



Glebe House Nature Book

Published by

The Glebe House and Gallery
Office of Public Works 2011

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Design

Sharp Design

ISBN

Hello, Welcome to the Glebe Gardens!

The Glebe Gardens is a wonderful place for you to explore.

We aim to promote the understanding and enjoyment of nature.

We offer a rich and diverse range of opportunities for fun & learning.

“A World
of Inspiration at
the Glebe”

The Woodland Walk:

Identify the different tree types and the birds
and animals who make their home there.

Loch Gartan:

Explore the history of the lake and the bird,
insect and plant life around the lake.

Birds at the Glebe:

Learn about our wonderful feathered friends.

Wild Flower Meadow:

A unique habitat for plants, small mammals,
birds and insects.



The Woodland



The bark of all birches often separates into thin papery plates. Birch paper is exceptionally durable and was the parchment used for many ancient texts.



Ash Tree



Ash wood is used to make hurleys for hurling!



The Ash Tree is a deciduous tree. The bark is greyish - brown. The flower of the Ash tree produces seeds known as keys, these fall in Spring. The distinctive black buds of the ash tree make it easy to identify in winter.

The Blue Tit

Seen in woods and gardens. Often raises its blue cap to form a small crest. It feeds mainly on insects.

The Oak Tree

Oaks are hardwood trees, and the wood is commonly used in furniture and flooring, and even ship building. The bark of the Oak tree is used to tan leather.

It is a deciduous tree, it loses it's leaves in Autumn.

It can live up to 1000 years.

Over 200 species of insects inhabit the Oak tree and it can be home to nearly 20 species of bird.

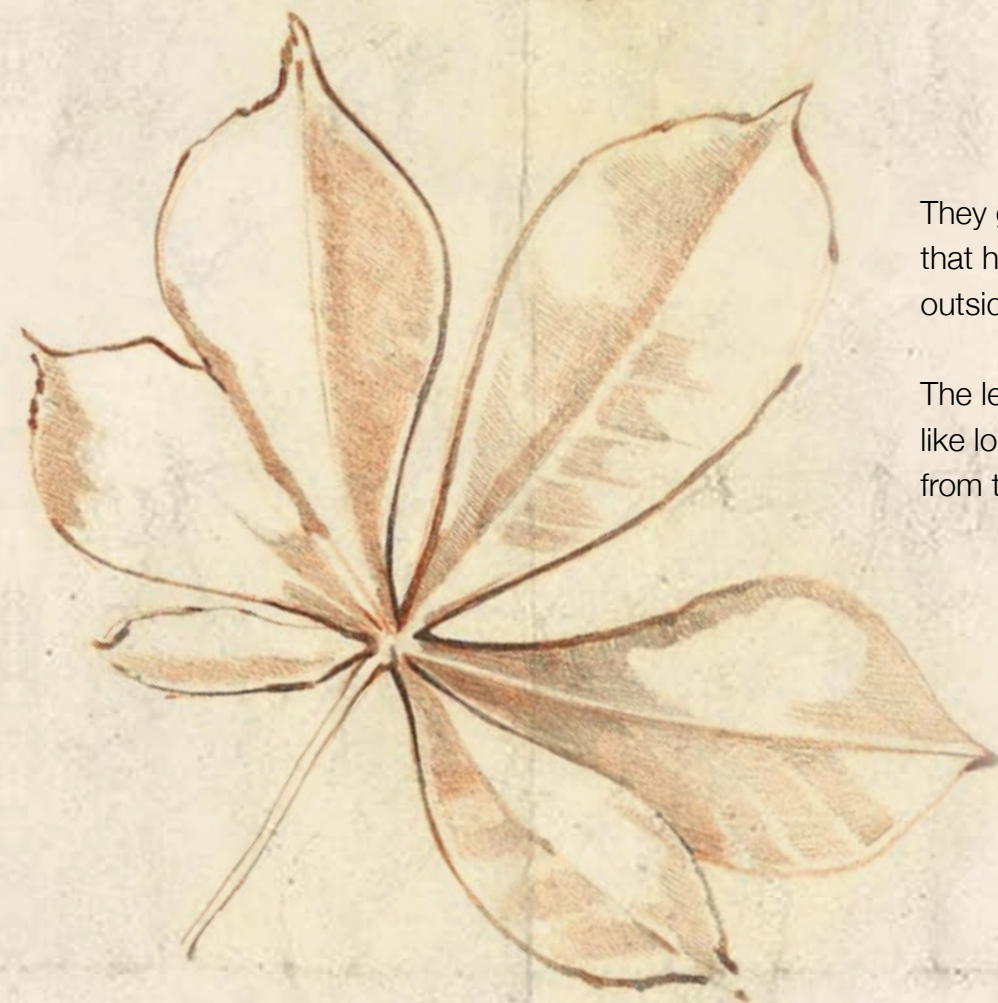


The Chiffchaff

The Chiffchaff is a Summer visitor to Ireland, often arriving in March. Its repetitive “chiff-chaff” song can be heard in woods and from bushes.

