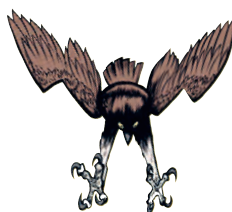


**ANDREAS TJERNSHAUGEN**

ILLUSTRATED BY SIGBJØRN LILLEENG



# DANGEROUS JOURNEYS

The Fantastic Tale of Migratory  
Birds That Fly Half-way Around  
the World

English sample by Rosie Hedger  
Supported by translation grants from NORLA



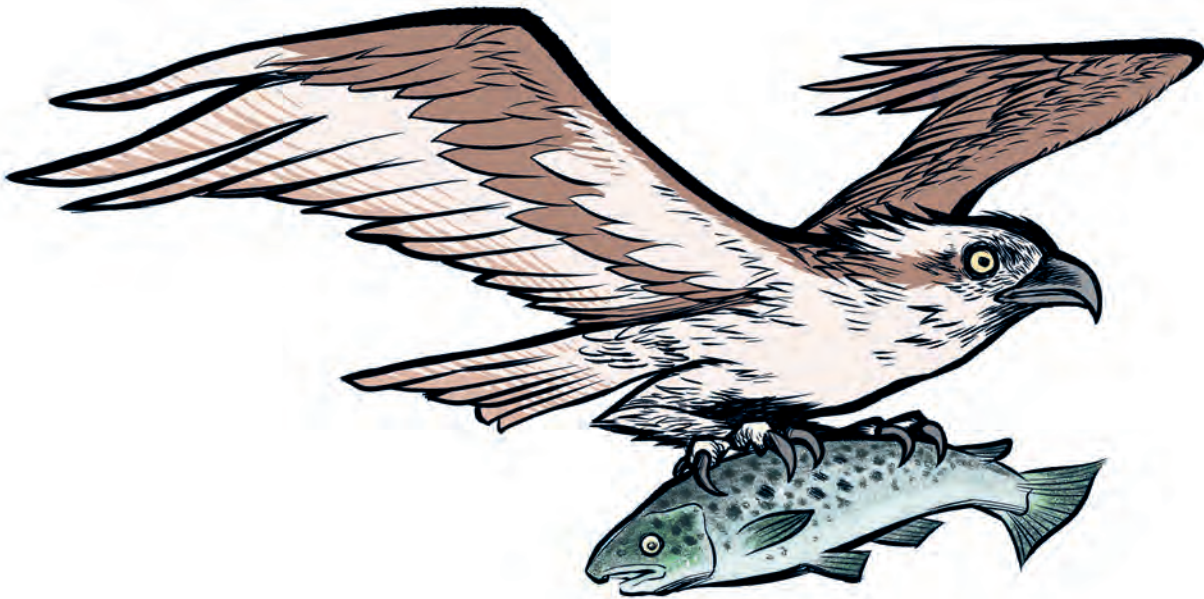
KAGGE  
FORLAG



## *The egg cracks open!*

The baby bird blinks in the bright light.  
It's a tiny osprey. We'll call him Freddy.





Freddy's father swoops in.  
He is clutching a fish he's caught in his talons.

## — OSPREY —

Weight: 1120-2050 grammes | Wingspan: 145-170cm | Scientific name: *Pandion haliaetus* | What they eat: Fish

**Did you know?** Ospreys can be found everywhere in the world except Antarctica.

Freddy's mother takes the fish and tears off small chunks to feed to him.



A few days after Freddy hatches, his little sister emerges from her own egg.

There are just two chicks in the osprey nest this year. Their mother laid three eggs, but there is no chick in the third egg. These things happen.

The nest is huge. Freddy's mother and father have built it high up in a pine tree using sticks and twigs they found lying around. If you were to get up there and have a look, you'd very quickly notice a horrible smell: osprey nests stink of rotten fish. Freddy and his sister are used to it, and no doubt think the nest is a lovely place to be.

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### EGG

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In an osprey nest, the mother bird tends to lay two or three eggs. They are about as large as the kind of eggs you buy in the supermarket. The shell is pale in colour, with dark-brown speckles.







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*EURASIAN EAGLE-OWL*

Weight: 1800-4200 grammes | Wingspan: 160-188cm | Scientific name: *Bubo bubo* | What they eat:  
Mammals such as mice and hares, and various types of bird.

**Did you know?** The Eurasian eagle-owl is Europe's largest owl



The background is a dark, teal-colored night sky. Large, dark feathers of an owl are spread across the top and right sides of the frame. In the lower foreground, the head and neck of a smaller owl are shown in profile, facing left. It has a sharp, dark beak and a single, bright yellow eye. The overall mood is mysterious and dramatic.

# ATTACK!

In the middle of the night, a huge owl whizzes by. Freddy has grown and is quite large now, but he is not yet strong enough to defend himself against a fully-grown Eurasian eagle owl. The gigantic owl digs its talons into his back.

Freddy is about to become owl food.

His mother saves the day. She swoops in at the last minute and attacks the owl – eventually it accepts defeat and flies away.





The two osprey chicks practise taking flight.

Both birds teeter at the edge of the nest, seeing what it feels like to have the wind beneath their wings. Freddy attempts a few flaps.

On his first few attempts he hovers no more than a few centimetres above the nest before dropping back down again. After a short while, he feels bold enough to go higher.

He circles in the air before sitting in a tree with a view of his nest, where his little sister remains.

Freddy flies so high that he can see all the way out to the coast. He spots his father hovering above a shallow bay on the hunt for flounder.



