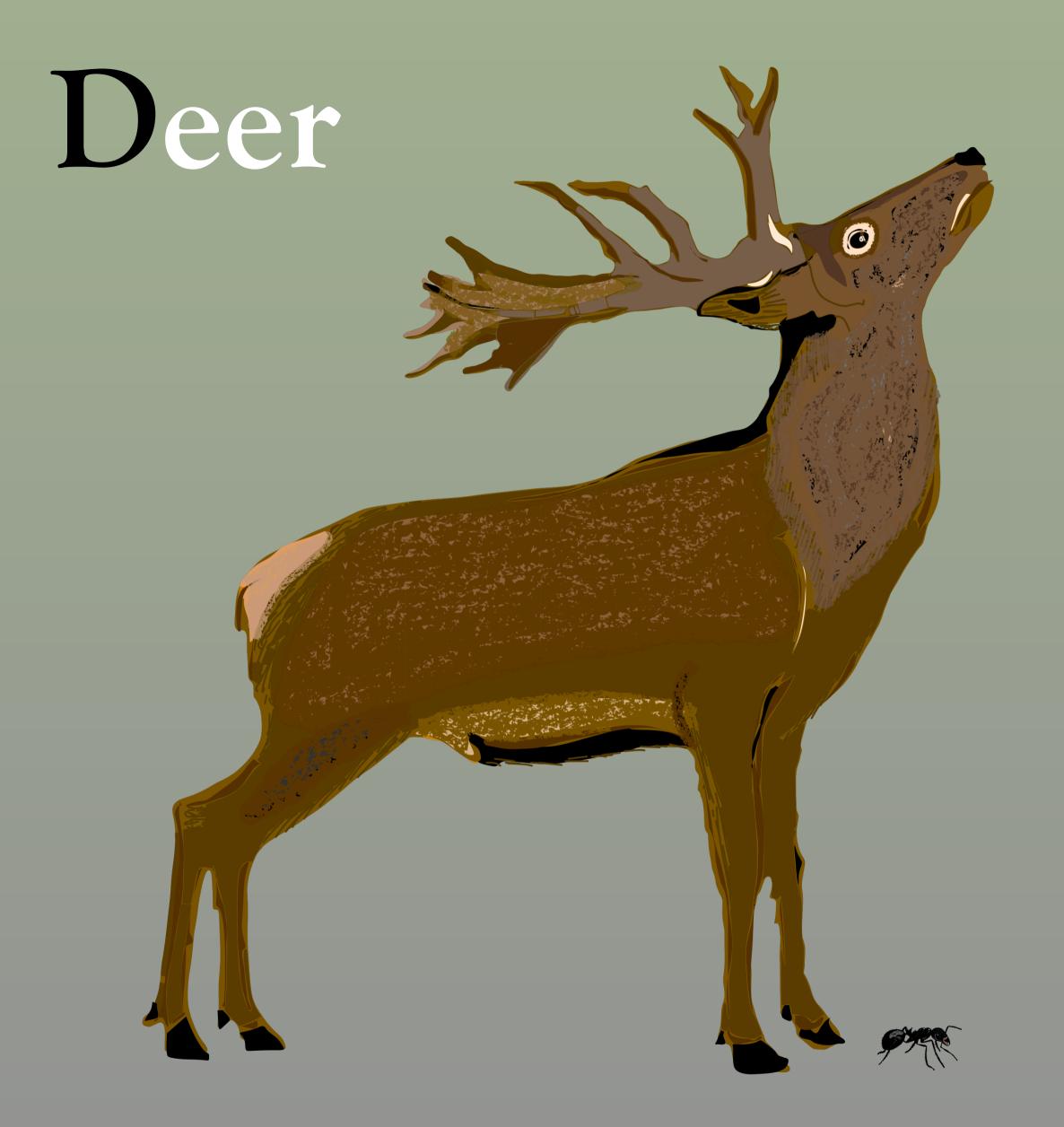
Caterpillars

The only thing that Caterpillars seem to do is eat, eat, eat before they turn into either Butterflies or Moths.

But during its amazing life cycle, this particular Caterpillar will not be able to stay on the 'C' page as it will evolve into a Pupa (chrysalis), so will have to move to the 'P' page.

And even then, it won't be able to stay there for long before it has to move to the 'M' page as it will turn into a Moth as the final part of its incredible show. To find out what type of Moth this particular caterpillar turns into go to the 'Y' page.

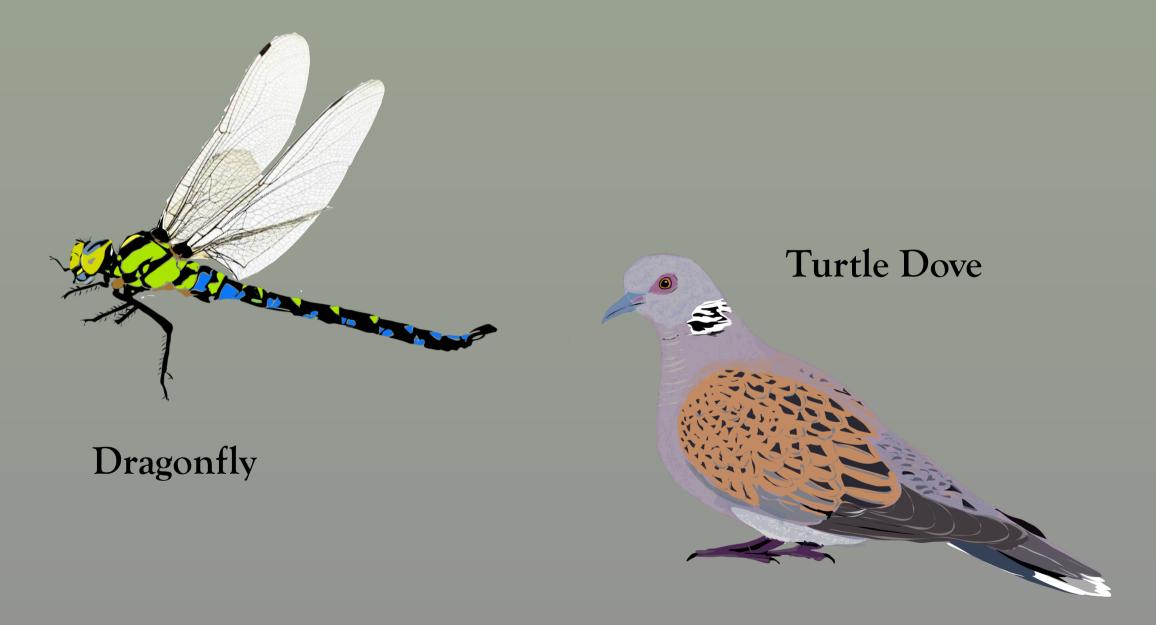




Deer

Red deer are one of Britain's largest land animals and can live for up to eighteen years. The males, called stags, grow antlers which are shed during the spring. They are herbivores and eat a range of plants including tree shoots, sedges and shrubs.

