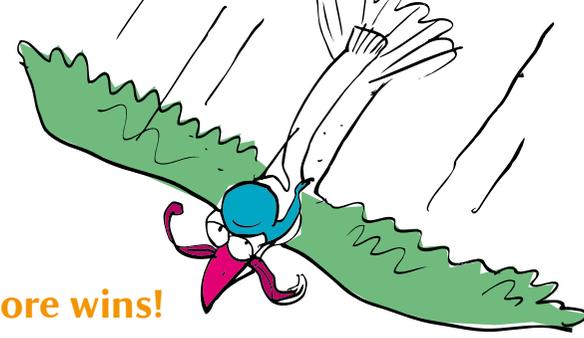




# Beastly Birds

The coastal cliffs are home to countless seabirds – but some of them have rather horrible habits. Grab a pair of binoculars if you have them and see how many of these beastly birds you can spot. **The highest score wins!**



National Trust

## Peregrine *The masked murderer*

The peregrine is the fastest bird in the world. It climbs to great heights and then dive bombs its victims, striking them in mid air with its talons, then it carries them back to a safe cliff edge, plucks off the feathers and devours the poor victim or feeds it to its hungry chicks.

**(30 points)**



## Kestrel *The silent assassin*

The kestrel is the only bird of prey to be able to hover silently keeping its head perfectly still whilst it uses its incredible eyesight to spot the slightest movement in the grass below, it then drops like a stone onto its unsuspecting prey which could be a small shrew, mouse or even lizard.

**(15 points)**



## Great Black-Backed Gull *The bully of the ocean waves*

*The bully of the ocean waves*

The great black-backed gull is a huge seagull with an enormous head and bill. It uses its size to chase other seabirds until they drop their food and the great black-backed gull swoops it up for an easy meal.

**(10 points)**



## Oystercatcher *The terror of the rockpools*

*The terror of the rockpools*

If you happen to be a small creature living in one of the rock pools or underneath a stone along the seashore, watch out for the stabbing red dagger bill of the oystercatcher as it probes the ground looking for its next morsel to eat.

**(10 points)**



## Fulmar *The vomiting seabird*

The fulmar has a rather unpleasant way of defending itself against attackers. If approached too closely it projectile vomits the contents of its stomach - sticky, gooey and oily mess all over its attacker. This can cover the feathers of any aerial attackers and mean they are unable to fly.



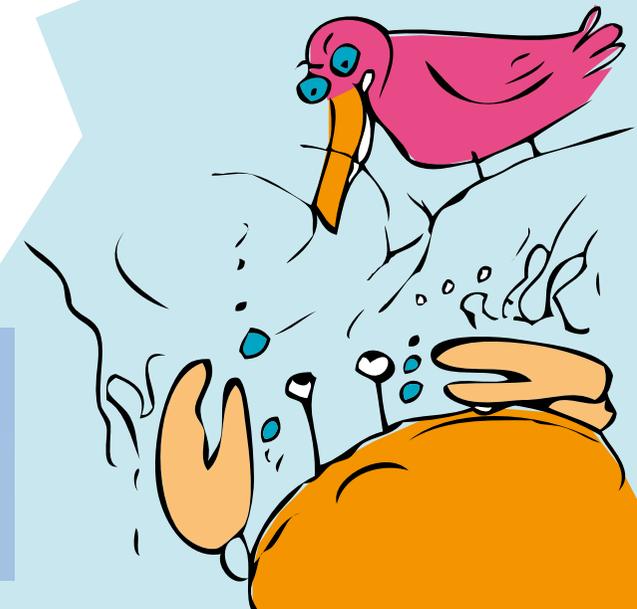
## Buzzard *The countryside scavenger*

*The countryside scavenger*

Keep your eyes open for the buzzard flying high in the sky as it soars on thermals, scanning the ground for dead animals that it can pick over for its next meal.

**(15 points)**

*Photographs North East Wildlife*



Type of bird	Points	Number spotted
Peregrine	30	
Kestrel	15	
Great black-backed gull	10	
Oystercatcher	10	
Fulmar	20	
Buzzard	15	
	<b>Grand total</b>	

*Draw your own beastly bird here*

**25 points** – Try a bit harder

**50 points** – Excellent spotting – don't give up yet

**100 points** – Well done! You are a beastly bird expert