The Horse Chestnut

The fruit of the horse chestnut are inedible shiny brown chestnuts known as “conkers”.



They grow inside a thick fleshy casing that has sharp little spikes on the outside to protect it.

The leaves of the Horse Chestnut look like long green fingers that spread out from the central stem.

The Bug Hotel

Ants and other bugs live at the bug hotel! This is a place to investigate micro-organisms, food chains and the importance of protecting our environment. Notice the bug hotel. These habitats for insects were made by the gardening team, using rotten and decomposing wood or leaf litter. We have several kinds to see here, some natural and some man made.



Ants and other bugs live at the bug hotel!

Many of the creatures are too small to see. We call them micro-organisms and they help the gardeners by breaking down leaf litter and turning it into soil. The same happens to the old logs and dead branches you can see around you..



Insects and Bugs at the Bug Hotel

Insects live on leaf litter and wood.

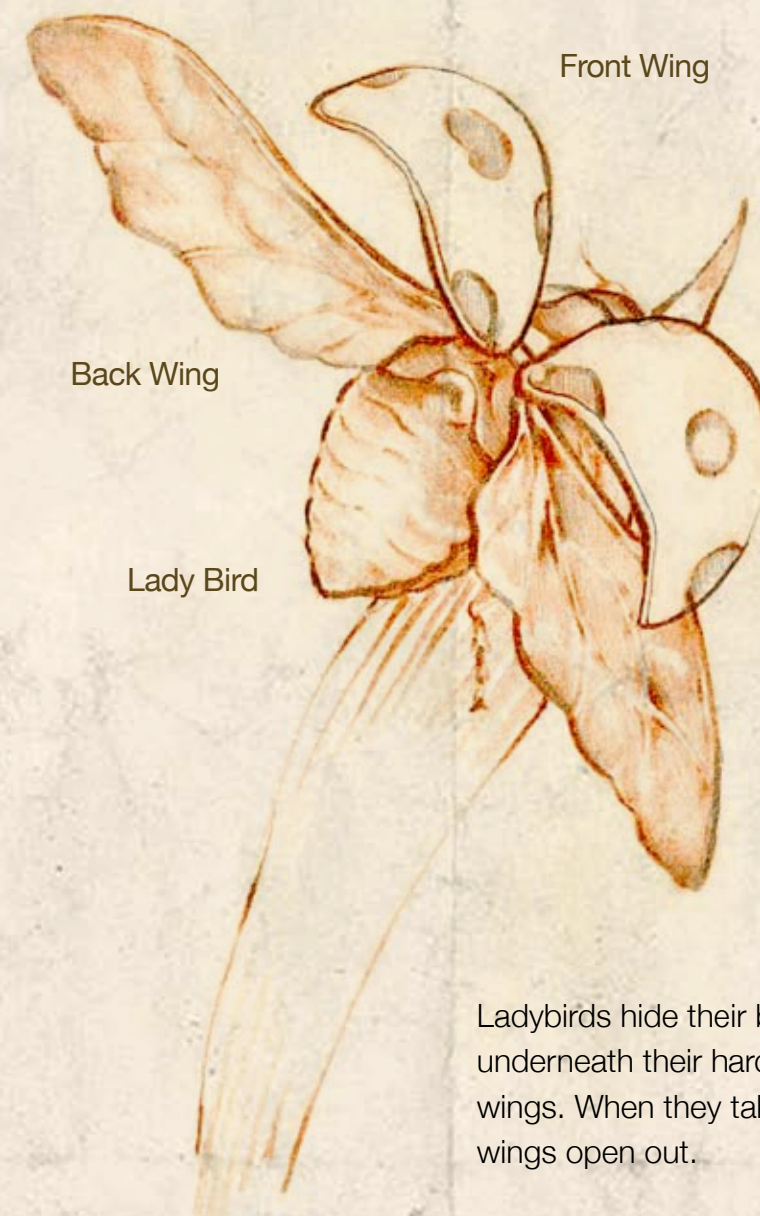
They help to turn it into soil

Sometimes you can see Fungi (mushrooms).