The mating season, known as the rut, occurs from the end of September to November when males can be heard roaring and fighting to attract the females (hinds).



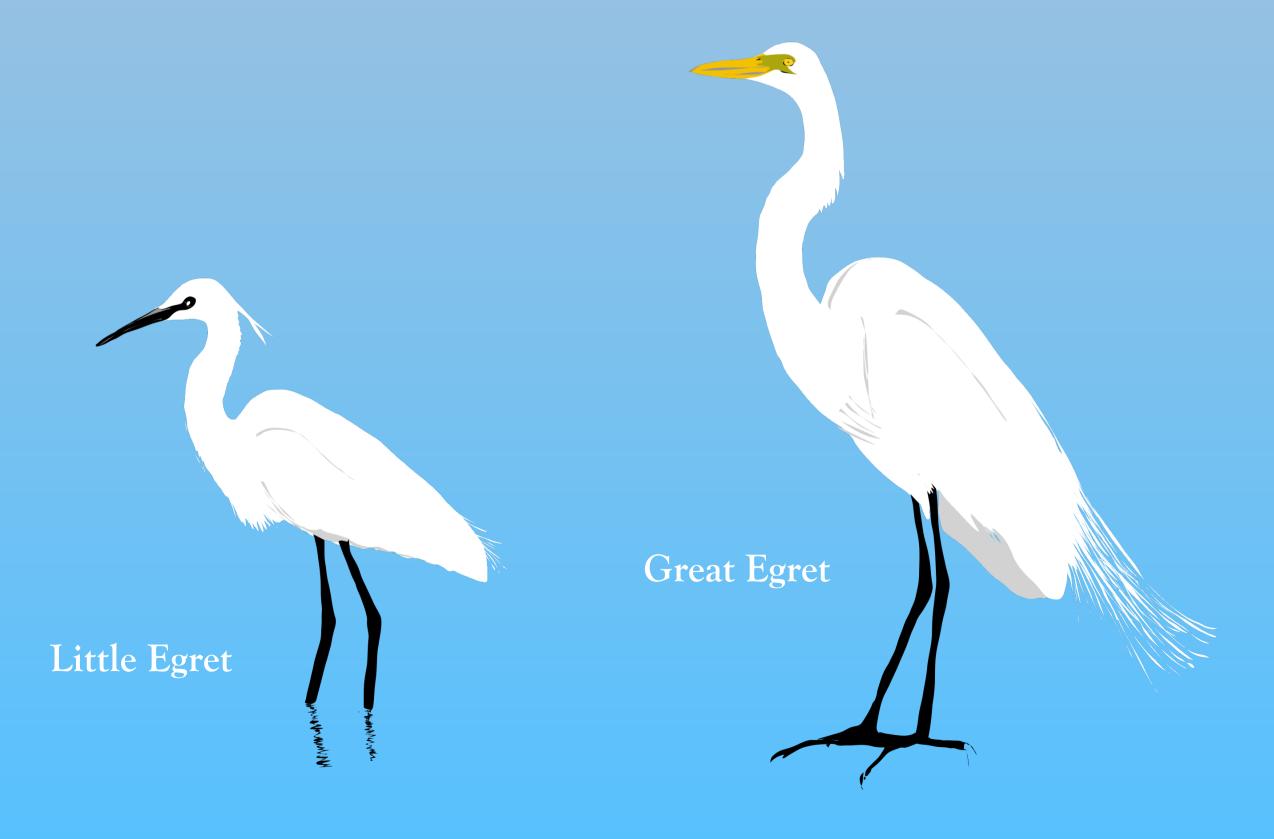
Eel



Eels

Eels are fish not snakes and they can grow to over a metre long. They can be found in freshwater rivers across the British Isles and some will migrate over 5,000km to an area of the west Atlantic Ocean, called the Sargasso Sea in order to breed.

Eels are eaten by Egrets who eat all sorts of fish, insects & frogs.



Fox



Foxes

Foxes are members of the dog family - females are called 'vixen'. They eat berries, worms, mice, birds and frogs and increasingly foxes have become urban dwellers scavenging rubbish that people leave out at night. They can move their ears independently and rotate them through 160° to listen out for prey and danger.

For many years foxes have been persecuted both for their beautiful fur and for 'sport'. Fox hunting with a pack of dogs has now been banned in England.







Great Black-backed Gull

Great Black-backed Gulls

These gulls are the largest in the world. They have pink legs which distinguish them from Lesser Black-backed Gulls, whose legs are yellow.

They are widespread across the British Isles, nesting around the coast on islands and clifftops and will fly far offshore in search of food in winter.

Gulls stamp their feet repeatedly on the grass to simulate falling rain which encourages worms to come to the surface.

But guard your fish 'n chips well as gulls are prone to stealing food!

Greta Thunberg

Swedish school girl, climate activist and Time Magazine 'Person of the Year' for 2019

A rare species you may not see at Minsmere but one that would care passionately about its future.

SKOLSTRAJK FÖR KLIMATET



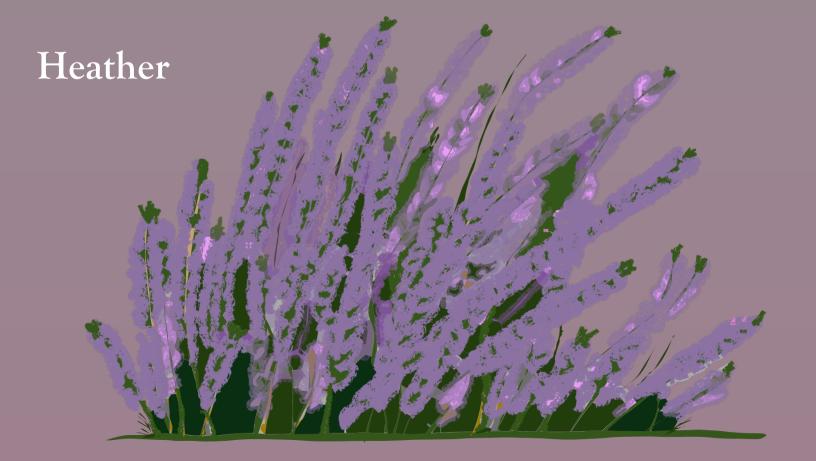
Herons

Herons are one of the most majestic of wading birds and are often seen patiently waiting for prey to pass by before they spear the unsuspecting meal with lightning speed.

Herons are social birds who usually nest in long established heronries high up in trees, a location which they don't appear well suited to.

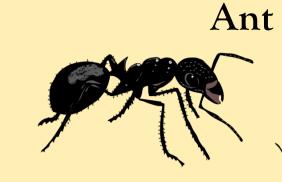
The trouble is that they are sometimes a bit too sociable and will happily take a fish from your garden pond if it's left uncovered.







