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#TheWildEscape

The Great Northern Diver

Match the Gaelic Name:



The Great Northern Diver is the largest British Diver and is mostly a winter visitor usually seen around coasts and tends to be solitary in its nature. During winter and summer, the Great Northern Diver changes its plumage, and in winter, their throat becomes white and the back grey. It is protected under Schedule 1 of The Wildlife and Countryside act.

Moorhen

Match the Gaelic Name:



The Moorhen is found on lochs: where it builds large nests. They have a wide diet consisting of water plants, seeds, fruit, grasses, insects, snails, worms and small fish. Moorhens swim with a curious jerking movement of the tail. See if you can spot one at your local park.

Puffin

Match the Gaelic Name:



Puffins are unmistakable birds, especially in summer when their bills are brightly coloured. This 'clown of the sea' is one of the world's favourite birds, but with half the UK's population at only a few sites, it is a Red List species. It feeds on fish, especially sand eels. Fun fact - Baby Puffins are called Pufflings!

Knot

Match the Gaelic Name:



An infrequent winter visitor to Kintyre from its Arctic breeding grounds. Knots favour large coastal mud flats like the Solway Firth, where they feed on shellfish and worms. They are particularly vulnerable to new coastal barriers, changes in sea-level and human disturbance.

Black-Headed Gull

Match the Gaelic Name:



Not really a black-headed bird; if you look closely, you will see it is chocolate brown. In fact, for much of the year, it has a white head! It is most definitely not just a “seagull” and is found commonly almost anywhere inland. Usually seen in groups or small flocks.

(Taiga) Bean Goose

Match the Gaelic Name:



The Taiga Bean Goose is a very rare winter visitor to the UK, mostly in the southeast. Today the nearest regular winter flock can be found near Falkirk. The bird breeds in Siberia and Northern Europe.

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Merlin

Match the Gaelic Name:



This is the smallest bird of prey in the UK. It feeds mainly on small birds like Meadow Pipits and Wheatears. These aren't common in Kintyre and are classed as a winter visitor, but they are present all year round on Islay and Jura. The Merlin is critically endangered, after a population crash in the late 20th century, and is on the Red List.

Oystercatcher

Match the Gaelic Name:



This sociable bird is found on coasts throughout the UK, in all seasons. In winter, they flock on the east coast and are often joined by migrant Oystercatchers from Scandinavia. They do not eat oysters but use their beaks to open mussel shells and knock limpets off rocks.

Lapwing

Match the Gaelic Name:



Also known as the Peewit in imitation of its display calls. This was once a very common farmland bird but has suffered significant declines over the last decades, as much as 40% - 50%, due to changes in farming techniques. Sadly, it is now on the Red List of critically endangered UK birds.

Turnstone

Match the Gaelic Name:



The Turnstone is present on the coast of the UK all year round. Their numbers increase at various times of the year by passing flocks of migratory birds from Northern Europe and later from Canada and Greenland. Turnstones get their name from their habit of turning over small stones on rocky shores, looking for sandhoppers and small crustacea.

Great Black-Backed Gull

Match the Gaelic Name:



Great Black-Backed Gulls have large, powerful beaks. It is a ferocious killer of smaller birds, especially Eider ducklings. It is also an opportunistic feeder and will raid rubbish bins and seek out carrion (meat).

Redshank

Match the Gaelic Name:



As its name suggests, the Redshank has red legs! It is a common shorebird and feeds on insects, snails, shrimps and molluscs by probing the soil and mud with its bills.

(Grey) Heron

Match the Gaelic Name:



The Heron is often seen stalking through the shallows hunting for prey. They will eat almost any small fish, animal, or bird. Present in Kintyre all year round.

Short-Eared Owl

Match the Gaelic Name:



The “ears” of this bird are really feather tufts and are hardly noticeable. It resides in Kintyre and lives on open moorland, marshes and hillsides. It nests on the ground and is active during the day.

Guillemot

Match the Gaelic Name:



The Guillemot only comes to land to nest on cliff ledges spending the rest of its life at sea, where it is particularly vulnerable to oil spills. It is dark brown and white, not as black as the similar razorbill and with a more pointed beak.

Little Auk

Match the Gaelic Name:



The Little Auk is a winter visitor, in small numbers, to the waters around the UK: mostly on the east coast. In spring and summer, it is to be found in its breeding area in the Arctic.

Raven

Match the Gaelic Name:



The Raven is the largest member of the crow family. It is all black and has a diamond-shaped tail when in flight. Ravens work in pairs or family groups and will eat almost anything. They are, like all members of the crow (Corvid) family, clever and resourceful. Fun fact - they are the world's largest perching bird!

Peregrine

Match the Gaelic Name:



The Peregrine is a large, swift, agile and powerful falcon with long, broad pointed wings. An obvious black “moustache” contrasts with its white face. The Peregrine, its nest and eggs are all heavily protected by law. It hunts other birds in flight, often diving in a “stoop”, where it may reach speeds of 320 km/h (200mph)!