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#### FOOD

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Ospreys can eat almost any fish they can catch, whether that be in fresh water or salt water. In Norway, for instance, they might catch and eat brown trout, pike, chub, mackerel and various types of flounder. They tend to catch fish up to half a kilo in weight.

Directly beneath Freddy is a lake. Way down below him he catches sight of something. The back of a fish. He wants to dive down and catch it.

The wind whistles around him as he extends his talons out in front of him.



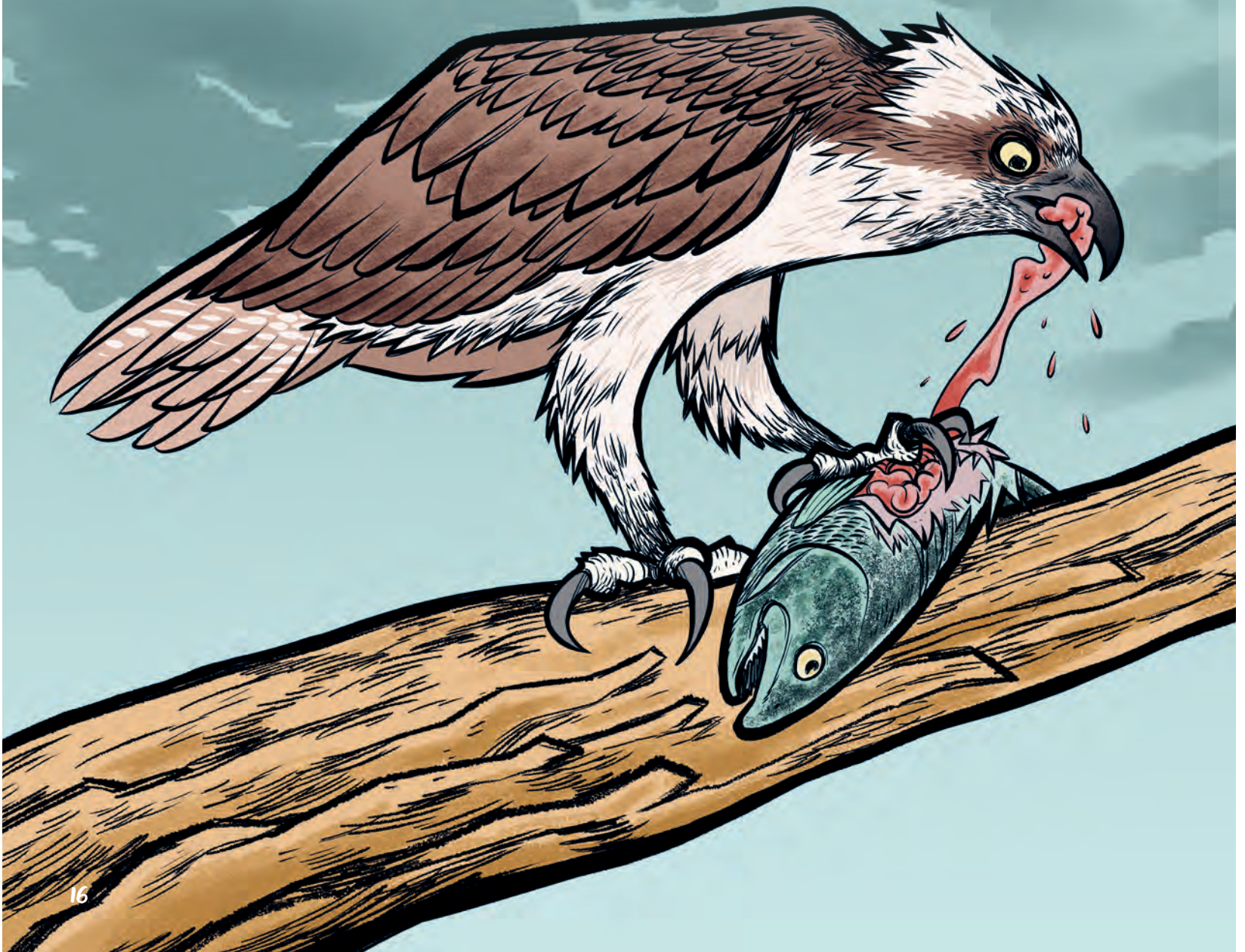
**SPLASH!**

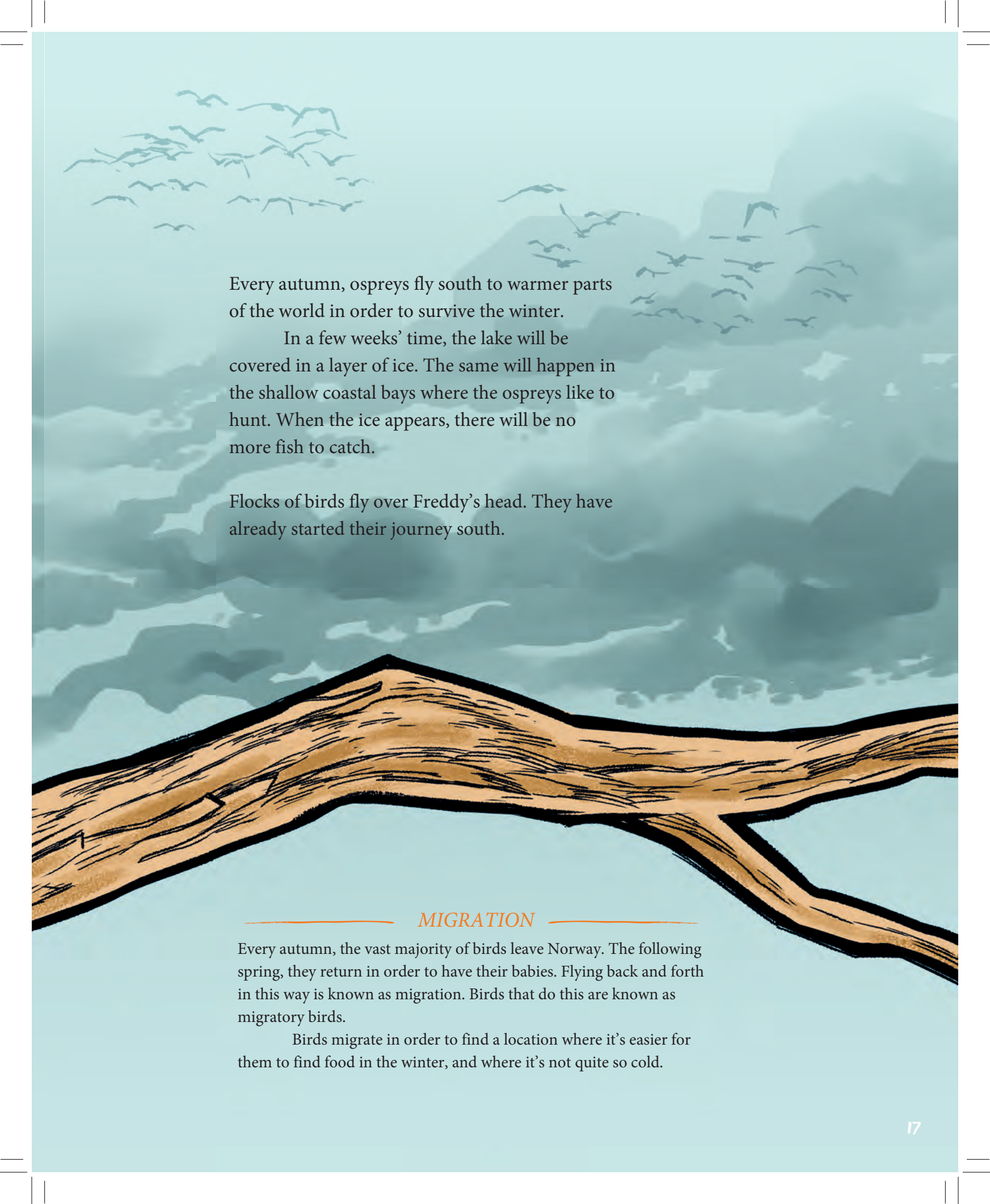
Freddy's entire body disappears beneath the water. He misses the fish. He flaps his wings and fights with all his might to make it back to the surface.



Freddy sits in a tree eating a fish he caught all by himself.

He feels uneasy, he knows it's time for him to move on. It won't be long before he leaves everything behind him. His nest, his family. He doesn't need them anymore. He may not be an adult yet, but he has to tackle life alone.





Every autumn, ospreys fly south to warmer parts of the world in order to survive the winter.