They too are feeding on wood.



Common Fly



Front Wing

Back Wing

Lady Bird

Ladybirds hide their back wings underneath their hard front wings. When they take off their wings open out.



Bird Boxes

Can you see the bird boxes?

We like to encourage birds because they eat bugs and grubs, some of which damage the plants that grow here. They also help to create a balanced insect level. Birds lay their eggs in Spring so that they hatch when grubs are emerging to ensure a plentiful food source for their chicks. The box is suited to small birds such as blue tits and chaffinch. Look out for the bat boxes too, they are the same shape as bird boxes but the hole is underneath.

The Pipistrelle Bat

This is Ireland's smallest bat. A single Pipistrelle bat can eat up to 3,000 insects in one night!

Swarming Bees!

Bees live in nests called Hives. The Hives are made of wax. The Bees use Hives to store honey. Most bees and wasps have yellow and black stripes.



They can sting to defend themselves or their nests. Honey bees die after they have stung once, but most wasps can sting over and over.

The Lake at Gartan



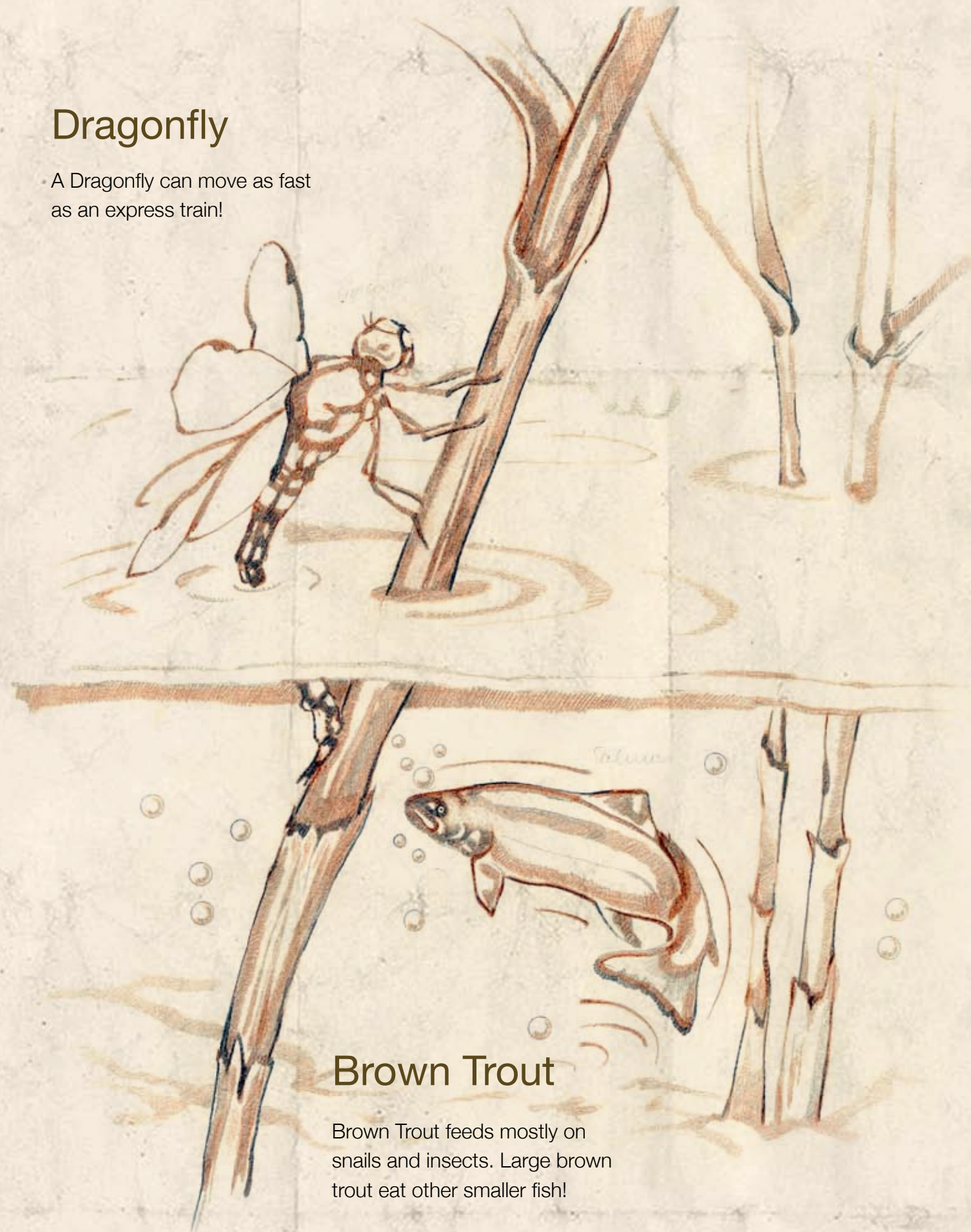
A lot of plants grow on the bank or in the shallow water near the bank. Small mammals, frogs and insects live in and around the lake.

