

FAUNA



Mayfly
Cuileanna Bealtaine

This aquatic invertebrate spends up to three years in larval form on the bottom of rivers and lakes, emerging in winged form for one day, when it breeds and deposits eggs. An important food for predators, mayflies require high quality habitat as they are pollution-intolerant. Caitheann na hinveirteabraigh seo suas le 3 bliana mar larbhaí ar ghrinneall abhann nó locha. Tagann siad aníos ansin lena sciatháin orthu chun lá amháin a chaitheamh agus pórú agus ag breith uibheacha. Bia tábhachtach iad seo ag creachadóirí ach bíonn gnáthóga ardchaighdeán uathu toisc nach féidir leo truailliú a fhulaingt.



Freshwater Crayfish
Gliomaigh fionnuisce

Essentially a freshwater lobster, the crayfish was probably introduced to Ireland by French monastic orders. It has an important role in local aquatic habitats, feeding on insects and plants and being eaten by trout, eels and otters. It favours limestone geology to build its hard shell and is sensitive to pollution. Is cosúil gurb iad oird na manach Francach a thug na gliomaigh seo go hÉirinn. Tá ról tábhachtach acu i ngnáthóga uisce óir itheann siad feithidí agus plandaí agus is bia iad ag bric, eascanna agus dobharchúnna. Is fearr leo áiteanna a bhfuil aolchloch iontu le cabhrú leo a mblaoscanna a dhéanamh. Cuireann truailliú as dóibh.



Kingfisher
Cruidín

Don't blink or it's gone! A blur of bright blue darting downriver, to perch on a tree stump in the water, from which to zip down and catch small fish. Kingfishers' nests – in tunnels dug into riverbanks – can be vulnerable to agricultural or river 'improvement' works. Ná preab do shúile nó beidh sé imithe! Ní fheicfidh tú ach splanc bheag gheal ghorm ag scinneadh léi síos an abhainn, ag seasamh ar stumpa crainn agus ag scinneadh léi arís le breith ar iasc beag. Bíonn neadacha acu i dtolláin ar bhruacha abhann agus d'fhéadfadh obair 'feabhsaithe' abhann nó talmhaíochta iad a mhilleadh.



Otter
Dobharchúnna

Ireland's largest carnivores, otters hunt in and live alongside streams, rivers and the sea. Excellent swimmers with webbed feet, they can hold their breath for several minutes searching out fish and other prey underwater. With most European populations extinct, Ireland's otters are of global importance. Is iad na dobharchúnna na carnabhóirí is mó in Éirinn. Maireann siad cois aibhneacha, sruthán agus an fharraige áit a dtéann siad ag seilg. Snámhaithe den scoth iad le cosa scamallacha agus is féidir leo anáil a choinneáil istigh ar feadh roinnt maith nóiméad agus iad ar lorg iasc agus creiche eile faoin uisce. Tá formhór na ndobharchúnna díothaithe ar an Mór-roinn agus tá tábhacht dhomhanda ag a bhfuil fágtha in Éirinn.



Daubenton's Bat
Ialtóg Daubenton

Known as the 'water bat', Daubenton's skims the surface of lakes and river pools, catching mayflies and midges in the air, or 'trawling' aquatic insects from the water using its oversized feet and even its tail membrane as a scoop. It frequently roosts beneath bridges. An ialtóg uisce a tugtar an an ialtóg seo óir téann sé ag scinneadh thar dhromchla loca agus linnte abhann ag breith ar chuileanna Bealtaine agus mioltóga san aer nó i mbun 'trálaeireachta' ag úsáid a chosa móra agus fiú scannán a eireabaill le breith ar fheithidí uisce. Is minic a théann sé ar fara faoi dhroichead.



Dipper
Gabha Dubh

Nesting in the most unlikely rock-faces or under bridges, this supreme architect will build on the tiniest foothold to rear its young. It flies up and down the river visiting favourite stretches, virtually walking along the fastest stream bottom in pursuit of aquatic insects. Ailtirí den scoth iad na héin seo agus é ar a gcumas neadacha a thógáil ar an teannta is lú, ar aillte nó faoi dhroichead go minic, chun ál a thógáil iontu. Eitlíonn siad suas síos an abhann ag tabhairt cuairteanna ar na háiteanna is ansa leo agus bíonn siad beagnach ag siúl ar ghrinnill na sruthán is tapa le breith ar fheithidí uisce.



Freshwater Pearl Mussel
Diúilicíní Péarla Fionnuisce

Highly pollution-sensitive, virtually extinct on the Continent and severely threatened in Ireland, this creature is our longest-lived animal, living more than 120 years. Offspring overwinter attached to the gills of young salmon and trout, spreading through the river via their hosts' migration. Déanann truailliú an-dochar do na diúilicíní seo. Tá siad díothaithe ar fad ar an Mór-roinn agus faoi bhrú mór in Éirinn. Is iad ár n-ainmhithe is faide saol iad óir maireann siad breis agus 120 bliain. Caitheann a síol an geimhreadh greamaithe do gheolbhaigh bradán agus breac óg agus scaiptear ar fud na habhann iad nuair a théann a n-óstaigh ar imirce.



Salmon
Bradán

These 'king of fish' are anadromous, spawning in fresh water but migrating to sea – often for thousands of miles – for greater nutrition. Their powerful sense of smell assists them back to the tributary in which they hatched, though they also colonise new habitat. Éisc anadromacha iad seo. Sceitheann siad i bhfionnuisce ach téann siad ar imirce san fharraige chun cothú níos fearr a fháil. Uaireanta taistealaíonn siad na mílte míle. Tá boladh cumasach acu a chabhraíonn leo filleadh ar an bhfo-abhann inar tháinig siad amach as a n-uibheacha inti, cé gur féidir leo coilíneacht a dhéanamh i ngnáthóga nua.