In a few weeks' time, the lake will be covered in a layer of ice. The same will happen in the shallow coastal bays where the ospreys like to hunt. When the ice appears, there will be no more fish to catch.

Flocks of birds fly over Freddy's head. They have already started their journey south.

### *MIGRATION*

Every autumn, the vast majority of birds leave Norway. The following spring, they return in order to have their babies. Flying back and forth in this way is known as migration. Birds that do this are known as migratory birds.

Birds migrate in order to find a location where it's easier for them to find food in the winter, and where it's not quite so cold.

Freddy has left home.

He soars above fields and forests, rivers and lakes, roads and towns and houses. Before long he crosses the border between Norway and Sweden, but he isn't aware that he's crossing from one country to the next. Birds don't know about borders and nations.

Fiskgjuse\*



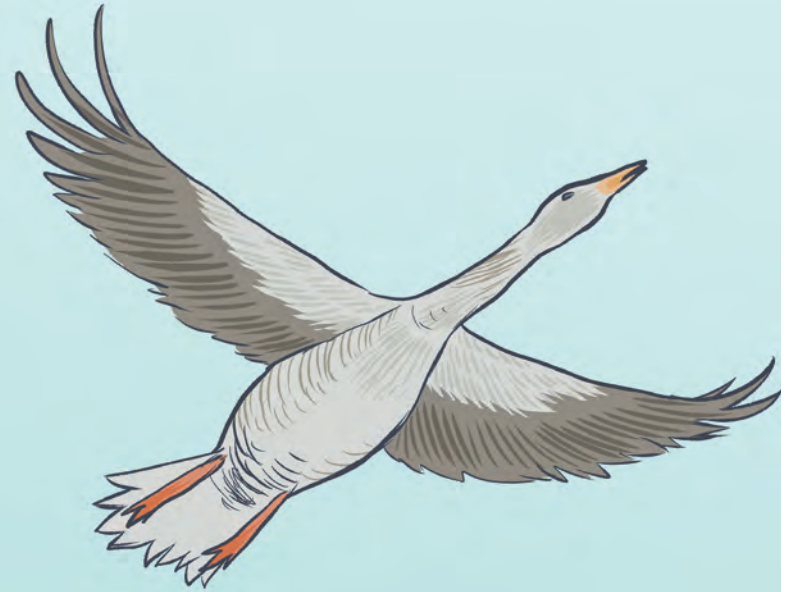




Freddy is particularly interested in shallow pools where he can catch fish, and trees where he can seek some rest. On the first night of his journey south he finds a tree to sleep in. The following morning, he carries on with his journey.