Insects





Butterfly



Grasshopper

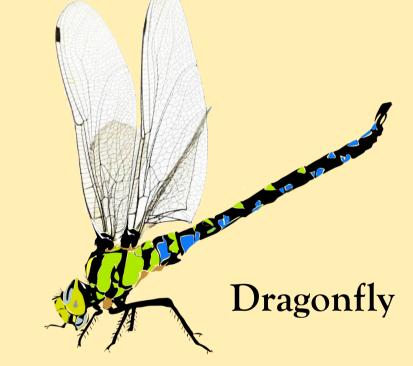


Ladybird



Moth



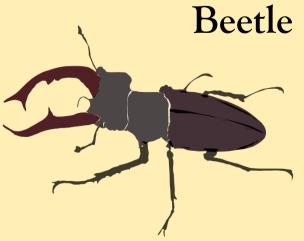


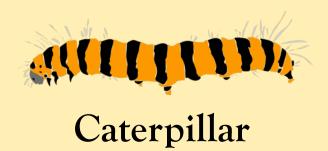


Glow Worm









Insects and Pesticides

Insects are a very important food source for many birds and animals.

Insects also pollinate flowers on plants and trees so that seeds and fruits are produced, which in turn provide food for birds, animals and people.

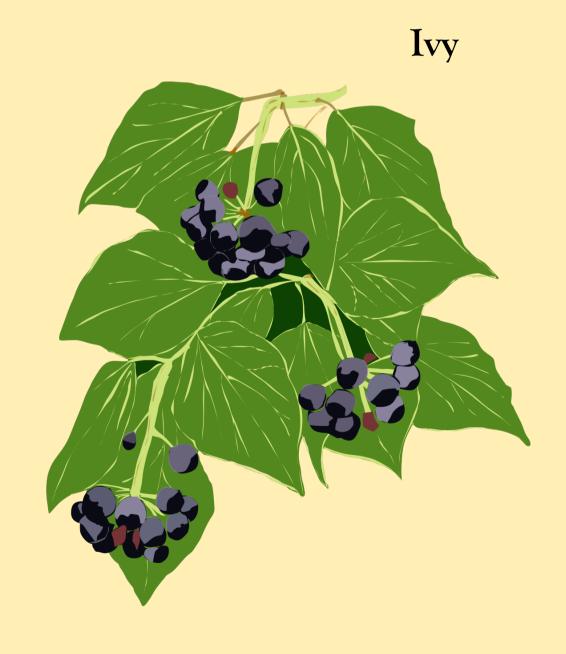
But in order to stop insects eating the fruit, crops are often sprayed with pesticides which kill the insects.

No insects, no pollination, no food for birds and animals.

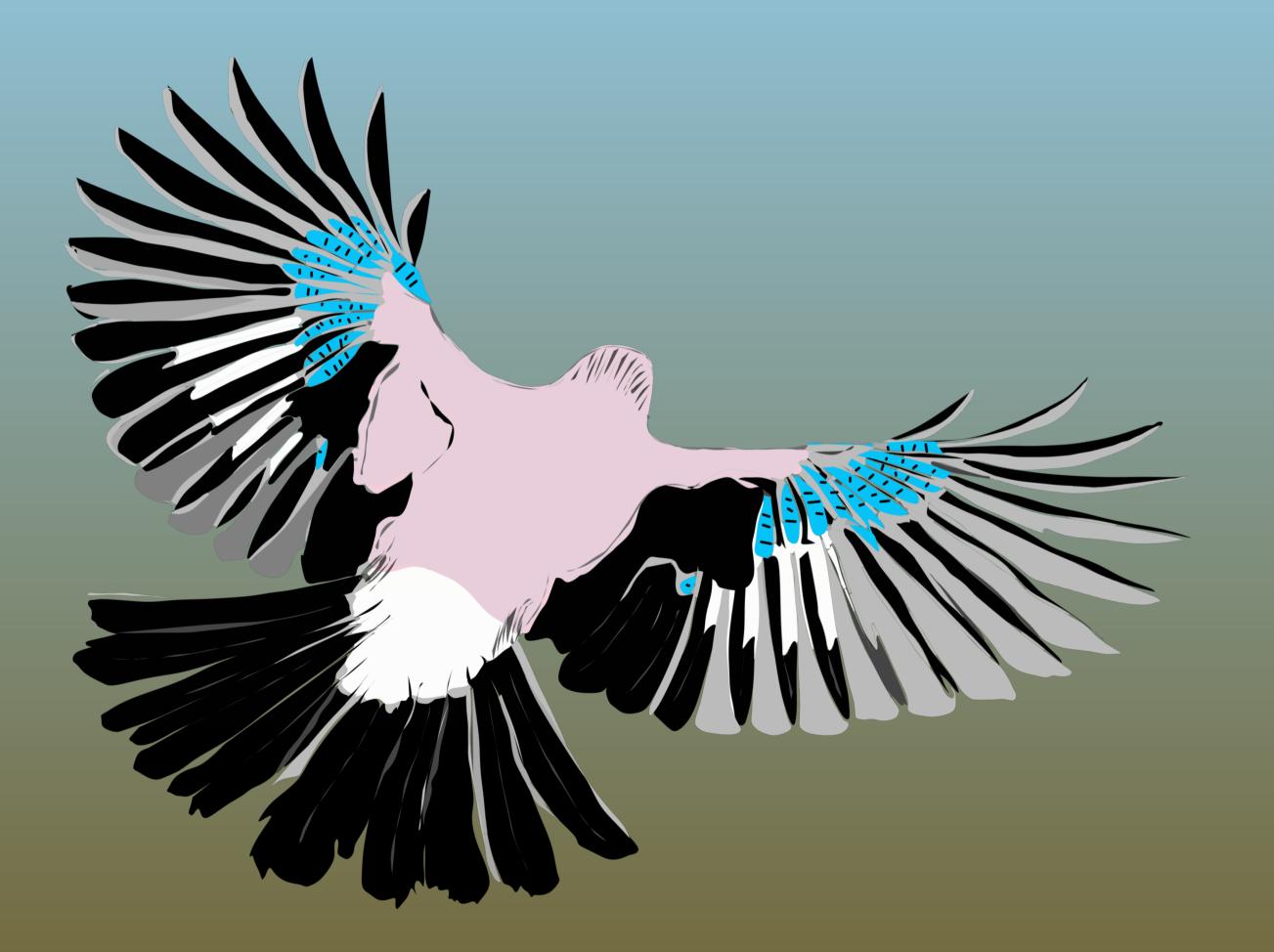
Because of the decline in insect numbers, our wildlife is going hungry and in the long-term we humans will suffer too from a reduction in the pollination of our flowers and crops.

Ivy

Animals and birds love berries. By weight, there are as many calories in ivy berries as in a bar of chocolate - so don't cut your ivy down in the winter, leave it for the birds to enjoy.