Fulmar

Match the Gaelic Name:



The Fulmar is always offshore except when breeding, where it can be found most abundantly on cliffs on the Scottish coastline, especially on the Northern and Western Isles. They are related to albatrosses and fly low over the sea on stiff wings. Fun fact they will defend their nests by spitting a foul-smelling oil onto intruders.

Gannets

Match the Gaelic Name:



Gannets breed in huge colonies where they incubate their single egg with their feet. The largest Gannet breeding colony in the world is on the Bass Rock in the Firth of Forth, from which the bird gets its name Bassana. Sula is believed to derive from Old Norse, meaning “cleft stick”, which described the conspicuous crossed black wingtips of the perched bird.

Common Seal

Match the Gaelic Name:



The Common Seal is sometimes called a Harbour Seal because it occurs in sheltered and inland waters. It is much smaller than the Atlantic or Grey Seal. It eats fish, crabs and starfish. There are plenty of folk tales, songs and poems that relate to the seal, see if you can find any.

Razorbill

Match the Gaelic Name:



In spring and summer, the Razorbill comes ashore to breed. At this time, they can be found around most of the coast of Britain but favours northern and western Scotland, where it lays a single egg onto bare rocks. In winter, they migrate to the North Atlantic.

Black Guillemot

Match the Gaelic Name:



The Black Guillemot is present all year. In summer, the bird is black apart from a broad white patch on its wings. The Black Guillemot is affectionately known as a “Dooker” in Tarbert, Loch Fyne. This particular bird is loaned from Glasgow Museums.

Sparrow Hawk

Match the Gaelic Name:



The Sparrow Hawk is one of Scotland's smallest birds of prey, with the male being smaller than the female. The Sparrow Hawk is an excellent hunter and flies low along hedgerows and bushes. They mainly eat small birds and sometimes bats.

Woodpigeon

Match the Gaelic Name:



Although the Woodpigeon does a lot of damage when it eats grain and green crops, it also eats harmful caterpillars and the seeds of weeds. It is the UK's largest and most common pigeon.

Fieldfare

Match the Gaelic Name:



The Fieldfare is a winter visitor from Scandinavia and Russia. It feeds on berries, insects etc. They are very social birds and feed on berries and insects. Fun fact - the name fieldfare is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word 'feldware' which meant 'traveller of the fields.'

Adder

Match the Gaelic Name:



The Adder is fairly common in Kintyre. It likes to bask in the sun by stone dykes or heathery banks. It feeds on small birds, such as larks and meadow pipits, which nest on the ground. It will also take their eggs, also young mice and frogs. Its bite is fatal to small animals but not usually so in the case of adult humans.

Barn Owl

Match the Gaelic Name:



Barn Owls will use hollow trees to nest, or in undisturbed buildings such as barns and outbuildings with clear flight paths over open fields. They lay their eggs on pellets of undigested fur and feathers. This owl was found dead at Southend and donated to the museum.

Golden Plover

Match the Gaelic Name:



This is a moorland bird which, in summer, has a mottled yellow head and back. They nest on the open ground among heather and grass. The female lays about 4 eggs, and both parents care for the chicks.

Slow Worm

Match the Gaelic Name:



The Slow Worm resembles a snake but is, in fact, a legless lizard with an average lifespan of 20 years. Slow Worms are harmless and do lots of good by eating slugs and insects. They are legally protected and live in cool shady places.

Kestrels

Match the Gaelic Name:



Kestrels are a familiar sight now in the countryside and now cities and like to eat beetles, mice, and voles. The number of kestrels has declined since the 1970s. They are Classified in the UK as Amber under the Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the Red List for Birds.

Pheasant

Match the Gaelic Name:



The pheasant is native to Asia and was introduced into Europe by the Romans. Pheasants could possibly have arrived in the UK with the Normans in the 11th Century, but it is commonly thought they arrived in Scotland, from the Black Sea area, in the 16th Century.

Woodcock

Match the Gaelic Name:



The Woodcock is nocturnal and feeds in marshes and ditches at night, probing the mud with its long bill. During the day, its mottled feathers act as camouflage. Fun fact - in the past, the woodcock's pin feathers were used by artists, as fine brush tips were highly prized as fine brush tips for capturing detail in paintings.

Curlew

Match the Gaelic Name:



Common on the shore and moors, this bird has been called The Sentinel of the moors because it gives warning of the approach of its enemies. In the winter, you'll see curlews feeding in groups on tidal mudflats, saltmarshes and nearby farmland.

(Grey) Partridge

Match the Gaelic Name:



Once very common and widespread, this bird has undergone a serious decline in numbers throughout most of its range and is a Red List species. Their plumage acts as camouflage, and it is difficult to see against a backdrop of bare earth.

Blue Tit

Match the Gaelic Name:



The Blue Tit is one of Britain's favourite garden birds and is present all year. Blue tits love to eat and will hunt insects and spiders, but they are clever and have adapted to towns and cities and will visit bird feeders in gardens and even break the tops of milk bottles to get the cream.