\*That's Swedish for osprey

A flock of greylag geese fly beneath Freddy. The birds fly together in a V-shaped formation. Flying together in this way is a clever trick employed by migratory birds.



The bird at the front of the flock sets things in motion. The birds at the back are helped along thanks to the reduced wind resistance.

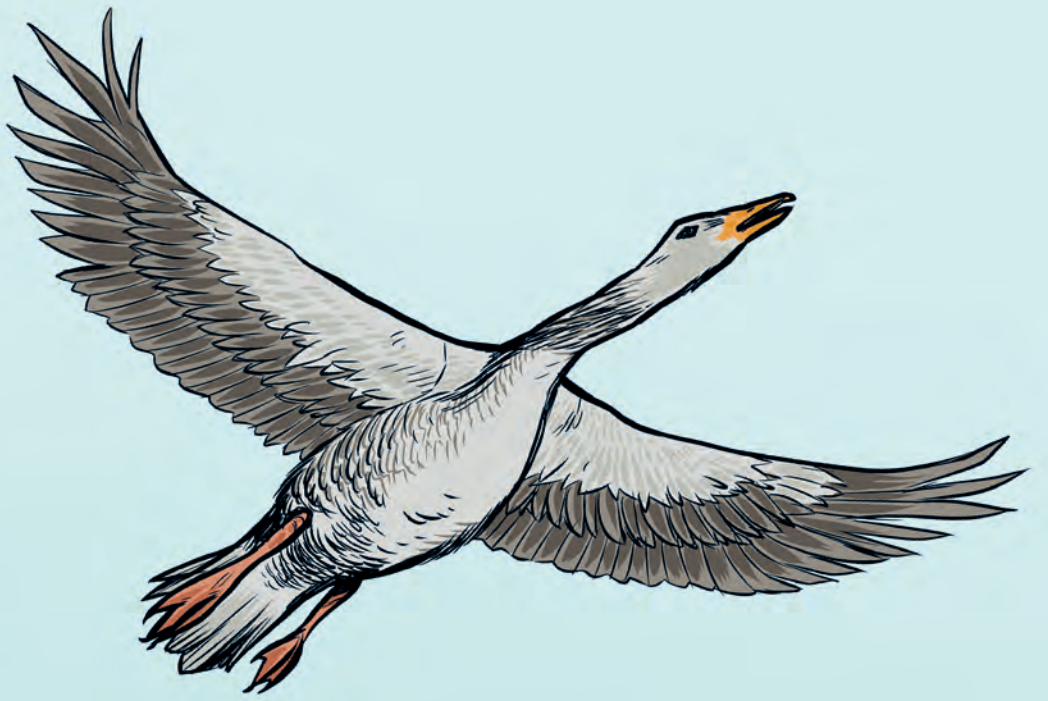
After a while, the goose leading the flock begins to tire from helping the others. When that happens, it switches places with another bird further back, and receives a little help in return.

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### GREYLAG GEESE

Weight: 2100-4300 grammes | Wingspan: 147-180cm | Scientific name: *Anser anser* |  
What they eat: Plants, including grass

**Did you know?** Most greylag geese from Norway spend the winter in Denmark, Germany or the Netherlands. Some spend the winter on the south coast of Norway.



Some of the geese are young, and flying south for the first time. They're not quite sure where they're going, so they follow the group.



Ospreys don't fly in groups.  
Freddy has to make his own way south.



Freddy has made it to Denmark. He sleeps in a tree. High above him, other migratory birds that prefer flying under the cover of darkness pass overhead. A tiny willow warbler dashes across the dark night sky. She's in luck: the wind is helping to propel her in the right direction.



The willow warbler is from Norway, too. She hatched out of a tiny egg early in the summer. The nest she grew up in was actually very close to Freddy's osprey nest. It's unlikely that he ever spotted her, though. Very small birds like willow warblers don't hold much interest for ospreys.

There are probably willow warblers where you live, too. The willow warbler is Norway's most common bird. Even so, not many people are able to identify them. They may not look very exciting. Nobody thinks 'Oh, wow!' when they spot a willow warbler.

The little willow warbler zips along with the wind beneath her wings, high above Denmark. Flying during the hours of darkness is the safest option. When you're as small as she is, plenty of birds would eat you given half the chance. Fortunately, most of those birds sleep through the night.

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### WILLOW WARBLER

Weight: 7-10 grammes | Wingspan: 16-22cm | Scientific name: *Phylloscopus trochilus* | What they eat: Most insects and spiders

**Did you know?** Willow warblers only spend the summer in Norway. They leave the country every autumn, flying south to Africa. Many of them die on that journey. Even so, more than ten million willow warblers return to Norway each year.



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### SPARROWHAWK

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Weight: 110-342 grammes | Wingspan: 55-70cm | Scientific name: *Accipiter nisus* |  
What they eat: Small birds

Did you know? Sparrowhawks are also migratory birds. Some spend the winter in Norway, but most Norwegian sparrowhawks migrate to other countries in Europe.

The sun is shining. The willow warbler has stopped in Germany to find something to eat.


She hops from one branch to the next on the hunt for insects.