Jay





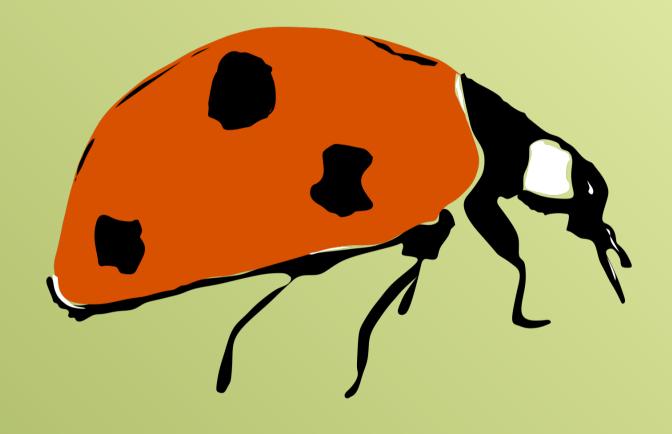
Have you spotted the Green Woodpecker in the Oak tree?

Here are the acorns again.

Jays eat them and, being master planners, hide them to eat later during the cold winter months



Ladybird







Ladybirds

There are thought to be 47 different types of ladybird in the UK. The most common is the Seven Spot Ladybird which is red with black spots but other varieties can be yellow, orange or brown. Their wings are transparent and lie just below the hard exterior casing.

Ladybirds eat aphids (e.g. green fly) so are a good friend of gardeners and help avoid the use of insecticide sprays. They hibernate in holes from October to February.

Many of our ladybirds are under threat from the invasive Harlequin Ladybird which unfortunately kills our native species.

Common Lizard









Marsh Harrier



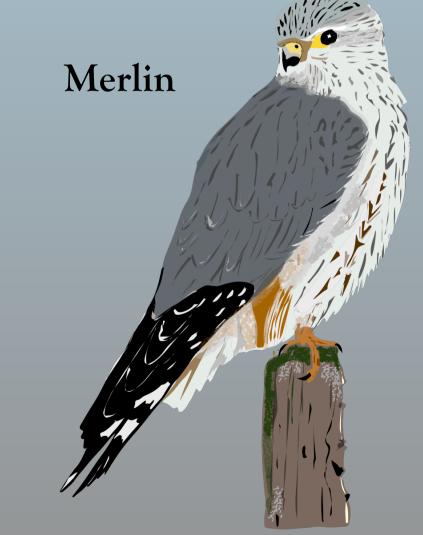
Marsh Harriers

Marsh Harriers are another of Minsmere's iconic birds and the reserve offers the perfect reed-bed habitat for these majestic birds of prey to hunt for food.

This species is still as rare as the Golden Eagle in the UK and by the early 1970s two decades of habitat loss, persecution and the impact of DDT pesticide had reduced the entire British population to a single pair, which bred at Minsmere.

Water levels within the reserve are critical and any change resulting from rising sea levels or local industrialisation would have a detrimental impact on the Marsh Harriers' habitat and undo many years of conservation work.





Mole

Nightingale



Nightingales

Nightingales are secretive birds that are well known for their day and night-time singing, performed by the male bird to attract a female returning from her winter home 5,000km away in West Africa.

Their song has an amazing repertoire containing over 1,000 different sounds, compared to about 100 for a Blackbird.

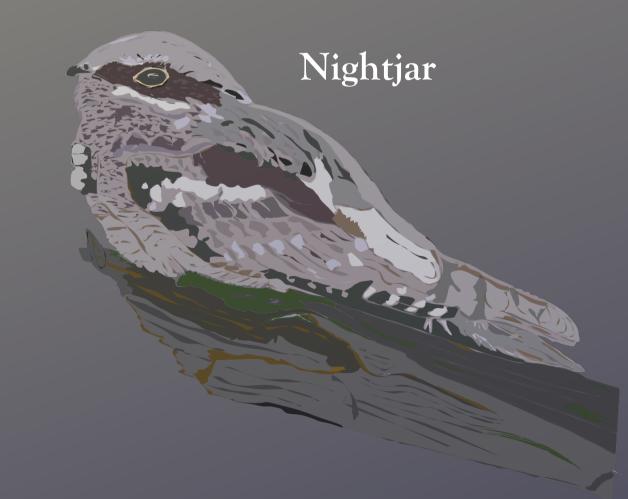


Nuthatch

Nightjars

Nightjars are nocturnal birds that nest on the ground in heathland and conifer woods.

Their lizard-like plumage makes them incredibly difficult to see and, quite unusually for a bird, they often rest in trees lying along the branch rather than across it, thus blending into the bark.



Barn Owl



Oystercatcher

Barn Owls

Barn Owls are the silent predators of the open field. They can fly in total silence as the feathers on their wings have 'fluffy' tips to deaden the noise.

They hover over their prey for an instant before diving down, sometimes startling it by the moon shining on the underside of their white wings, just like a rabbit caught in a car's headlights.



Otter



Pheasant



Pheasants

Pheasants are native to China and East Asia but are now found throughout Europe. They live on farmland and in woodland and when disturbed they will launch themselves into the air with an abrupt noisy takeoff or run away from danger. A Pheasant's flight is merely a short distance dash for cover.

There are some ethical concerns about Pheasants being reared for game shooting and the high number of captive birds being released into the wild can result in damage to woodland plants and farmland habitats.



Pine cones





Here is our caterpillar on its journey to become a moth

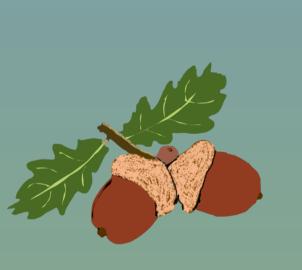


Quail

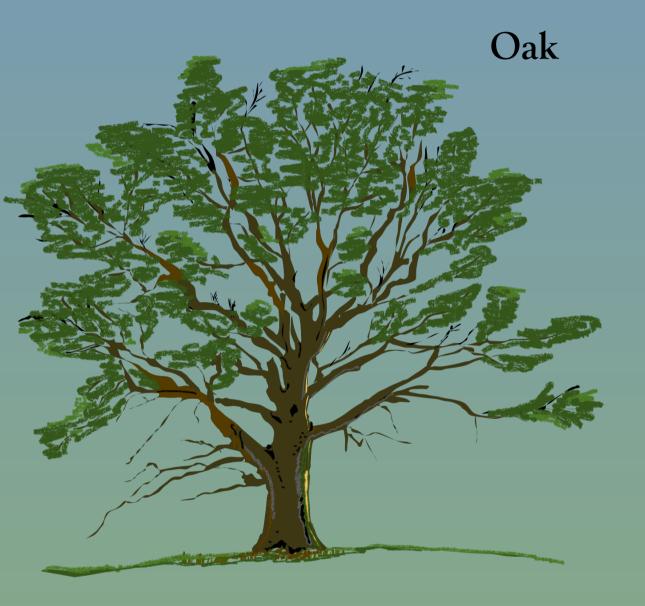


Quail

Quail migrate to Africa in early autumn but during the summer when they are at Minsmere they are rarely seen as they hide in the long grass. They lay between 10 & 20 eggs and belong to the same family as our Grey Partridge.



