



Manx Shearwater

(*Puffinus puffinus*)



Quick facts

Scientific Name: *Puffinus puffinus*

Size: Around 30-38cm long

Wingspan: 76-89cm

Weight: Approx. 400-600g

Lifespan: Can live over 50 years!
(Average is 30 years)

Appearance

Black upperparts and white underparts
Looks like a flying 'M' from below!

Thin, slightly hooked beak, for catching fish. Long, narrow wings for gliding over the sea.

Habitat & migration

Spends most of its life at sea, only coming to land to breed. Nests on Welsh islands like Bardsey, Skomer and Skokholm. Every year, they migrate over 10,000km to South America for the winter!

Diet

Eats small fish, squid, and crustaceans. Catches food by diving underwater and grabbing prey with its beak - can dive up to 50 meters deep. Can drink saltwater and filter out the salt!

Behaviour & adaptations

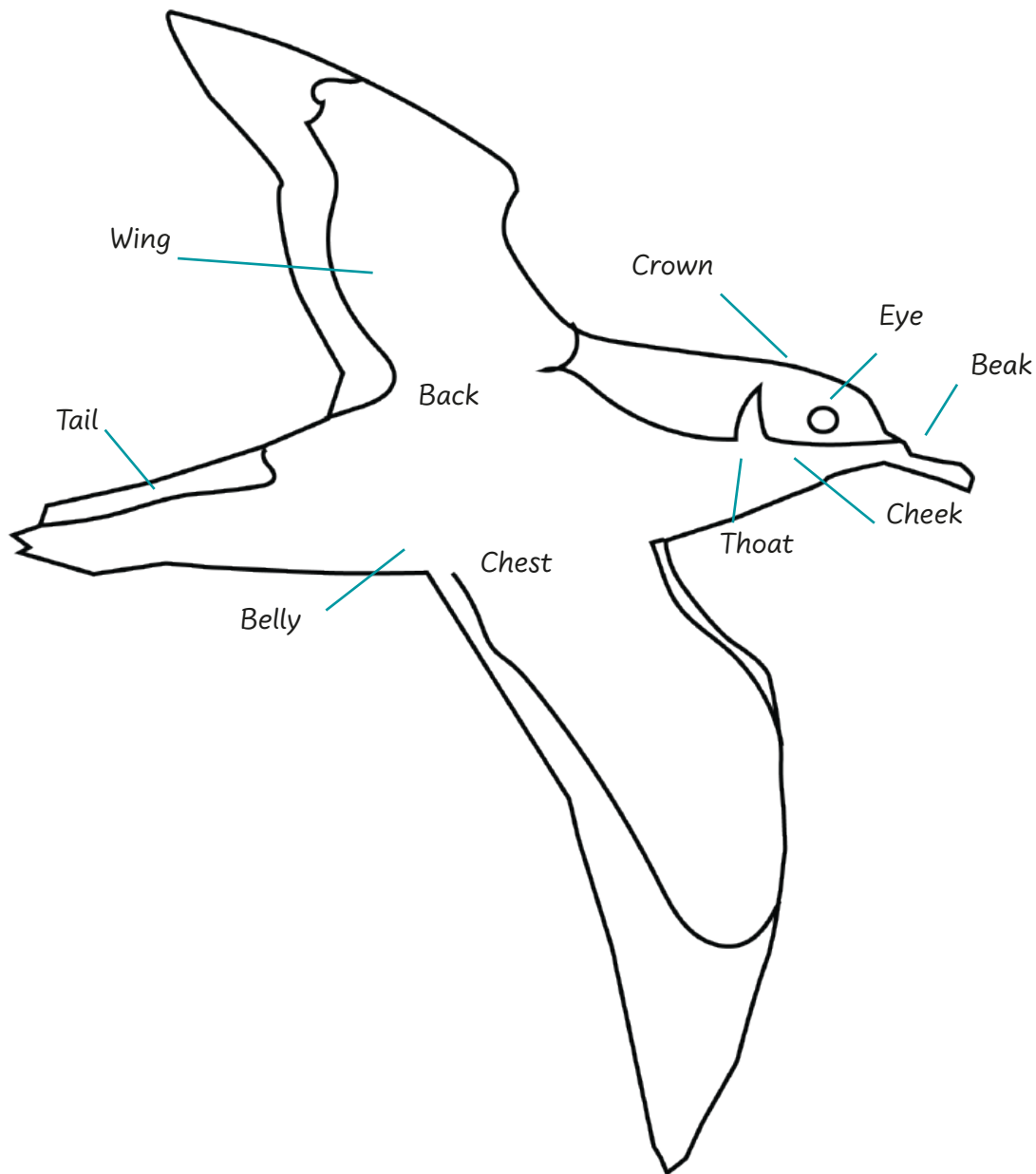
Flies low over the ocean, barely flapping its wings. Only comes to land at night to avoid predators. Nests in burrows or hidden crevices to stay safe. Uses its amazing sense of smell to find its nest at night.

Conservation & threats

Main threats: rats and other predators eating eggs & chicks. Plastic pollution & climate change are affecting food sources. Conservation efforts on Welsh islands have helped protect nesting sites.

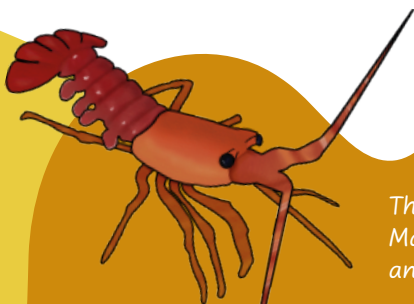
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Call & song

Very noisy at night in colonies! Sounds like a weird, eerie cackling laugh: Listen on the RSPB website – www.tiramor.cymru/wildliferecording (Resource 7).



There are only 5 major colonies of Manx shearwaters in the world and Bardsey is one of them.