All of a sudden, a shadow passes overhead. She jumps. The razor-sharp talons of a sparrowhawk attempt to seize the willow warbler, but she manages to slip away. The sparrowhawk chases her into the undergrowth, but she slips from side to side, zipping about with the flair of a footballer, finding a path so dense that the sparrowhawk can't get through. Eventually the hawk is forced to give up.

It isn't long before the willow warbler is back on the hunt for insects.

She needs to eat if she's going to make it any further on her journey.





The willow warbler doesn't see it, but another much bigger bird is floating high in the sky above her. It's Freddy, he's caught up with her again.

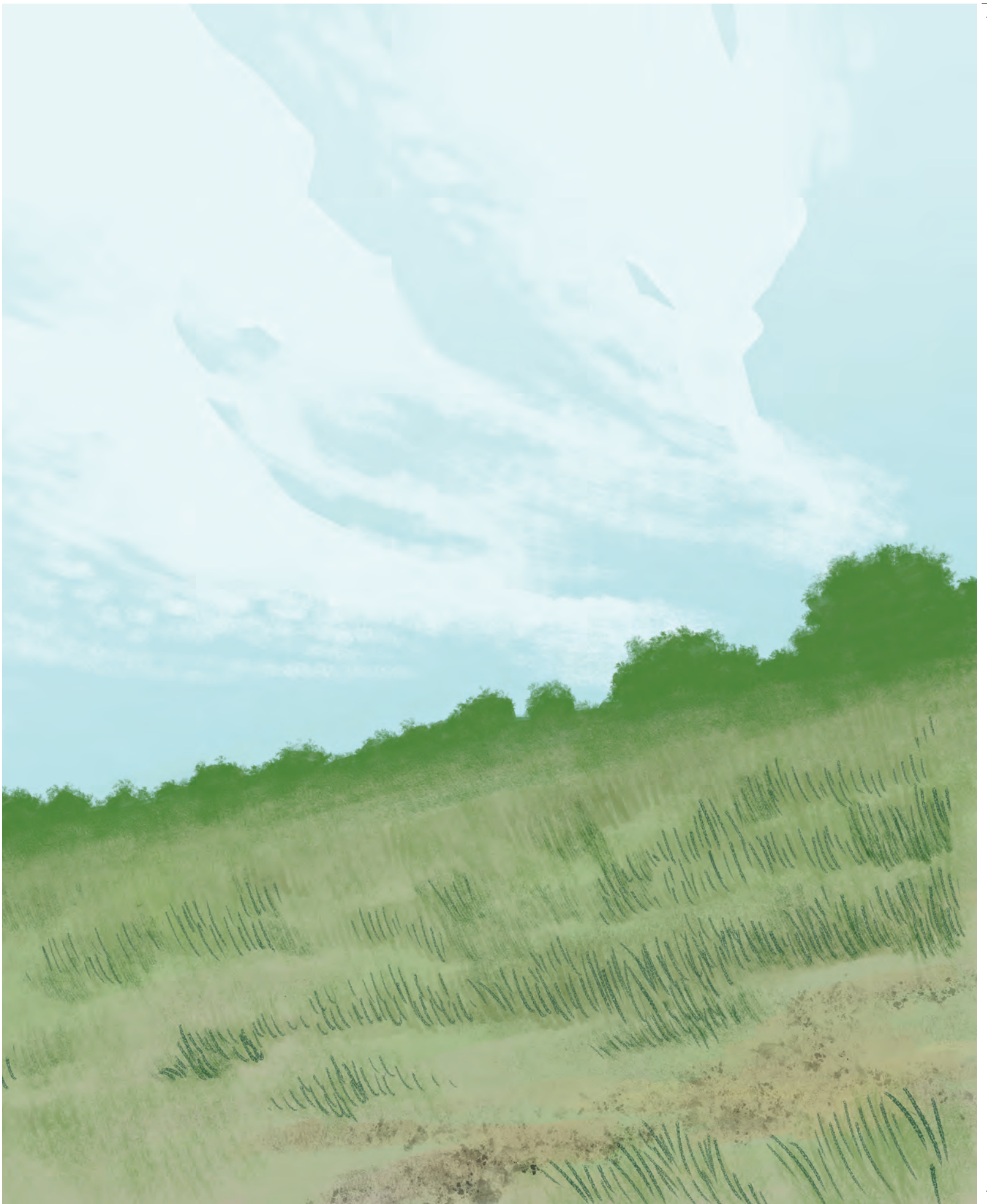
The terrain down below him is entirely flat.



Fischadler!\*

\* That's German for osprey





Freddy soars high in the sky on straight wings.


Gradually he is lifted higher and higher by the wind, rising upwards in a circular motion. Eventually, when he's hundreds of metres above the ground, he tips forward and glides like a paper plane, downwards at an angle and in precisely the direction he wants to travel. He moves his wings only when necessary to alter his direction of travel. He can travel long distances like this without having to engage his muscles too much.





The sun is causing the wind to blow upwards.  
When the sun warms the ground, the air at  
ground level also increases in temperature.  
Warm air weighs less than cold air, and so it  
rises up like a hot-air balloon.

On an overcast day, when the sun fails to warm the  
ground, warm air currents don't move upwards. On  
days like that, Freddy is forced to flap his wings,  
which is much more tiring.




Water sparkles beneath Freddy. He's flying over a lake when he spots something interesting. A fish. It's perfect. Freddy is hungry. He tilts himself downwards, tucks his wings in and begins his dive.

He controls his direction of travel with the help of his wings and tail, making sure he hits just the right spot. His talons are first to hit the water. They grab the fish, which hasn't a chance at getting away.

