

ODE TO SEABIRDS

I love watching seabirds flying so high
Circling the ocean, reaching for the sky

Up and up and up they go
And back they come to the sea below

They looking for something - can you guess what?
Food for their babies, who eat a lot!

They're looking for squid and looking for fish
They're hoping to find their favourite dish



I head to the forest to search for their nests
But high in the tree tops is not where they rest

No, these clever shearwaters burrow down below
Underneath the ground is where baby chicks grow

Look! Here's one burrow, here's another, here's one more
Some reach two metres long beneath the forest floor

Underground they're safe, from predators sneaking about
Underground they'll stay 'til they're strong enough to fly out

Walking through the forest there's so much here to see
Fallen leaves, mushrooms, this old beautiful tree

But when I take a closer look - oh no, oh dear
I'm sad to find things that shouldn't be here

Tiny bits of plastic, different colours, shapes and size
To see them here polluting nature is a nasty surprise

From where did they come, how did they get here?
Exploring the deep blue, the problem is clear

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Looking down from above, seabirds scan for motion
What catches their attention is plucked from the ocean

But instead of lots of fish there's shimmering plastic galore
It's lovingly picked by parents and carried onshore

They were once plastic bags, spoons and drink bottles too
Plastic thrown away by human, rubbish out of view

But now here you see it, pieces from around the world!
Never completely breaking down, remaining here in a swirl

Seabirds don't know that these objects they've found
Will poison their babies and the forest ground

Babies need nutritious fish to grow wings that are strong
Healthy birds in tree roots keeps forests growing on and on

They're not fish, little birds, it's plastic you see
I've tried, I've called out, but they don't understand me

It's up to you to spread the word and share what you've seen
With your help we can keep birds healthy, the forest and sea clean.

By Catarina Fraga Matos