Rowan Tree



Dragonfly

A Dragonfly can move as fast as an express train!



Brown Trout

Brown Trout feeds mostly on snails and insects. Large brown trout eat other smaller fish!

Lake Side Plants & Insects

Common Alder

Is a small tree, common beside ponds and lakes and in wet areas.

Willow

Often cut back to produce lots of shoots for basket making.

Common near water. Produces Catkins in April and May.

Marsh Marigold

Also known as King cup. Belongs to the Buttercup famliy.

Water Forget-me-not

Grows in damp shady places.

White Water-Lily

White water lily is mostly found in the north and west of Ireland.

This species usually grows in shallow water, forming a dense mat of short leaves.

The Common Frog

Found in damp, shady places. Mates and lays its eggs in water.

Hibernates in mud at the bottom of the lake or pond.

The frog eats slugs, insects, worms and snails.

Pond Skater

The pond skater is an insect often seen running across the surface of the water.

It eats dead insects floating on the top of the water.

MayFly

Spends most of its life as a nymph on the lake bottom.

Adult dies shortly after emerging to mate and lay its eggs.

Larvae feeds mainly on algae.

Blue-tailed Damselfly

Very common near still or slow-moving water in the summer.

Greenish-black body.

Birds

Birds are everywhere! Flying high in the sky, perched on branches and even nesting on the ground. Each different kind of bird is called a species. Trees provide nest sites and shelter and food for many birds. Conifers are home to fewer birds than deciduous trees (trees that lose their leaves) in Autumn. Lakes are home to lots of different birds.

Rare Birds

The Corncrake

Difficult to see as it lives in long grass.
Repeats “Crex-Crex” cry after dark.

The Golden Eagle

Re-introduced to Donegal in 2001 after an absence of nearly 100 years. Glides for long distances.
Young have white on wings and tail.

The Barn Owl

Its call has an eerie shriek. Often nests in old building or hollow trees. Hunts small animals at night.

The Robin is often associated with Christmas. Can you think why?

The Robin

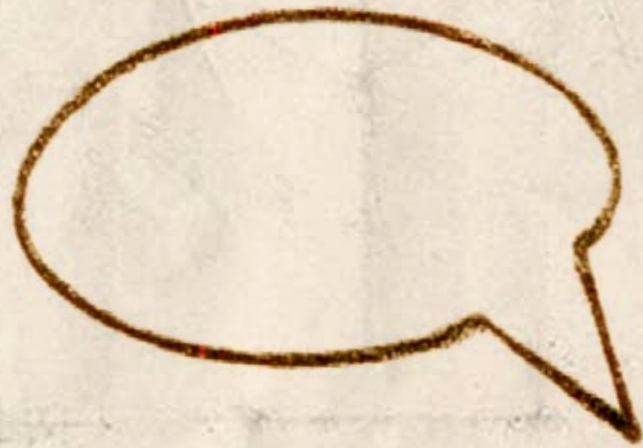
Colour in the red belly of the Robin!
The robin feeds mainly on insects, berries and worms.



The Wren

This little bird feeds mainly on insects which it finds in places like the bug hotel! Its song is surprisingly loud and can be heard all year round.

Blue Tit



It has a blue crown and wings, white face and yellow underparts. They usually nest in a hole in a tree or wall. They lay between 6 and 12 eggs.

If you have a bird table, hang a net of seeds from it and you'll attract Blue tits to feed in your garden.



Swift

The Swift catches flying insects. They are often seen flying fast high in the sky. They are black all over, with narrow wings and short tails.