From little acorns do oak trees grow



Oak is the common name for this tree, so why is it found here on page 'Q'? The reason is because its scientific name is Quercus robur. Why scientific names are used for flora (plants) and fauna (wildlife) can be found on page 'Z'.

Robin



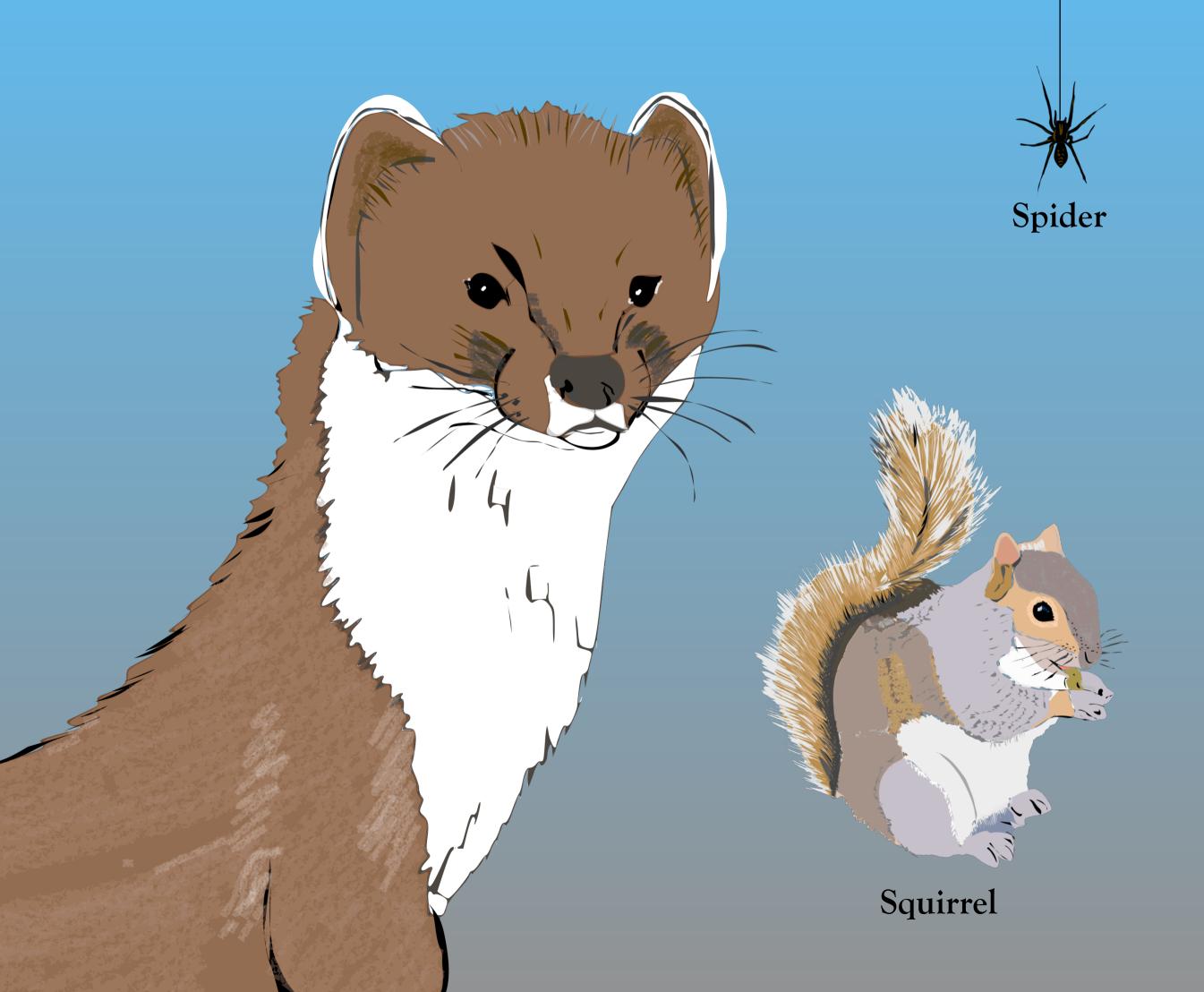
Robins

The Robin is the UK's national bird and is a common visitor to our gardens throughout the year. Start digging and in minutes one will appear, patiently waiting to gather worms from the newly turned soil. They are sociable birds but their friendly appearance hides an aggressive nature as they are highly territorial and will fiercely defend their food supply.

Robins are associated with Christmas and appear on many cards as in Victorian times the postmen who delivered them were called 'Robins' because of their red uniforms.



Stoat





Stoats

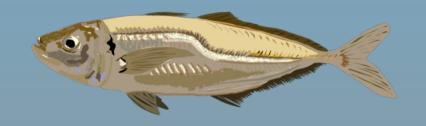
Stoats do not hibernate so can be seen all through the year bounding across fields, climbing trees or even swimming. They hunt small rodents and birds and can also take an adult rabbit. Baby stoats are called 'kits'.



Acorns are one of the main foods in a Squirrel's diet and they can hide up to 3,000 acorns and nuts during a season ... and remember where they all are!

