



Manx Shearwater

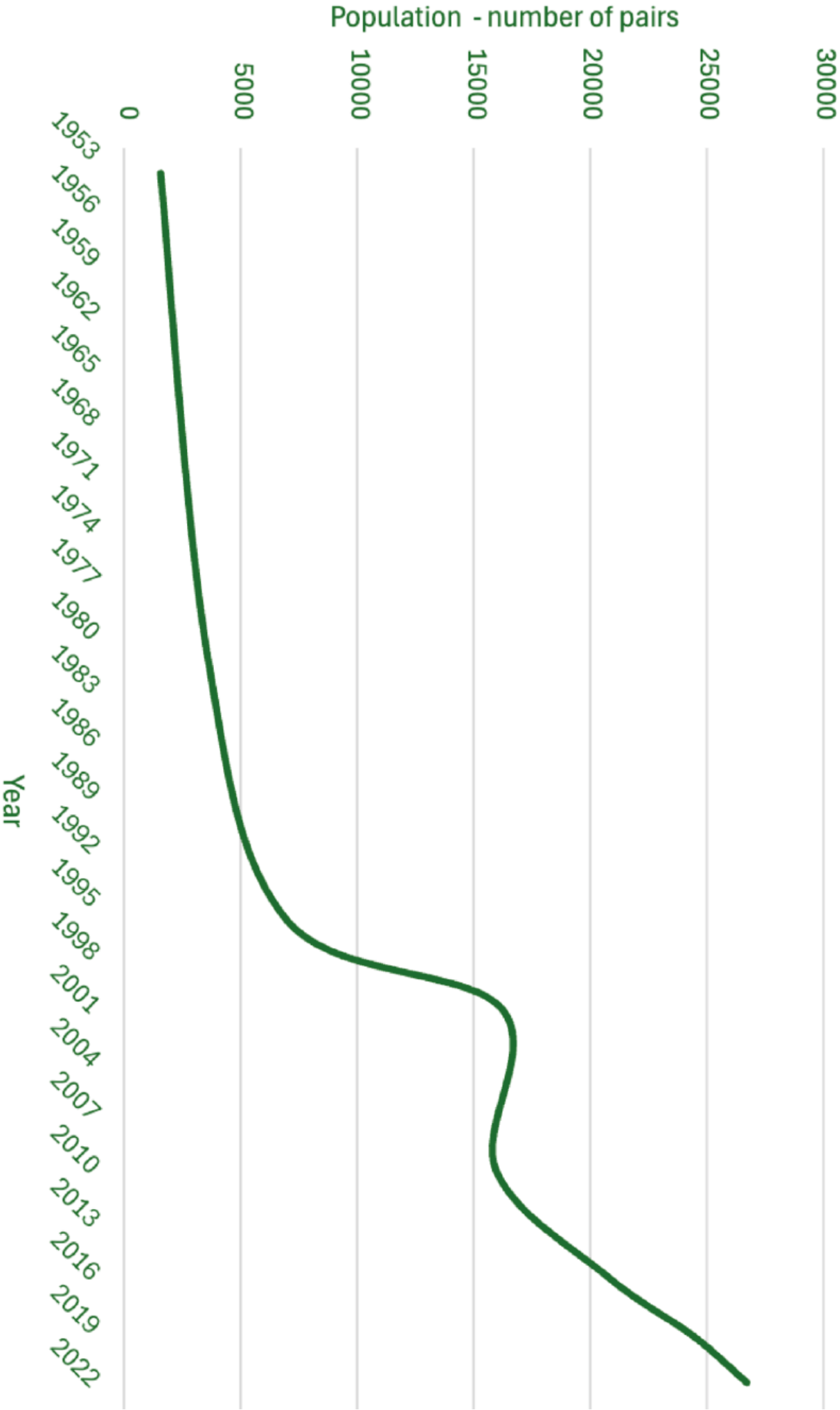
Equipment required

- Print out of the 'Manx Shearwater Population Trend Graph' (S_WR_2) 1 per group or displayed digitally
- 'Manx Shearwater' information sheet, 1 per group or displayed digitally
- Internet enabled devices and internet access for research

To complete the activity

1. Ask learners in the class to share names of birds they have seen in the school grounds or local area. Create a class bird list from their responses. Ask each group to choose a different bird from the list and discuss its appearance, habitat and diet.
 2. Encourage learners to consider why accurate identification matters, how scientists record birds in their conservation work and what clues can help distinguish species.
 3. Explain to the learners that they will examine diverse information sources about the Manx shearwater - from text-based sheets and graphs to comics and quizzes - to understand how different mediums present data and communicate scientific findings.
 4. Share the lifecycle comic with learners – www.tiramor.cymru/wildliferecording (Resource 4) and discuss:
 - How does the Manx shearwater differ from the birds in the school grounds?
 - Where does it live? How does it behave?
 - Why is it important to learn more about birds like the Manx shearwater?
 5. Then, share the Bardsey Manx shearwater population trend graph (S_WR_2) and ask:
 - Has the population increased or decreased? What factors might explain this?
 - How does this compare to other bird populations?
 - How can data guide conservation strategies?
- Encourage learners to use the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) website to consider trends for other birds - www.tiramor.cymru/wildliferecording (Resource 5).
6. Provide an opportunity for learners to complete the 'Manx Shearwater Quiz' – www.tiramor.cymru/wildliferecording (Resource 6)
 7. Share the 'Manx Shearwater' information sheet and ask learners to annotate, highlighting key details and discuss the structure.
 8. Encourage a brief class discussion on preferred ways of sharing information and why preferences vary. Which medium— text, comic, graphs, quiz, or other— would learners choose and why? Discuss why different people might prefer varying methods to share information.
 9. Support learners to choose a medium (e.g. PowerPoint, Sway, Word document, poster, comic, quiz, or graph) to present information about a bird from the class list. Encourage them to gather key facts and present their findings in a clear and engaging way.
 10. Encourage learners to share their work with the class, explaining key facts about their bird and their medium choice. What did they learn? Facilitate a brief Q&A after each presentation so peers can offer constructive feedback and discuss different approaches.