Stonechat

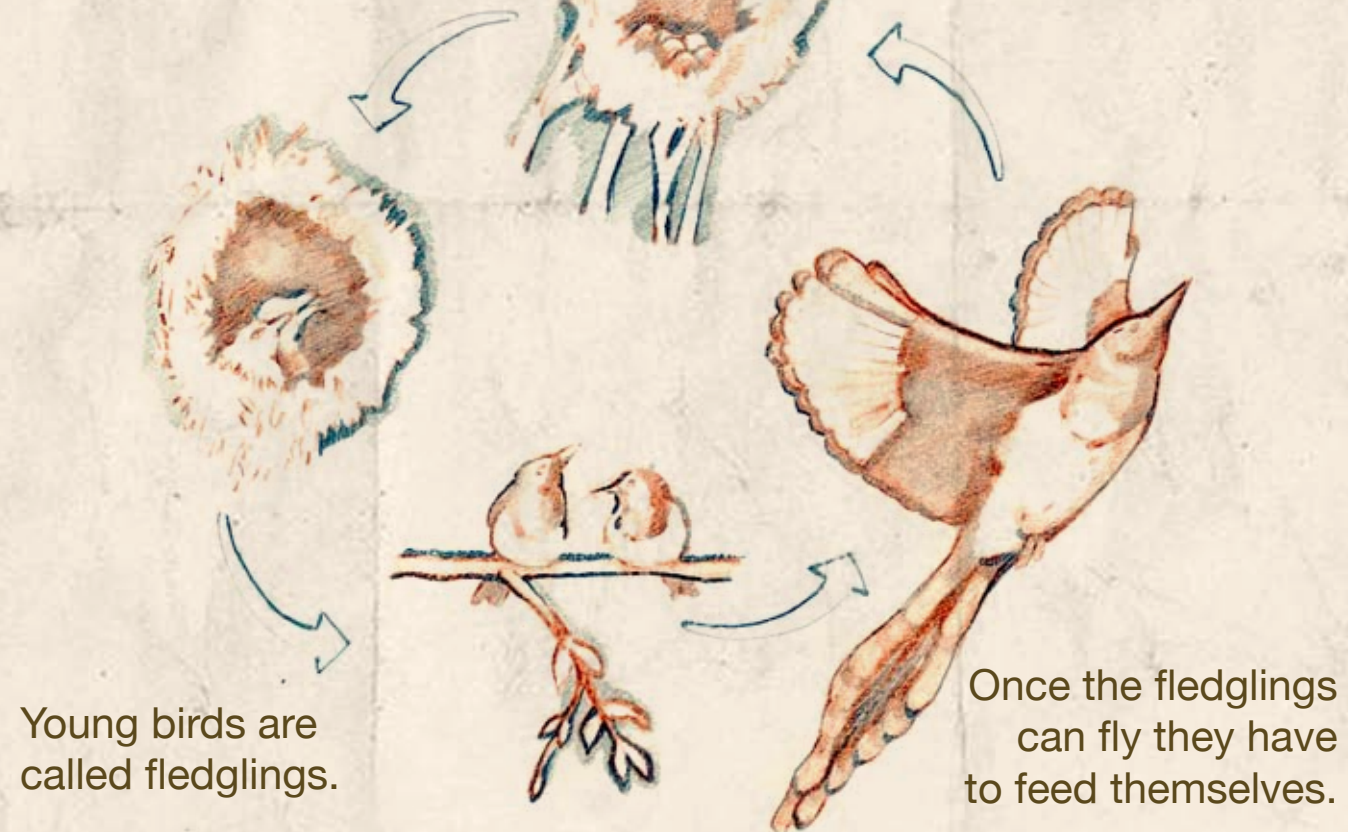
Stonechats feed on insects and like to build their nests deep in heather. They have a black hood and orange-brown underparts.



