

FAUNA



Red Fox
An Sionnach

This clever member of the dog family is Ireland's only species of fox. The fox is nocturnal and has long been the subject of fairy tales and songs. During the breeding season, foxes release chilling screams that in the past were attributed to the banshee.

An ball cliste de chlann na madraí - seo an speiceas sionnaigh amháin atá againn in Éirinn. Is ainmhí oíche é an sionnach agus tá sé mar ábhar in amhráin agus finscéalta le fada an lá. Le linn an tséasúir póraithe, scaoileann na sionnaigh screadanna géara uatha a aithníodh leis an mbean sí san am atá caite.



Earthworm
An Péist Talún

Invaluable members of the soil community and best friends to farmers, earthworms aerate the soil, incorporating leaves and other organic matter. They come to the surface in wet weather and at night. They can live for five years and grow 7-8cm in length.

Is baill luachmhara iad seo den phobal ithreach agus na cairde is fearr ag feirmeoirí - déanann na péisteanna talún an ithir a aerú ag ionchorprú duilleoga agus ábhar orgánach eile. Tagann siad chuig an dromchla in aimsir fhliuch agus san oíche. Is féidir leo maireachtáil ar feadh cúig bliana agus fás go dtí 7-8cm.



Pygmy Shrew
An Dallóg Fhraoigh

With its long pointed snout and long whiskers, this tiny rodent is Ireland's smallest mammal, weighing between 3-6gm. Pygmy shrews must eat their own body weight in food every day, risking death if they go without sustenance for more than just two hours.

Lena smut pointeáilte fada agus guairí fada, tá an creimire seo ar an mamach is lú in Éirinn, le meáchan idir 3-6grm. Caithfidh dallóga fraoigh a meáchan coirp féin a ithe i bhfoirm bia gach lá - tá siad i mbaol bháis má théann siad gan bhia ar feadh níos mó ná dhá uair a' chloig.



Kestrel
An Pocaire Gaoithe

The kestrel is a member of the falcon family with long narrow wings. A small bird of prey, it is finely tuned for hunting small mammals. It hovers while scanning the ground for prey, and can keep its head still despite its rapid wing beats.

Is ball de chlann na bhfalcún é an pocaire gaoithe agus tá cliatháin fhada chunga aige. Is éan creiche beag é an pocaire gaoithe atá oiriúnaithe go maith le mamaigh bheaga a sheilg. Ainlíonn siad nuair atá an talamh á scrúdú acu le haghaidh creiche, agus is féidir leo a gcloigeann a choinneáil socair cé go mbíonn a sciatháin ag bogadh go fíor-thapaigh.



Corncrake
An Traonach

Corncrakes were commonly heard early morning and late at night in Ireland, but this rarely seen bird has suffered huge declines over the past 50 years. Nesting on the ground, corncrakes are vulnerable to farm machinery. With changing farming practices, the corncrake has a brighter future.

Ar maidin agus déanach san oíche is mó a chloistear traonaigh in Éirinn, ach tá titim ghéar tagtha ar an éan seo nach bhfeictear go rialta le 50 bliain anuas. Toisc go mbíonn siad ag neadú ar an talamh, tá baol do thraonaigh ó innealra feirme. Le cleachtais feirmeoireachta ag athrú, tá todhchaí níos fearr ag traonaigh.



Rat
An Francach

Reviled for their association with disease and squalor, rats' large numbers reflect the wastefulness of modern society, since they thrive on refuse and discarded food. Rats need to gnaw regularly on material like wood to file down their teeth, which – unusually – keep on growing!

Déantar gaol idir francaigh ag galar agus salachar - tugann líon mór na bhfrancach nádúr diomailteach an tsochaí nua-aoisí le fios os rud é go maireann siad ar bhruscar agus bhia diúscartha. Caithfidh francaigh cogaint go rialta ar ábhar cosúil le hadhmad lena bhfiacra a liomhadh - rud atá aisteach ná go gcoinníonn siad ag fás!



Ladybird
An Bhóin Dé

Ladybirds are one of Ireland's best-loved insects. They are a type of beetle, keeping their wings under their black-spotted red shells. When they fly, ladybirds flap their wings 85 times per second! They are very useful to humans because they eat tiny insect pests.

Tá an bóin Dé ar cheann de na feithidí is mó a thaitníonn le daoine in Éirinn. Is cineál ciaróige atá iontu, a choinníonn a gliatháin faoina sliogáin dhearga le spotaí dubha. Nuair a bhíonn siad ag eitilt, déanann bóin Dé a gliatháin a bhogadh 85 uair in aghaidh an tsoicind. Tá siad fíor-úsáideach do dhaoine toisc go n-itheann siad lotnaidí feithide beaga.



Soldier Beetle
An Chiaróg Chogaidh

Soldier beetles are so-called because their colourful design is reminiscent of soldiers' uniforms of yore. Their variegated markings serve to warn birds that they are unpleasant to eat. They are often found on flower-heads, seeking out insects and pollen on which to feed.

Ciaróga cogaidh a thugtar orthu toisc an dearadh dathannach atá cosúil le héide na saighdiúirí tráth dá raibh. Tugann na marcanna breachnaithe foláireamh d'éin nach bhfuil siad deas le hithe. Is minic a fheictear iad ar bharr blátha, áit a mbíonn siad ag lorg feithidí agus pailín mar bheathú.