
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Take Away English 隨身英語

The Arctic tern's epic journey

北極燕鷗的漫長遷徙之旅



字彙 : *bird migration* 鳥類遷徙

Back in 2010, an international research team fitted **tracking devices** to birds they believed to be special – **Arctic terns**. And it turns out they were right, as described in US journal, PNAS. The Arctic tern has an extraordinary year-long **migration** from the **Arctic Circle** to the **Antarctic Circle** and back again.

What does this **route** look like? Arctic terns begin their migration in the **Northern hemisphere** in the summer, which is **breeding** season. As it gets colder and darker, turning to winter, the birds fly **southward**, parallel to the coast of South America or hugging the coast of the African **continent** to reach their winter **feeding ground**, the Antarctic Circle. And they do not always fly in a straight line. While heading back up north, their **flight path** mimics an S-shape which they follow to save energy while navigating the **wind systems** in the different hemispheres. This journey is a **round-trip** of up to 35,000km long, which makes the Arctic tern's migration the longest of any bird. Plus, they see more daylight than any other animal on Earth!

But, on this epic journey, the birds do take some well-deserved breaks. Heading northward, the population stops on the north and west coast of the UK to breed. A female **lays** one to three eggs in a **nest**, and after an **incubation** period of around three weeks, they **hatch**, and fluffy brown and grey **chicks** emerge. Meanwhile, the adult birds feed in the shallow coastal waters on fish, such as sand-eels. In contrast, while heading south, the birds appear to **stop off** in the middle of the North Atlantic Ocean, where they indulge on fish and **zooplankton**, preparing themselves for their long journey ahead.

So, if you ever see a little black and white bird with red legs and a red **beak**, show them some appreciation. They have flown a long way to see you!

字彙表

tracking device	跟蹤裝置
Arctic tern	北極燕鷗
migration	遷徙
Arctic Circle	北極圈
Antarctic Circle	南極圈
route	路線
Northern hemisphere	北半球
breeding	繁殖
southward	向南地
continent	大陸
feeding ground	覓食地
flight path	飛行路線
wind system	風系
round-trip	往返旅程
lay	產（蛋）
nest	鳥窩，鳥巢
incubation	孵化
hatch	（雛鳥）孵出，破殼而出
chick	雛鳥
stop off	中途停留
zooplankton	浮游動物
beak	（鳥）嘴，喙

測驗與練習

1. 閱讀課文並回答問題。

1. How long is the migration of an Arctic tern?
2. Why do the birds fly south in the winter?
3. True or False? *When flying north, Arctic terns fly in a straight line.*
4. Where and why do the birds stop in the UK?
5. What do Arctic terns eat?

2. 選擇意思恰當的單字或片語來完成下列句子。

1. We're travelling up the country but don't know which _____ to take.

route	continent	migration	beak
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2. Unfortunately, microplastics have been found in the _____ of many fish.

round-trip	feeding grounds	flight paths	wind systems
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3. I can't swim, so I usually stay in the _____ end of the pool.

north	southward	shallow	fluffy
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4. We watched two birds building a _____ in the oak tree in our garden.

chick	zooplankton	nest	incubation
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5. The children were allowed to _____ the penguins at the zoo today!

lay	hatch	breed	feed
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答案

1. 閱讀課文並回答問題。

1. How long is the migration of an Arctic tern?

The Arctic tern has an extraordinary year-long migration.

2. Why do the birds fly south in the winter?

Because it gets colder and darker in the Northern hemisphere.

3. True or False? *When flying north, Arctic terns fly in a straight line.*

False. While heading back up north, the flight path mimics an S-shape.

4. Where and why do the birds stop in the UK?

The population stops on the north and west coast of the UK to breed.

5. What do Arctic terns eat?

Fish, such as sand-eels, and zooplankton.

2. 選擇意思恰當的單字或片語來完成下列句子。

1. We are travelling up the country but don't know which **route** to take.

2. Unfortunately, microplastics have been found in the **feeding grounds** of many fish.

3. I can't swim, so I usually stay in the **shallow** end of the pool.

4. We watched two birds building a **nest** in the oak tree in our garden.

5. The children were allowed to **feed** the penguins at the zoo today!