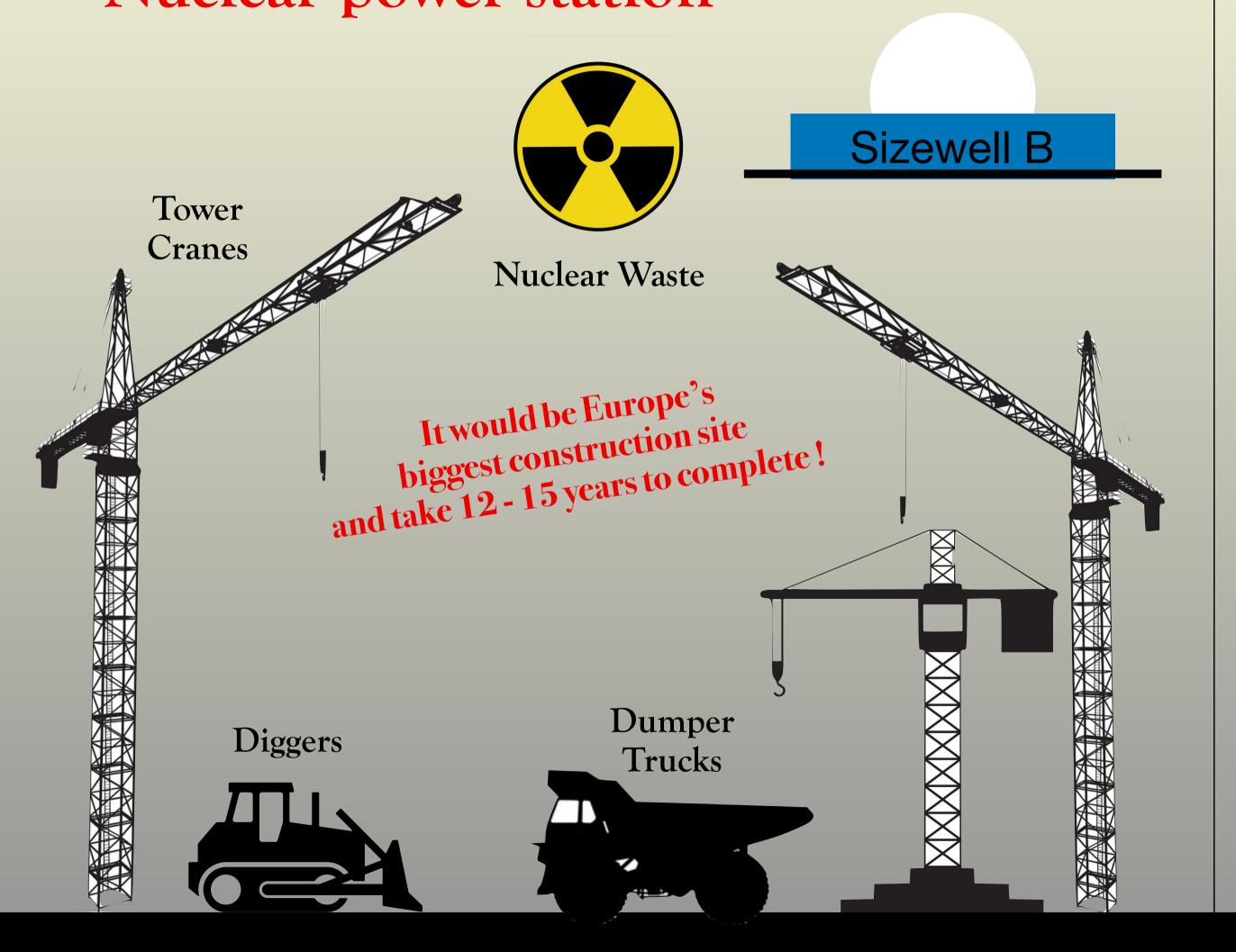


Stickleback



(Simon) Stickleback was made famous in the BBC series Springwatch (2015) when it was broadcast from Minsmere.

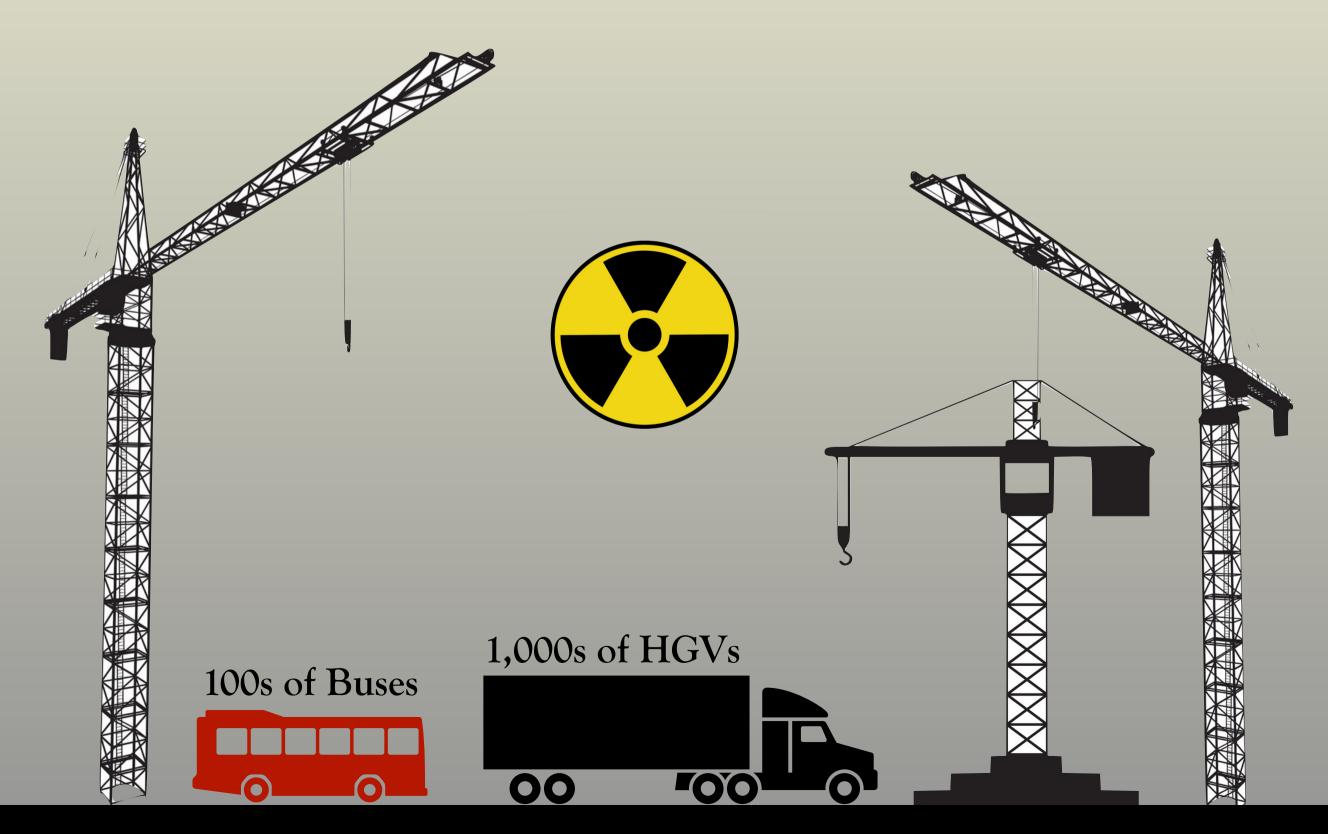
Sis also for Sizewell C Nuclear power station



Minsmere and its adjacent Sites of Special Scientific Interest are at risk from the proposed construction of Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station.

High levels of air, noise and night-time light pollution, changes to water levels and dangerous nuclear waste stored near the beach could all be catastrophic for our wildlife and for our physical and mental health. Toxic chemicals would be pumped into the sea and an estimated 3 million fish could die each year. To find out how you can help save the animals and their precious habitats, go to...

Loveminsmere.org



Toad



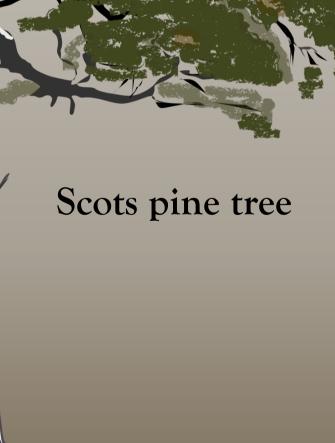
Tadpoles (which turn into toads)





Natterjack Toads

The Natterjack is greener than the common toad and has a yellow stripe down its back. It tends to run instead of walking or hopping, giving it the name the 'Running Toad'. Unlike the smooth frog, toads have dry warty skin and spend more time on dry land than frogs. They eat slugs and snails.