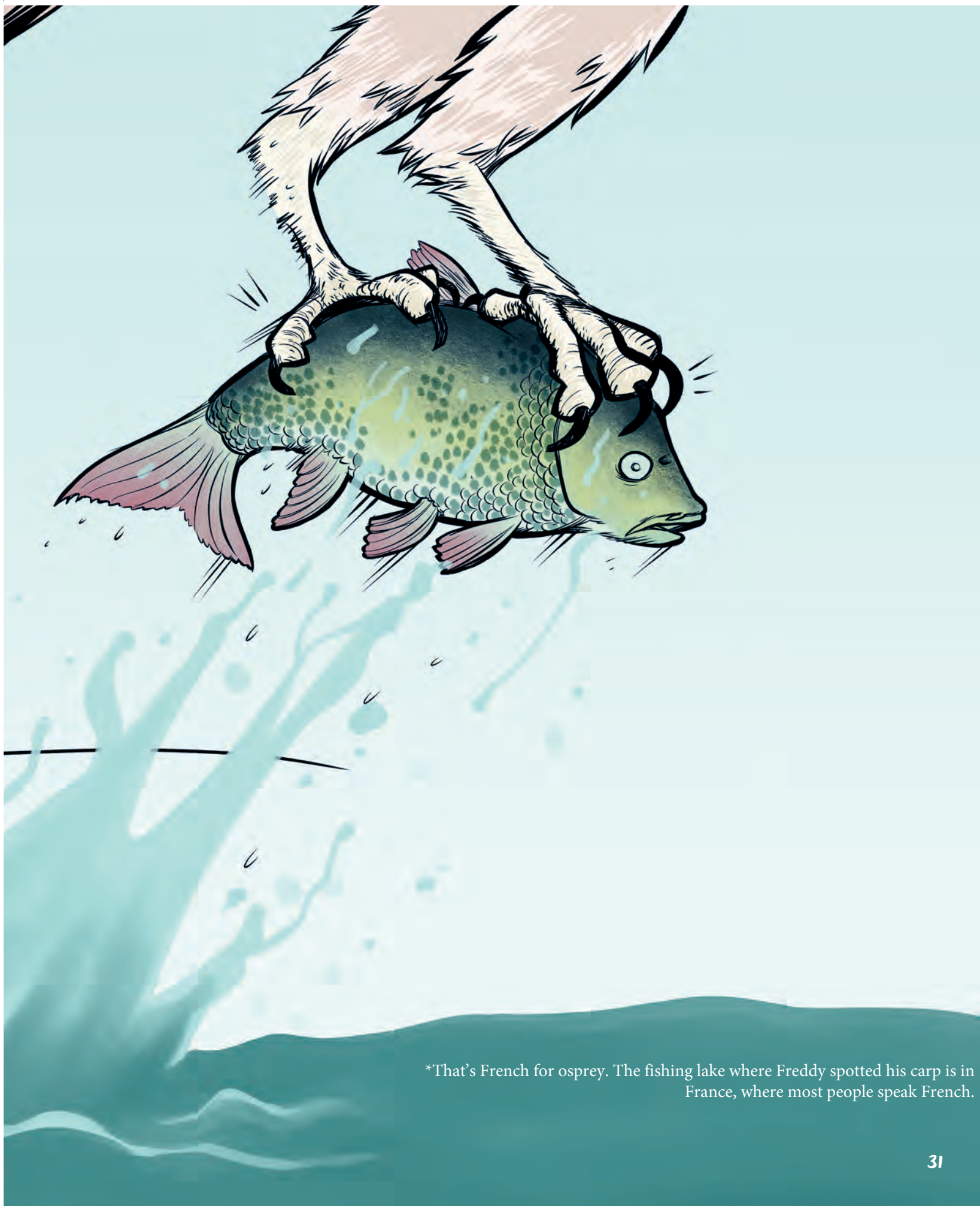
## *A CARP!*

He's never tasted carp before.



Balbuzard  
pêcheur!\*





\*That's French for osprey. The fishing lake where Freddy spotted his carp is in France, where most people speak French.

Freddy has made it as far south in Europe as it's possible to go. He flies over a small town in Spain known as Tarifa.

From here you can see Africa across the water.

Freddy's in luck:  
he's located the shortest  
route over the sea.



Águila  
Pescadora!\*

\* That's Spanish for osprey



Freddy flies across the short stretch of ocean known as the Strait of Gibraltar. Before long, he's soaring above Tangier in Morocco, located in the continent of Africa.