Population of Manx Shearwater on Bardsey Island





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

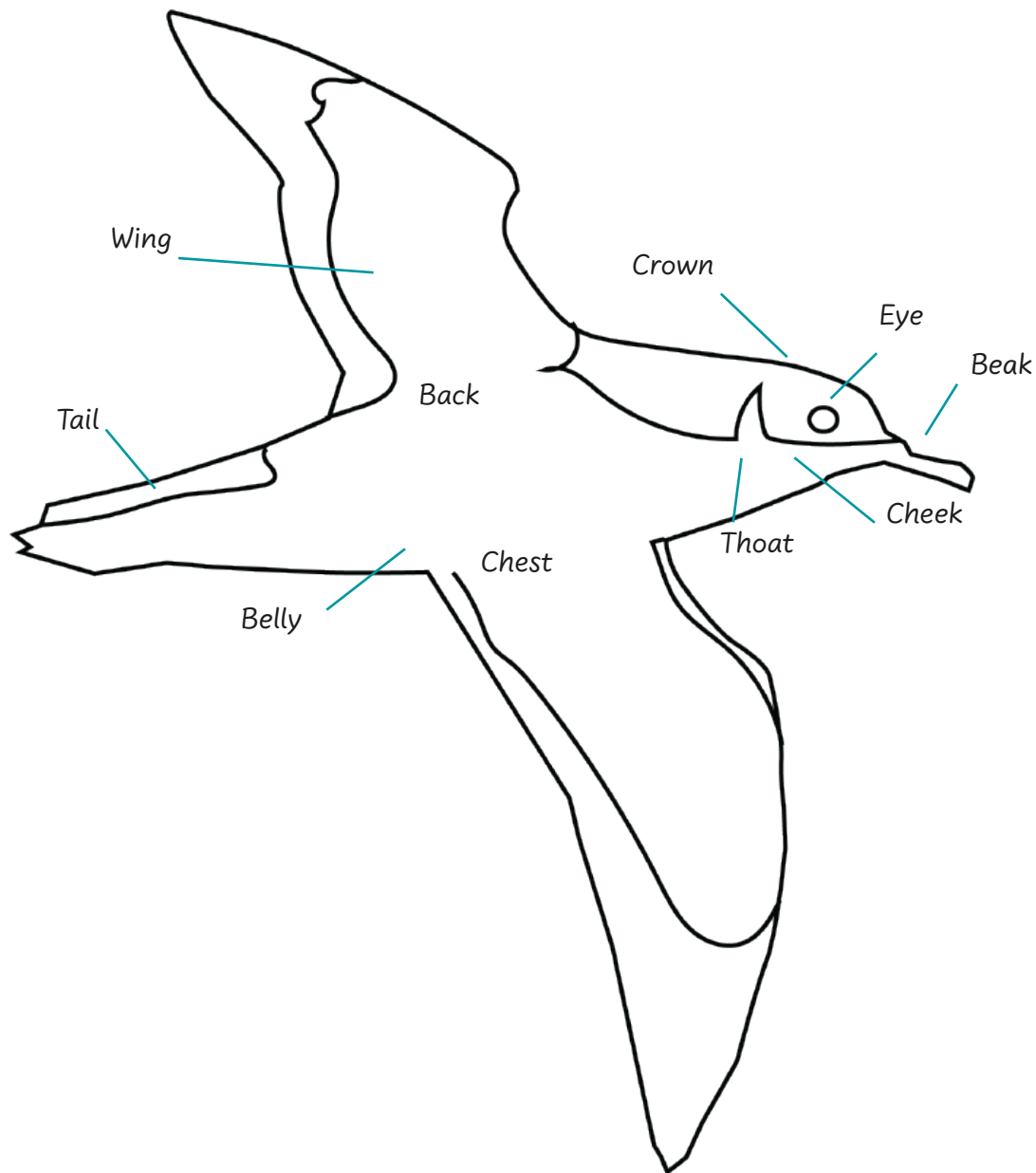
Flies low over the ocean, barely flapping its wings. Only comes to land at night to avoid predators. Nests in burrows or hidden crevices to stay safe. Uses its amazing sense of smell to find its nest at night.

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.

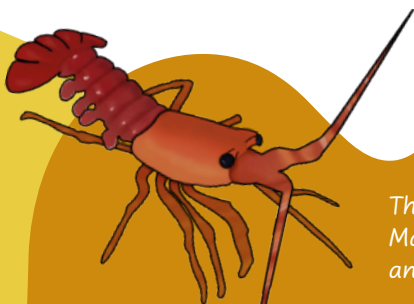
Manx Shearwater

(*Puffinus puffinus*)



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.