



SPOTTER SHEET

SUMMER SEABIRDS

This is a guide to help you identify some of the seabirds you may spot around the shore, on cliffs and rocky outcrops. Use the circles provided to mark how many you spot.

NORTHERN FULMAR

Fulmarus glacialis



With distinctive grey upperparts and a white underside, you can see it on cliffs and riding the updrafts. The name Fulmar comes from two old Norse words— fúl meaning foul and mår meaning gull. They spit a foul smelling oil at intruders.

HERRING GULL

Larus argentatus



A large gull with a bright yellow bill, red spot on its lower bill and pink legs. Found all year round in towns and harbours it thrives on our rubbish. You may spot them doing a tap-dance on the grass to bring worms to the surface.

NORTHERN GANNET

Morus bassanus



One of our favourites. Gannets can be seen circling above the Bass Rock or diving in an arrow-like form into the sea for food. A sleek shape, long neck and long pointed beak, wings and tail and distinctive yellow head.

EUROPEAN SHAG

Phalacrocorax aristotelis



Found breeding on rocky coasts. It has a glossy dark green colour, striking green eye and a tufted crest on its head. You may see them perched on a rock with their wings stretched out; drying them off as their feathers are not waterproof.

GUILLEMOT

Uria algae



Slender, chocolate brown with white lower parts. It has a 'bridled' form with a white ring round the eye and stripe behind. Gathering in groups on cliff ledges, their pear-shaped eggs are adapted to prevent them falling off the cliff.

RAZORBILL

Alca torda



Breeding around our coastline the razorbill is jet black with a white underside. It has a thick, blunt, black beak with distinct white streaks at the tip and leading up to the eye. Often found on cliffs, ledges and crevices amongst guillemots.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE

Rissa tridactyla



A medium sized gull with a slender yellow bill, bright red gape and a distinctive repeated *kit-ti-wake* call. Nesting on coastal cliffs a good local site to spot them is Dunbar harbour. In flight they have distinctive black wing tips with a dipped in ink look.

ARCTIC TERN

Sterna paradisaea



Keep your eyes peeled over the sea for this striking seabird with its long tail streamers, black cap, blood-red bill and red legs. It has an amazing migration and may travel as far as the moon and back in its lifetime; a distance of nearly 500,000 miles.

If you have enjoyed using our resources, please consider making a donation to the Scottish Seabird Centre. To find out more about the charity or to donate online, visit our [WEBSITE](#).

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