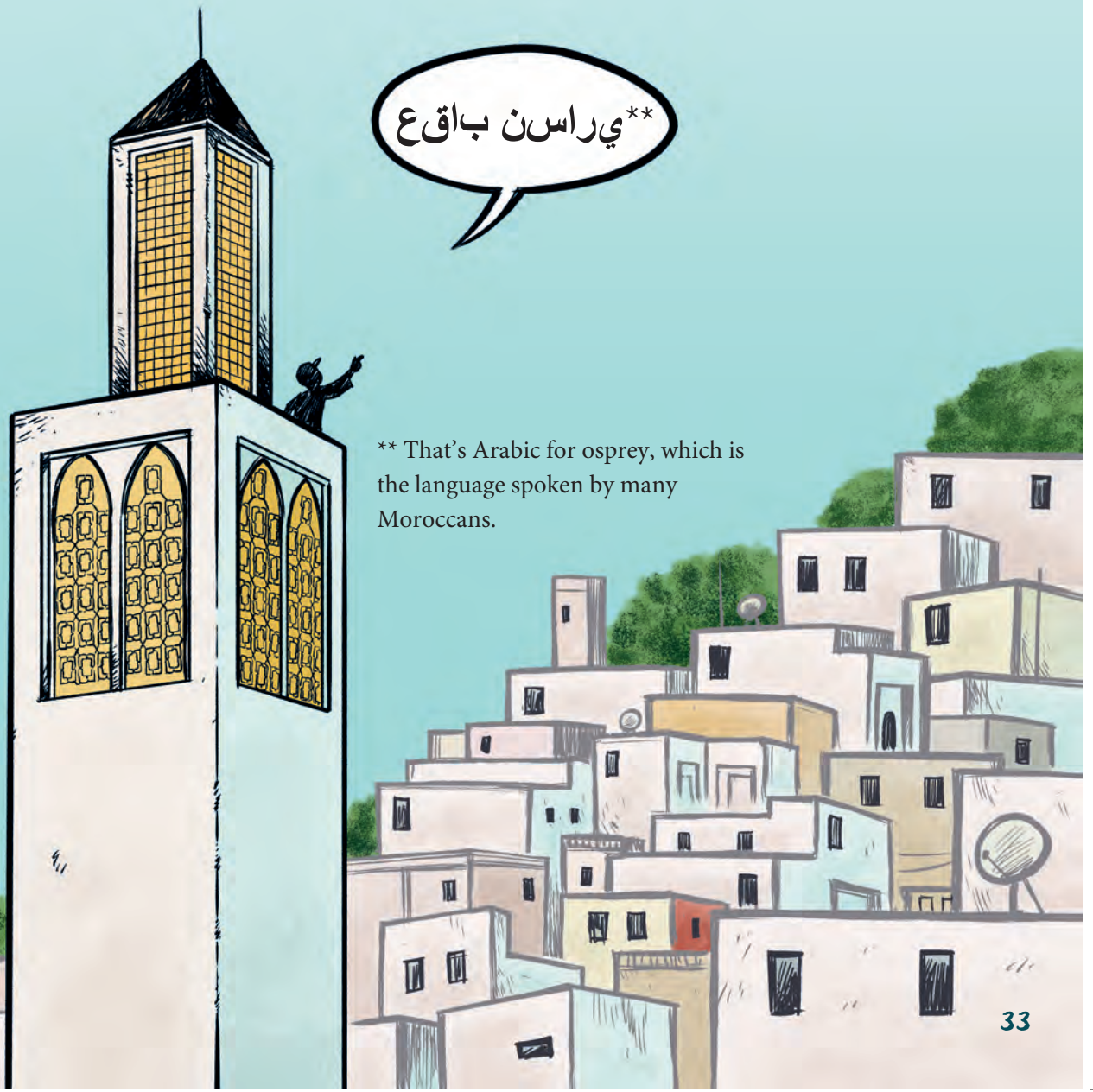


يُراسن باقِع\*\*

*Did you know?*

The Strait of Gibraltar is a narrow stretch of ocean connecting Europe in the north and Africa in the south. East of the Strait of Gibraltar is the Mediterranean Sea. West of the Strait of Gibraltar is the Atlantic Ocean.

\*\* That's Arabic for osprey, which is the language spoken by many Moroccans.





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ELEONORA'S FALCON

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Weight: 270-495 grammes | Wingspan: 84-110cm | Scientific name: *Falco eleonora* |  
What they eat: Small birds and large insects

Did you know? Eleonora's falcons have their young late in the summer in order that they can feed them passing migratory birds in the autumn.




The background is a solid red color. Several white, diagonal streaks of varying lengths and thicknesses are scattered across the upper half of the page, suggesting a sunset or a fast-moving object. On the left side, there are two dark, stylized illustrations of bird wings or feathers, one near the top and one near the bottom, both with yellowish-brown markings. The text is positioned in the upper right and lower left areas.

The sun sets, and the tiny willow warbler prepares herself to cross the Mediterranean Sea. As darkness falls, she flies up, higher and higher until she is many hundreds of metres above the waves. The air around her is teeming with other small birds from Europe making the journey to Africa.


Danger hovers above an island. The Eleonora's falcons have quick wings, and sharp beaks and claws. They are experts at catching migratory birds. The falcons hover almost motionless in the air as they wait, leaning into the wind to keep themselves in the air. The string of falcons in the sky are like a wall blocking the way for the small birds.

The willow warbler is lucky. One falcon dives after another small bird, clutching it tight in its talons. The falcon swiftly disappears, gliding off to feed the prey to its chicks. The willow warbler makes it past unharmed.





Crossing the Atlas Mountains goes well. Further south, greater challenges await. Freddy must make it over the world's largest desert, the Sahara. This is the most perilous section of his journey. An osprey can go for days without food or water in the desert. If a sandstorm should hit, things can very quickly take a turn for the worse. Many young ospreys die on their first journey south across the desert.

The background of the page is a stylized illustration. The top half shows a range of jagged, snow-capped mountains in shades of light blue and white against a pale blue sky. A black silhouette of a bird is shown in flight, wings spread, positioned centrally between the mountains and the text below. The bottom half of the page shows a range of brown, rocky mountains with black outlines, rendered in a sketchy, textured style. The text is placed in the middle section of the page, between the two mountain ranges.

Freddy is about to embark on his most difficult challenge yet.