A Common Toad's scientific name is Bufo bufo!

Well, we made it as far as 'U' without having to revert to the scientific names for birds and animals but an animal at Minsmere beginning with 'U' is a bit of a challenge!

So here is a bird which is rarely seen on the reserve but if climate change continues to warm our world and extends the area in which certain species live, the Hoopoe may become a more common sight in the years to come.



Alternatively we could have used Ulmus procera, the scientific name for an English Elm tree, some of which can still be found at Minsmere despite the effects of Dutch Elm disease which has killed many trees.

Upupa epops

Scientific name for a Hoopoe!



Vole



Ratty, in Kenneth Grahame's 'The Wind in the Willows', was a water vole. The shy, secretive water vole is the largest vole in the British Isles.

It inhabits the banks of rivers, ponds and canals. The burrows it makes have many floor levels that prevent the nesting chambers and winter food store from flooding.

Water voles also build platforms made of twigs and grass on tufts of weed where they will sunbathe.

They are very strong swimmers and can swim up to 500m on the surface and 15m underwater!

Wasp





Great Spotted Woodpecker



Dartford Warbler

Wasps

Wasps are important pollinators and pest controllers. They live in large groups in nests built of 'paper' which the queen wasp makes by chewing up wood. The adults feed on high energy food such as rotten fruit, whilst their young are fed on small insects.

Spoonbill

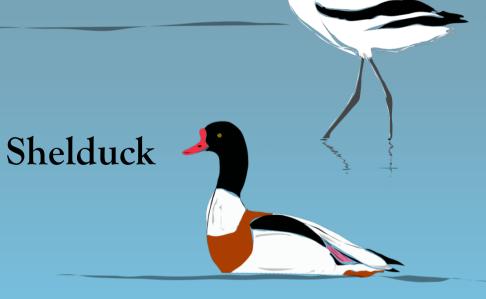


Water

All life requires water especially the birds and fish on this page. Humans can only survive without water for three days and even camels can only live without it for fifteen days. Water is the life blood of Minsmere.



Mute Swan





X is for crossroads

Coastal industrialisation
Catastrophe for wildlife

Climate Change Rising sea levels Habitat for 6,000 species

Habitat for health & wellbeing

A place for health

Africa - this way



Our changing climate is already having a significant impact on our lives and that of our wildlife.

Warmer seasons affect food supply and nesting times whilst unpredictable weather patterns can disrupt bird migration.

Rising sea levels are a major threat to Minsmere which, together with the air, noise and night-time light pollution that would result from any industrialisation of our Heritage Coast, could be catastrophic for our precious wildlife and for Suffolk's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Yellowhammer



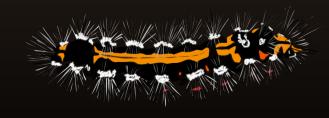
Yellowhammer

There has been a dramatic decline in the number of these stunning birds and the Yellowhammer is now red listed. On warm summer days and evenings, the males can be heard in full song, their call often being described as sounding like 'a little bit of bread and no cheeeese'.

Yellow tailed Moth



This is what the caterpillar on page 'C' turned into!





Unfortunately there are no wildlife or plants at Minsmere with a common name beginning with 'Z'. Perhaps we could have used a scientific name but Zygaena filipendulae stephensi (six-spot burnet moth) is a bit of a mouthful.

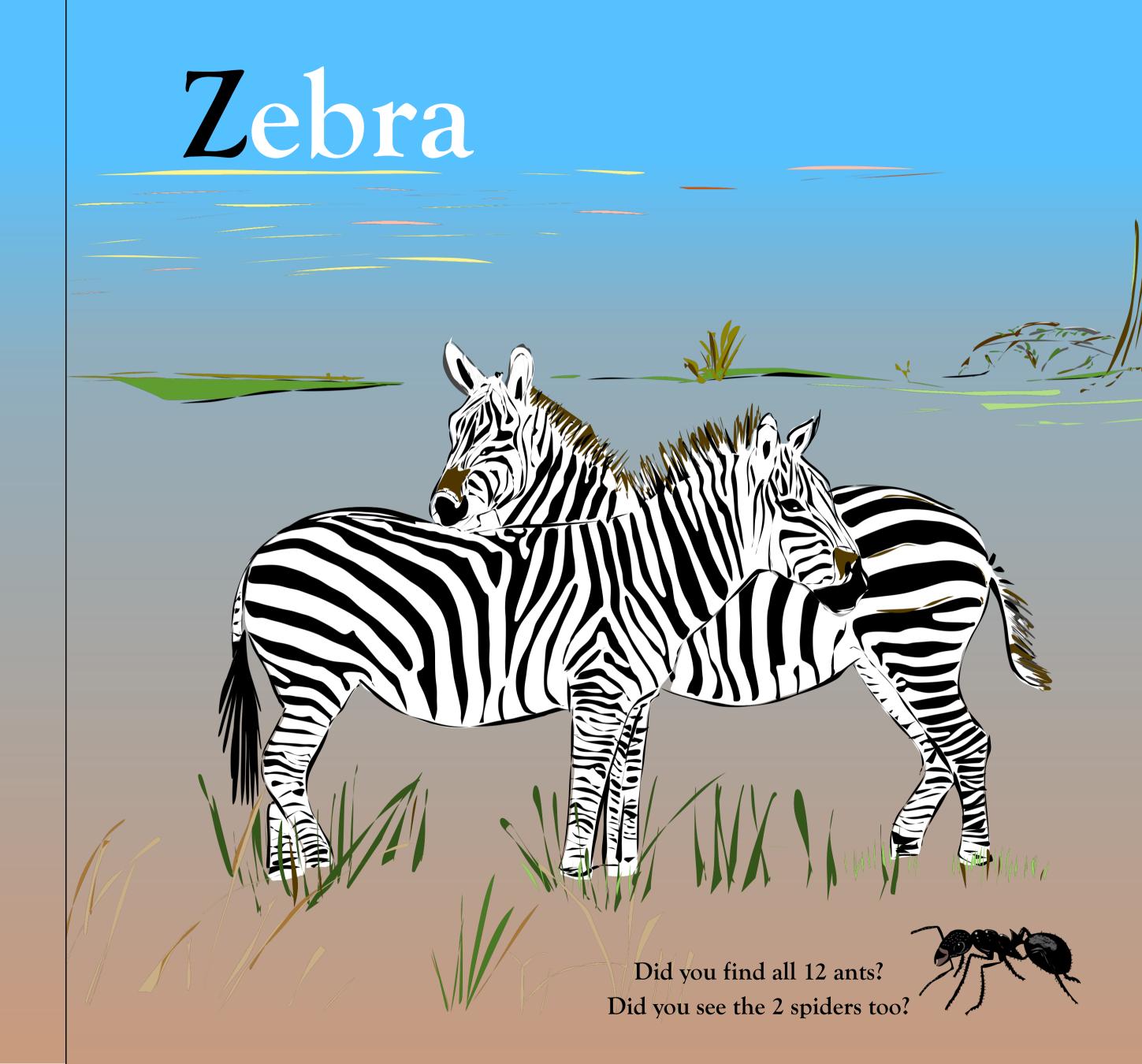
So, we'll go with Zebra even if you do have to go all the way to Africa to see one!

