



Short-beaked common dolphin

Visit www.rspb.org.uk/safeguardoursealife or call 01767 693680.

You can play an even bigger role in helping our sealife by becoming a Sealife Guardian. A regular Direct Debit gift of just a few pounds will fund marine advocacy work, our key RSPB sealife reserves, and future sealife research. We'll invite you to exclusive events at some of these sites, and you'll get a regular newsletter.

Become a Sealife Guardian

Laws are now in place to help protect our sealife, and Marine Protected Areas are being planned. However, the needs of some seabirds are not being considered properly. As a result, they may remain unprotected. Please step up and write to, or e-mail, your MSP and voice your support for protecting Scotland's marine wildlife.

Contact your MSP

There are many ways you can help Scotland's precious marine life. Here are a few ideas:



Scotland is home to some of the world's most important seabird colonies, and thousands of birds flock to our cliffs each spring to breed. Why not experience this and other marine wildlife spectacles at one of our coastal reserves and projects?



Grey seal

Our seas are amazingly rich in wildlife and support over five million seabirds. That's one for every person in the country and 45% of all of EU's breeding seabirds. Huge basking sharks spend the summer months feeding on plankton off our shores, while mysterious cold-water corals and even seaweeds and other remarkable creatures. This rich and diverse wildlife is a huge benefit to Scotland, and the wildlife tourism, fishing and other marine industries that rely on it. It is everyone's interests that our marine environment is managed sustainably, so we may continue to enjoy the benefit of healthy, productive and diverse seas and coasts.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

WATCHING WILDLIFE ON COASTAL RESERVES

SCOTLAND'S SEAS ARE EXTRAORDINARY



Puffin

To find out all about RSPB Scotland's nature reserves and projects, including information on how to visit, please contact us at:

RSPB Scotland
2 Lochside View
Edinburgh Park
Edinburgh
EH12 9DH
Tel: 0131 317 4100

www.rspb.org.uk/scotland

RSPB Scotland welcomes responsible access, in line with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. We hope you enjoy your visit.

As a charity, the RSPB depends on the goodwill and financial support of people like you. Please visit www.rspb.org.uk/supporting or call 01767 680551 to find out more.



We are grateful to Scottish Natural Heritage for their support



RSPB Scotland is part of the RSPB, which speaks out for birds and wildlife, tackling the problems that threaten our environment. Nature is amazing – help us keep it that way.

Front cover: razorbill by Andy Hay, grey seal by Ernie Janes, puffin by Kaleel Zibe, short-beaked common dolphin by Chris Gomersall (all rspb-images.com)

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076. Scotland no. SC037654 770-1466-11-12

 a million voices for nature
SCOTLAND'S SEABIRDS



BIRDS YOU MIGHT SEE

GULLS AND TERNS

Gulls can be hard to tell apart, particularly when they're in flight. Here's a quick guide to get you started.



Herring gull

These large, noisy gulls are the ones you're most likely to see close up at the seaside or in towns. Legs – pink. Bill – yellow with a red spot.



Lesser black-backed gull

About the same size as a herring gull, but the back is darker. Legs – yellow. Bill – yellow with a red spot.



Great black-backed gull

Very big gull with dark black back. Legs – pink. Bill – yellow with a red spot.



Kittiwake

A small gull. They nest on cliffs and have a distinctive "kitti-waak" call. Legs – black. Bill – yellow.



Arctic tern

Smaller than black-headed gulls, the two terns you are most likely to see are common and Arctic. They look similar, but common terns have longer legs and have a black tip to their bill.



Black-headed gull

Small gull. The dark brown head fades to a black spot behind the eye in winter. Legs – red. Bill – red.



Common gull

Not that common and quite small. Legs – yellow. Bill – yellow.



Sandwich tern

The Sandwich tern is the largest tern in Britain. It is very white with a black cap and spiky crest, long, black bill with a yellow tip and short black legs.

AUKS

Guillemots and razorbills crowd our cliff faces during the breeding season, while puffins nest in burrows.



Guillemot

Some guillemots have a white ring round their eyes. This is known as bridling.



Black guillemot

Smaller than guillemots, and black all over except for striking white patches on the wings and red feet.



Razorbill

Similar to guillemot, but the bill is much thicker and has white markings.



Puffin

Puffins, along with many seabirds, have suffered breeding failures in recent years, possibly due to a shortage of sand eels.

OTHER BIRDS



Fulmar

These look a little like small albatrosses gliding on the breeze on stiff wings.



Gannet

Massive white birds, which travel long distances in search of food. They fold their wings and plummet into the water head first to catch fish.



Manx shearwater

You may spot them gliding low over the surface of the sea on straight black wings. Scotland is home to 80% of the world's population of Manx shearwaters.



Great skua

Also called bonxies on Shetland. They often harass birds to steal food, and also kill smaller seabirds. Summer visitors only.



Cormorant

Big birds often seen perched on small islands, buoys or anything sticking out of the water. They dry their wings by holding them out.



Shag

Similar to cormorants, but smaller. In the breeding season, they develop a crest and dark green plumage.



Eider

The UK's heaviest and fastest-flying duck. Males are a distinct black and white while the females are a dull brown.



White-tailed eagle

Our largest bird of prey, these have an eight foot wing span. Can sometimes be seen plucking fish delicately from the surface of the sea.



Storm petrel

Slightly bigger than a sparrow. Feeds with wings raised in a "V" and feet patting across the waves. Often seen in flocks, following in the wake of ships.

Artwork not to scale