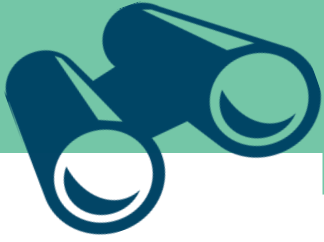


SPOTTER SHEET



FIRTH OF FORTH WILDLIFE

This guide identifies some of the seabirds and other wildlife that you might see on our boat trips around the islands of the Firth of Forth close to North Berwick.

ATLANTIC PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica*



©Jamie McDermaid

Sometimes called “clowns of the sea”, puffins have brightly coloured beaks and orange legs, with black and white bodies. You may see them carrying sandeels to the islands for their chicks, called pufflings.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis*

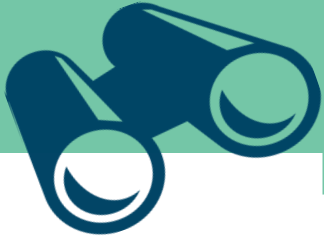


©Jamie McDermaid

Fulmars belong to the petrel family, and have a tube on the top of their beaks which filters out salt from sea water. They are grey and white and have dark eye markings, which helps distinguish them from gulls.



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GUILLEMOT *Uria aalga*



©Greg Macvean

Guillemots are part of the auk family, and are about 40cm tall. They are dark brown and white with long, pointed beaks. You will see them nesting on tiny ledges with their neighbours.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda*

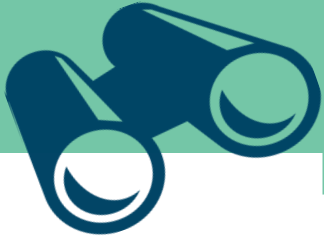


©Greg Macvean

Razorbills are black medium sized auks which have a vertical white marking on their beaks, and a white marking extending from their beak to their eye. They can be distinguished by their stocky, wedge-shaped bill.



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CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*



©Jamie McDermaid

Cormorants are goose-sized birds which can be distinguished from shags by their thicker beak, larger wingspan, and white plumage at the base of their beak. They also have a white thigh patch which can be seen in flight.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*



©Jamie McDermaid

The name “shag” refers to the tuft on their head that appears during the breeding season. They have a glossy green shine on their feathers and a long, thin beak. Similar to, but slightly smaller than, cormorants.



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KITTIWAKE

Rissa tridactyla



©Greg Macvean

Kittiwakes are medium sized gulls, with yellow beaks and, as their name suggests, black legs. You will recognise them from their tell-tale call: “Kitt-eee-waake”. Kittiwakes eat small fish, crustaceans and worms.

GANNET

Morus bassanus



©Jamie McDermaid

Gannets are Europe’s largest seabird. They are white with black wingtips, and have a yellowy-orange head/neck. They have a long pointy beak which is perfect for capturing fish underwater. Look out for them diving at 60mph!



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COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*



©Jamie McDermaid

Common terns are slightly larger than Arctic terns. They have a black cap on their heads, red legs, and a deeply forked tail. They have a straight and slender beak which is red with a black tip.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

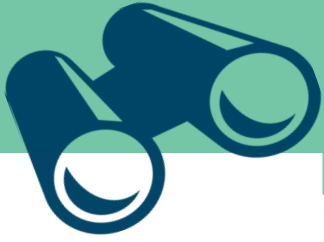


©Greg Macvean

Arctic terns are slightly smaller than Common terns. They also have a black cap on their heads and red legs, but they have longer tail streamers. Their shorter and thinner bright red beak doesn't have a black tip.



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SANDWICH TERN *Thalasseus sandvicensis*



Sandwich terns are larger than other terns. They have black legs and a long, thin black beak, with a pale tip. They are the only tern with a shaggy crest on their head and a black beak.

COMMON SEAL *Phoca vitulina*

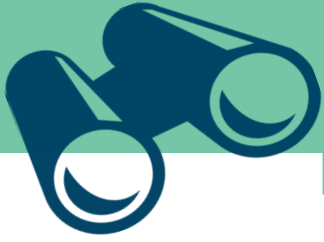


Common seals are much smaller than Grey seals, only reaching 2m long and 150kg. They have a more labrador-like face, with a smaller head, flatter nose, and V-shaped nostrils. They have their pups in the summer.

©Jamie McDermaid



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GREY SEAL *Halichoerus grypus*



©Emily Burton

Grey seals can reach up to 2.6m long and 300kg. They are larger than Common seals, have larger heads and a long, sloping nose. Their latin name actually means “hook-nosed sea pig”! They have their pups in autumn.

HARBOUR PORPOISE *Phocoena phocoena*

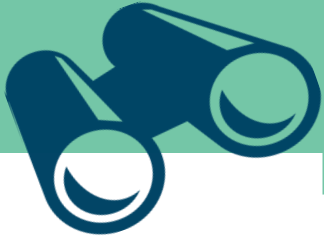


©Hilary Dyson

Harbour porpoises are much smaller than dolphins, reaching only 1.9m long. They're rarely seen in large groups or leaping from the water— often you can only catch a glimpse of their triangular dorsal fin before it rolls back under the surface.



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BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN *Tursiops truncatus*



©Kim Kjaerside

The Bottlenose dolphins found in Scotland are the largest in the world, reaching up to 4m long. Their dorsal fin is curved at the back, and is about half way down their bodies. You might even see them leaping from the water!

MINKE WHALE *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*



©Hilary Dyson

Minke whales are the second smallest of the baleen whales, reaching up to 9m long and weighing up to 10 tons. Their distinctive dorsal fin is quite tall and sickle-shaped, and is about two thirds of the way down their back.

