

www.rspb.org.uk/scotland

We hope you enjoy your visit.

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

contact us at:

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

CAN YOU HELP? MOH

YAANIGAOAATX3 SEAS ARE SCOTLAND'S

RSPB a million voices for nature

SCOTLAND'S **SEABIRDS**

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birds flock to our cliffs each spring to breed. important seabird colonies, and thousands of Scotland is home to some of the world's most

COASTAL RESERVES

WATCHING

MILDLIFE ON

reserves and projects? wildlife spectacles at one of our coastal Why not experience this and other marine



EU's breeding seabirds. every person in the country and 45% of all of the support over five million seabirds. That's one for Our seas are amazingly rich in wildlife and

seaweeds and other remarkable creatures. seahorses share the depths with fish, colourful mysterious cold-water corals and even feeding on plankton off our shores, while Huge basking sharks spend the summer months

other marine industries that rely on it. Scotland, and the wildlife tourism, fishing and This rich and diverse wildlife is a huge benefit to

productive and diverse seas and coasts. continue to enjoy the benefit of healthy, environment is managed sustainably, so we may It is in everyone's interests that our marine



770-1466-11-12 seabirds of scotland_Layout 1 08/06/2012 10:08 Page 1

Visit www.rspb.org.uk/safeguardoursealife

these sites, and you'll get a regular newsletter.

Ne'll invite you to exclusive events at some of

seabird reserves, and future seabird research.

Will fund marine advocacy work, our key RSPB

A regular Direct Debit gift of just a few pounds

support for protecting Scotland's marine wildlife. and write to, or e-mail, your MSP and voice your

they may remain unprotected. Please step up

are not being considered properly. As a result,

planned. However, the needs of some seabirds

sealife, and Marine Protected Areas are being

precious marine life. Here are a few ideas:

There are many ways you can help Scotland's

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our sealife by becoming a Sealife Guardian.

You can play an even bigger role in helping

Become a Sealife Guardian

Contact your MSP

or call 01767 693

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

RSPB Scotland welcomes responsible access, in line with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.



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 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

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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.





Guillemots and razorbills crowd our cliff faces

during the breeding season, while puffins nest

Guillemot

Some guillemots have a

white ring round their eyes.

This is known as bridling.

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in burrows.

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

Herring gull

Legs – pink.

These large, noisy gulls are

Bill - yellow with a red spot.

the ones you're most likely to see

close up at the seaside or in towns.



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

A small gull. They nest on

cliffs and have a distinctive

Kittiwake

"kitti-waak" call.

Common gull

Not that common and

Legs – black.

Bill - yellow.

quite small.

. Legs – yellow.

Bill - yellow.



Great blackbacked gull

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

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.



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

short black legs.

bill with a yellow tip and

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





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.



Black guillemot

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





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 pattering across the waves. Often seen in flocks, following in the wake of ships.

Artwork not to scale