



Return of the TERNs

How Scientists Are Saving Island Birds

Discover the inspiring, true story of how scientists are helping Common Terns. Scientists in a partnership between Maryland Coastal Bays Program (MCBP), Maryland's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife and Heritage Program, and Audubon Mid-Atlantic are building huge rafts to serve as nesting areas for these birds whose nesting habitats have disappeared due to climate change and erosion. On the rafts, the nests are also safe from development and land predators. Perfect for young readers, this beautifully illustrated book teaches important lessons about environmental conservation, habitat restoration, and wildlife protection.

El regreso de los charranes: Cómo los científicos están salvando a las aves de islas

ISBNs	English	Spanish	SRP \$US
Paperback	9781638173298	9781638173472	\$11.95
eBooks:			
interactive dual-language, read along (web)	9781638173335		\$ varies
epub3 (read along) 1:1 / 1:many	9781638173373	9781638173595	\$11.99 / \$36.99
PDF (basic) 1:1 / 1:many	9781638173410	9781638173656	\$7.99 / \$24.99

Releasing February 11, 2025

Ages 6-10 / Grades 3-5 / Lexile: 830L / ATOS: 4.4

Pages 32 / Trim 8.5 X 10 Nonfiction

Bisac codes:

- JNF037020 Environmental Conservation & Protection
- JNF003030 Animals / Birds

Thema codes:

- YBC: Children's Picture Book
- YPMP6: Environmental Science / Caring for our Planet
- YXZG: Environmentally Sustainable Solutions
- YNNB1: Wildlife/Habitats: Oceans & Shores
- YNNK: Birds
- 5AG: 6 plus

The For Creative Minds interactive, educational section includes:

- Match the Terns by Age
- Shorebird Snacks
- Fun Facts
- What's on the Raft?



US States where Common Terns nest (note that this story is based on a program in Maryland):

- Atlantic Coast: ME, NH, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, DE, MD, VA, NC, & SC
- Inland (lakes/freshwater habitats): MT, ND, SD, MN, WI, IL, MI, IN, OH, PA, NY, VT, NH, ME

NGSS Standard Alignments

3-LS1-1 From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes: Reproduction is essential to the continued existence of every kind of organism. Plants and animals have unique and diverse life cycles. *Relevance: Common terns migrate long distances to nest and reproduce on coastal islands. They scrape (dig) nests into the ground.*

3.LS2.C Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics: When the environment changes in ways that affect a place's physical characteristics, temperature, or availability of resources, some organisms survive and reproduce, others move to new locations, yet others move into the transformed environment, and some die. *Relevance: Some of these coastal islands are eroding and/or at risk due to climate change leaving the terns with no place to nest.*

3-LS4-3: Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity: Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all. *Relevance: The story explains how Common Terns need specific conditions to survive and how the erosion of their natural island posed a threat to their survival, prompting the creation of the raft.*

3-LS4-4: Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity: Make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem caused when the environment changes and the types of plants and animals that live there may change. *Relevance: The book directly addresses this standard by describing how scientists created a raft to solve the problem of habitat loss due to rising sea levels.*

4-ESS3-2: Earth and Human Activity: Generate and compare multiple solutions to reduce the impacts of natural Earth processes on humans. *Relevance: Although the focus is on birds, the book could be used to discuss how natural processes (like erosion and rising sea levels) impact wildlife and how humans can create solutions to mitigate these effects.*

5-ESS3-1: Earth and Human Activity: Obtain and combine information about ways individual communities use science ideas to protect the Earth's resources and environment. *Relevance: The book provides a real-world example of how communities and scientists work together to protect a species by creating a sustainable solution.*

About the Authors & Illustrator

Jennifer Keats Curtis is an award-winning author that regularly, and delightedly, works with biologists, environmental specialists, and science experts to research and write her books. Some of her books include Children's Choice Book Award Winner *Kali's Story: An Orphaned Polar Bear Rescue*; NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books for Children: *Pooper Snooper* (also 2023 Children's Book Councils Favorites), *After A While Crocodile: Alexa's Diary*, *Moonlight Crab Count*, and *Maggie: Alaska's Last Elephant*. The realistic fiction, *Creek Critters*, co-authored with scientists at Stroud Water Research Center, was a finalist for the AAAS/Subaru SB&F Prize for Excellence in Hands-on Science Books.

Kim Abplanalp (ab-plan-alp) is Maryland Coastal Bays' Bird Habitat Coordinator in charge of bird habitat restoration, waterbird monitoring, and the artificial breeding habitat project, the Tern Raft. She has presented at the Waterbird Society Meeting and Pacific Seabird Group and serves as the tern raft photographer for Audubon Mid-Atlantic. Her photos have been featured in *Chesapeake Bay Magazine*, the *Capital Gazette*, and other publications. Her images are the basis of this book's illustrations and appear in the For Creative Minds section. Besides researching horseshoe crab behavior, Kim has had a myriad of life experiences as a myofascial release therapist, art gallery owner, jewelry designer, and as a dock worker! She was also a yoga and meditation teacher spanning decades. In her spare time, she remains an avid birder and a bird guide.

Since childhood, **Phyllis Saroff** has brought together her loves of science and art. In addition to *Return of the Terns: How Scientists Are Saving Island Birds*, *Pooper Snoopers*, *Creek Critters*, *Maggie: Alaska's Last Elephant*, *Vivian and the Legend of the Hoodoos*, *Tuktuk: Tundra Tale*, and *Sounds of the Savanna* for Arbordale, Phyllis has illustrated nonfiction books about the natural world such as *Teeth and Mary Anning: Fossil Hunter*. She also illustrates for children's magazines, wayside signs and other educational material. Phyllis works digitally and with oil paint.

All three live in Maryland where this story takes place.



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