From Egg To Bird

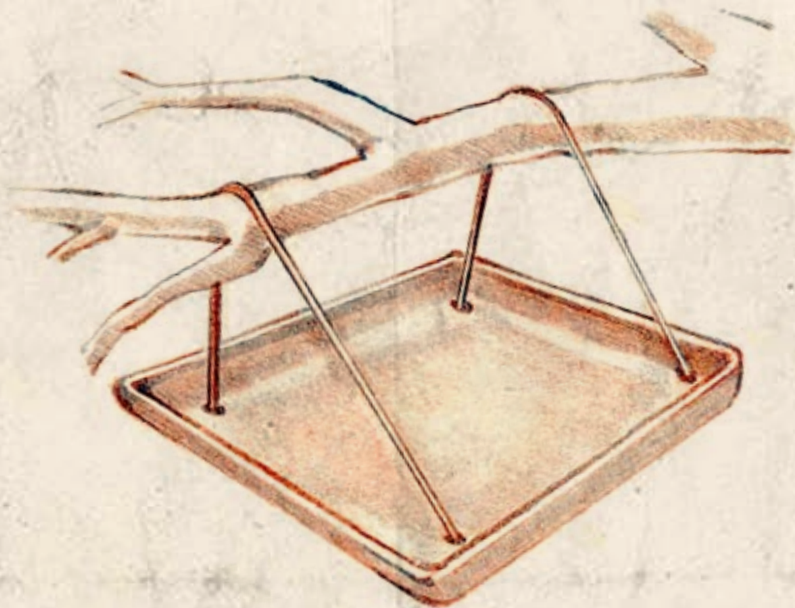
When birds are fully grown they find a mate build a nest and raise a brood.

A new brood of birds are growing inside these eggs.



Simple Bird Table

1. Find an old plastic tray and ask an adult to drill some holes around the edge. One at each corner plus two or three more along each edge.
2. Tie some cord through the holes at each corners to hang it.
3. Hang the bird table from the branch of a tree.



Bird Feeders

Whether you live in the town or the country, you can easily attract birds to your garden by placing some wild bird seed into a small bird feeder. The birds will enjoy a good feed and you will learn to recognise the different species. If you hang the bird feeder near a window, you can keep an eye on the birds while you are indoors. Just remember to hang the bird feeder where the cat can't get to it!

Materials:

Empty Milk or Juice Carton
Scissors
Paint and Paintbrush
Strong Tape
String

Step 1

Cut away most of the sides of the carton, leaving space at the bottom to hold the bird seed.

Step 2

Once you have got the shape of the bird feeder right, you can paint it. Choose a colour that will blend in with the surroundings and not frighten off the birds.

Step 3

When the paint is dry, you can decorate the bird feeder. Attach a piece of strong tape and loop at the top of the feeder and fill the base with some wild bird seed.

Step 4

Hang your bird feeder in place, safe from the reach of cats. Thread some peanuts on a piece of string and hang that up alongside the feeder.

Wild Flower Meadow

This is a great spot to stop and look at all the different plants the gardening team have introduced. The field looks natural but it's not really! We have spent many, many hours cutting back weeds, pruning trees and scattering wild flower seeds.

The long grass is a good habitat for birds, small mammals and insects attracted by the flowers.



Wild Flowers

Many wild plants that were once common in Donegal are now rare, because people have picked and dug up so many.

Ox Eye Daisy

Ox Eye Daisy flourishes in lime rich grassland, flowers close at night in bad weather.

Marjoram

Marjoram is extremely sensitive to heavy grazing and is now only found on roadside verges.

Wood Garlic

Smells of Garlic, broad, bright green leaves, forms carpets in damp areas.

Common Poppy

The common Poppy is the most conspicuous poppy in Ireland. Mostly seen on the margins of corn fields.

Word Search

See if you can find the following words amongst the letters in the grid:

- ASH
ELM
JACKDAW
SNAIL
BEE
FLOWER
- LADYBIRD
SWALLOW
BEECH
FLY
LAKE
WASP
- BIRCH
GARDEN
LEAF
WATER
BUGHOTEL
HOLLY
- MAGPIE
CHESTNUT
INSECT
OAK
WEED
DANDILION
- IVY
SLUG
WORM

j	f	e	r	v	w	l	d	b	g	w	m	h	a	e
a	e	j	m	s	t	u	r	v	j	a	l	g	q	t
f	j	b	r	s	n	a	i	l	a	h	i	l	e	c
b	h	e	e	h	l	j	b	i	c	r	o	w	s	g
i	f	z	h	l	a	d	y	g	k	h	l	a	p	y
o	e	b	r	r	a	m	d	o	d	j	a	t	s	t
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t	l	a	r	t	h	b	u	g	h	o	t	e	l	a
x	f	l	o	c	i	x	l	a	k	a	u	i	s	s
f	l	o	w	e	r	a	f	r	a	k	n	t	w	p
b	y	f	a	s	u	b	q	d	s	f	t	h	l	i
j	o	y	s	n	o	c	p	e	t	s	s	q	o	a
d	a	n	d	i	l	i	o	n	t	w	e	e	d	a
o	s	i	l	p	s	v	r	s	w	u	h	s	i	w
u	h	n	l	e	a	f	s	b	i	a	c	a	g	n