Scientific Names

Although we generally use a common name for each of our plants and wildlife, the scientific basis for naming species was invented in the 1700s by Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus.

He created the system of 'binomial nomenclature' which uses the two categorisations 'family' and 'species' to distinguish between different types of flora and fauna, a bit like we have first names and surnames to identify us and our family connection. Just to make it more difficult, Carl used the ancient language of Latin which is no longer spoken.

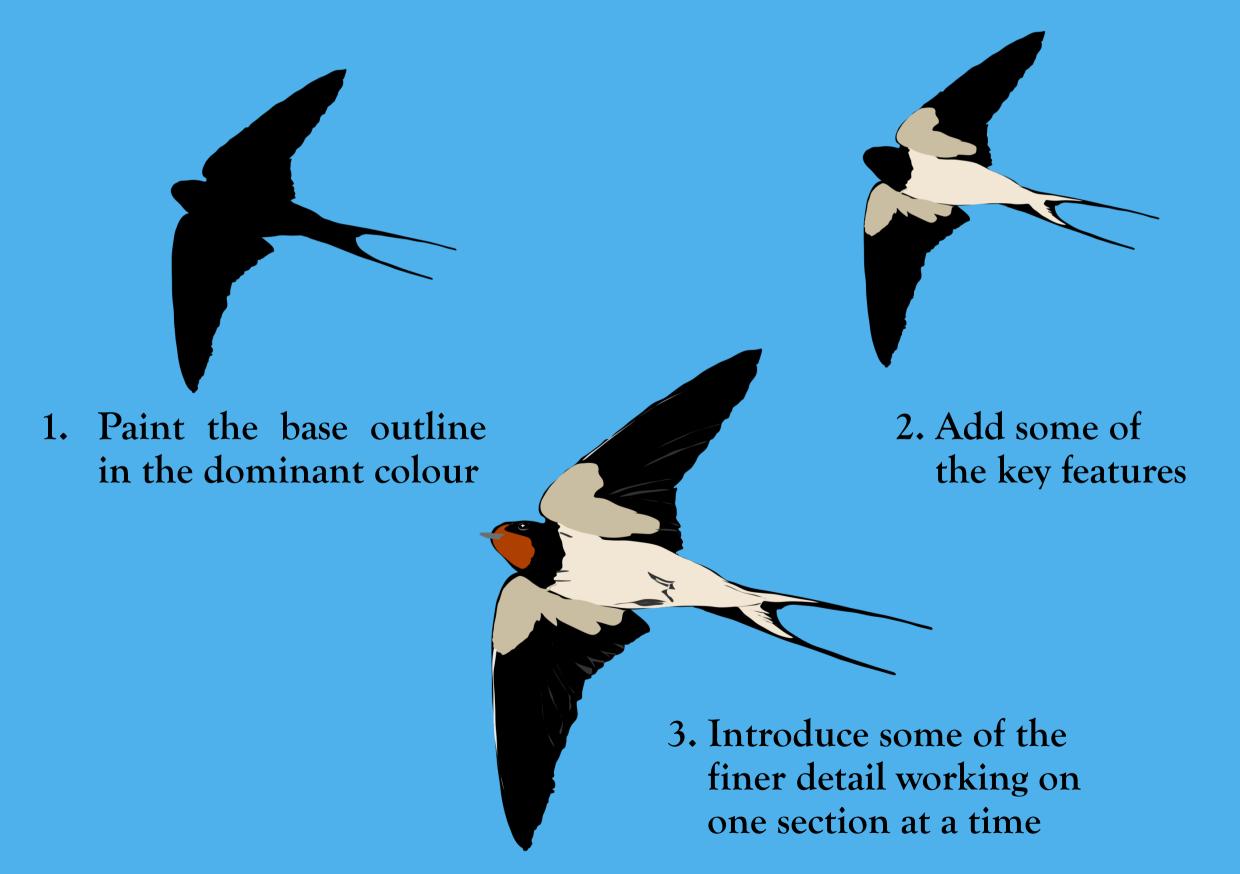
So what is the common name of the bird called Troglodytes troglodytes? A bird of the dinosaur age perhaps? Go explore!



Behind the Scenes ...

All of the wildlife in this book has been drawn 'digitally'.

To try this yourself you will need access to a tablet with an appropriate programme (e.g. Keynote for Apple) and a tablet pen with which you can paint, draw, crayon & erase.



4. Add the feather or hair detail and then try some shading to bring out the colour variations of different areas of the body

However, you may find it easier to start with some black silhouettes or work with just a few colours before tackling more complex markings

Aldeburgh's Amazing Swifts

Aldeburgh's Amazing Swifts conservation & rescue project was set up in 2017 to help save this endangered bird. Swift numbers are declining rapidly and one reason for this is that the holes they nest in under roof tiles are being blocked up, a problem that can be solved by installing special nest boxes.

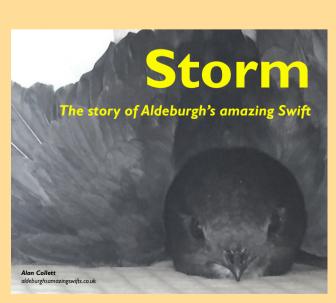
The decline in our insect population is thought to be the other reason for numbers falling as adult birds are unable to find enough food for their young.

On leaving its nest, a young Swift will not land for two or three years and even then will only do so to raise a family. Otherwise it spends *all* of its life flying - eating, drinking, sleeping and mating on the wing. How amazing is that!

Swifts arrive in the UK in May and leave in August to migrate to central Africa and as they only come here in order to breed, preserving or providing

a nest site is critical to their survival.

For more information about Swifts, see our website aldeburghsamazingswifts.co.uk



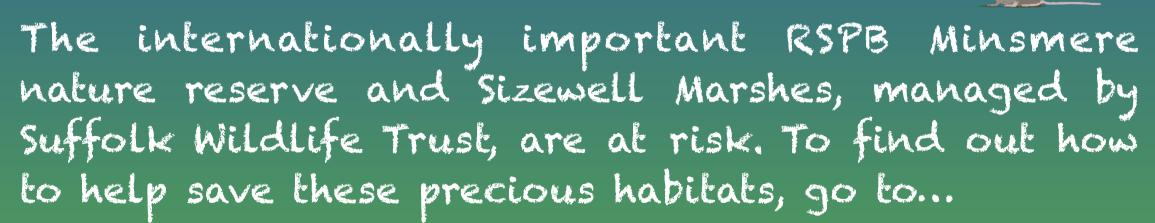
Power by Nature

Aldeburgh's Amazing
Swifts
Swift conservation & rescue

Printed by Swallowtail Print Norwich











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