

# THE BEST DEFENCE

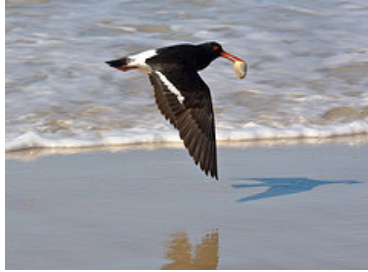
Every day pied and sooty oystercatchers hunted along the beach and around the rocks for food. Sean liked watching them. Their strong sharp beaks could break oysters or limpets from the rocks, or prise open other shells.

But the most interesting thing about oyster catchers is the way they defend their eggs and chicks. They lay their eggs among rocks or in the sand above high tide line. This doesn't give much protection from predators, so if one comes near, the parent bird performs an act. It pretends to be injured and moves away from the nest dragging a wing as though it's broken.

Sometimes it will lie on the ground flapping it's wings as though it's dying. This is all to distract the intruders attention from the offspring and keep them safe. If this doesn't work, the oystercatcher will fly at, and try to attack the intruder. It will risk it's life to defend it's chicks.

## Listen to God! Isaiah 31:5

Write out what this verse says from your Bible and try memorising it.



Pied oystercatchers



Sooty oystercatchers



## Talk to God!

Heavenly father, you have made these little birds in an amazing way. They have such a powerful desire to protect their chicks. Thank you that you defend and protect us like that too. I want to always remember that you are my best defence.