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### *THE ATLAS MOUNTAINS*

The tallest peak in the Atlas Mountains is Toubkal in Morocco, at 4167m above sea level.

For comparison, here are a few other noteworthy mountain peaks:

Norway's tallest mountain is Galdhøpiggen, at 2469m above sea level.

Europe's tallest mountain is Mont Blanc, at 4809m above sea level.

Africa's tallest mountain is Kilimanjaro, at 5895m above sea level.

The world's tallest mountain is Mount Everest, at 8849m above sea level.



Sand, dust, rocks. Baking hot sun. Freddy flies high above the desert with not a speck of water in sight. Nowhere to catch any fish. This is no place for an osprey.

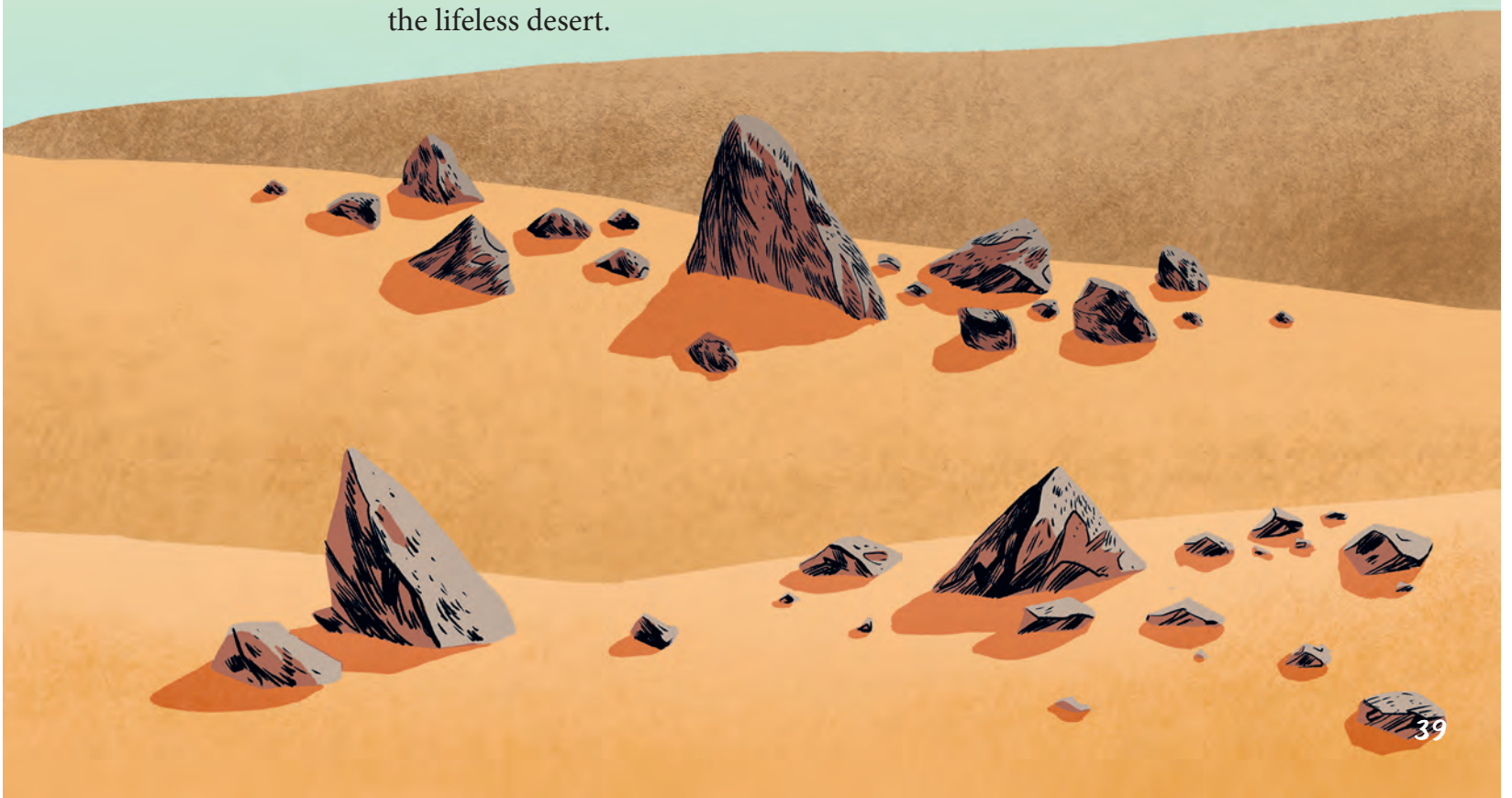
The sun creates good thermals here in the Sahara at any rate, warm air that rises and lifts Freddy high up, allowing him to glide back down again. This makes his journey easier. Even so, Freddy is weary.



If he had been lucky, he might have stumbled across an oasis with a little water and a tree to sleep in.

When darkness falls, Freddy is forced to rest on a rock on the ground. It's not a very safe spot. Even in the desert there are predators, and some ospreys are hunted when they're found sleeping on the ground like this.

Fortunately for Freddy, he goes unnoticed. The following morning, he carries on his journey across the lifeless desert.



Beneath Freddy, the landscape starts to change. At first, he spots the odd bush. Then he spies some trees. Little by little, the land beneath him becomes greener. After five days spent flying across the desert, finally he has reached the other side.

Freddy has arrived in a country called Mali. He flies over a small village and... wait a minute! There in a tree just outside the village is something we can't ignore. Freddy doesn't spot it. Neither do the villagers.

