

## GREAT SALTEE BIRD MAPS

Chough	Page 1
Common Guillemot	Page 2
Cormorant	Page 3
Fulmar	Page 4
Gannet	Page 5
Great Black Backed Gull	Page 7
Herring Gull	Page 8
Hooded Crow	Page 9
Kittiwake	Page 10
Lapwing	Page 11
Lesser Black Backed Gull	Page 12
Manx Shearwater	Page 13
Mallard	Page 14
Meadow Pipit	Page 15
Oystercatcher	Page 16
Puffin	Page 17
Raven	Page 19
Razorbill	Page 20
Rock Pipit	Page 22
Shag	Page 23
Shelduck	Page 24
Skylark	Page 25
Snipe	Page 26
 BIRD BREEDING STATUS	 Page 27

## Chough



= Populated Areas

While its black plumage identifies it as a crow, the chough (pronounced 'chuff') has a red bill and legs unlike any other member of the crow family. It eats insects and larvae.

It is also known as the 'Sea Crow' in Ireland. Choughs are similar in size to jackdaws, but are easily distinguishable by their blood-red legs and bill, which is slightly down-curved.

The Chough is renowned for its mastery of the skies and in flight, the broad, deeply fingered wings are obvious as it soars over cliff tops in coastal areas, riding fierce up draughts and plunging through air thick with salt to its cliff nest sites.

## Guillemot



= Populated Areas - Cliffs from Sebber Bridge to the Head

Penguin-like in appearance; slim, pointed bill, dark brown head and upper parts, white under parts. Lower face is white in the winter. Some birds are 'bridled', having a white line behind the eye & a white eye-ring when in breeding plumage

Guillemots fish in the open sea, usually alone or in small groups, during autumn and winter. They look rather duck-like when swimming and they dive below the surface by kicking their feet and partially spreading their wings. Underwater the wings are used for propulsion and the feet used for steering. Fish such as sand eels and sprats make up the major part of their diet. Shrimps, prawns, crabs, molluscs and worms are also eaten, when closer inshore. Courtship takes place in the water with one bird swimming around the other which spins to face it. They sometimes indulge in communal displays, several pairs circling and bobbing or standing up and flapping their wings. The air around a guillemot colony is full of the birds' muttered growls of varying pitch. They are silent for the rest of the year when not breeding.

A single egg is laid directly onto the bare rock - no nest is made. The mottled egg is pear-shaped and this is a special adaptation so that the egg rolls round in a circle when disturbed rather than off the ledge.

The male and female birds take turns to incubate the egg, balancing it on their feet, covering it with their belly plumage. After about 4 weeks, a grey, almost helpless youngster hatches and it will stay on its ledge for four to five weeks. The parents continually fly in and out from the colony to catch fish and regurgitate meals for their baby.

At the end of the breeding season, about the end of July, all the activity on the rock ledges ceases as the adults fly away southwards and seawards for the winter. Guillemots, like many other seabirds, begin to gather at their breeding sites, well before breeding actually begins, in late May. They congregate on rocks and cliff ledges, packed tightly together in large colonies; they need to be stimulated by a noisy crowd to mate successfully.

## Cormorant



= Populated Areas

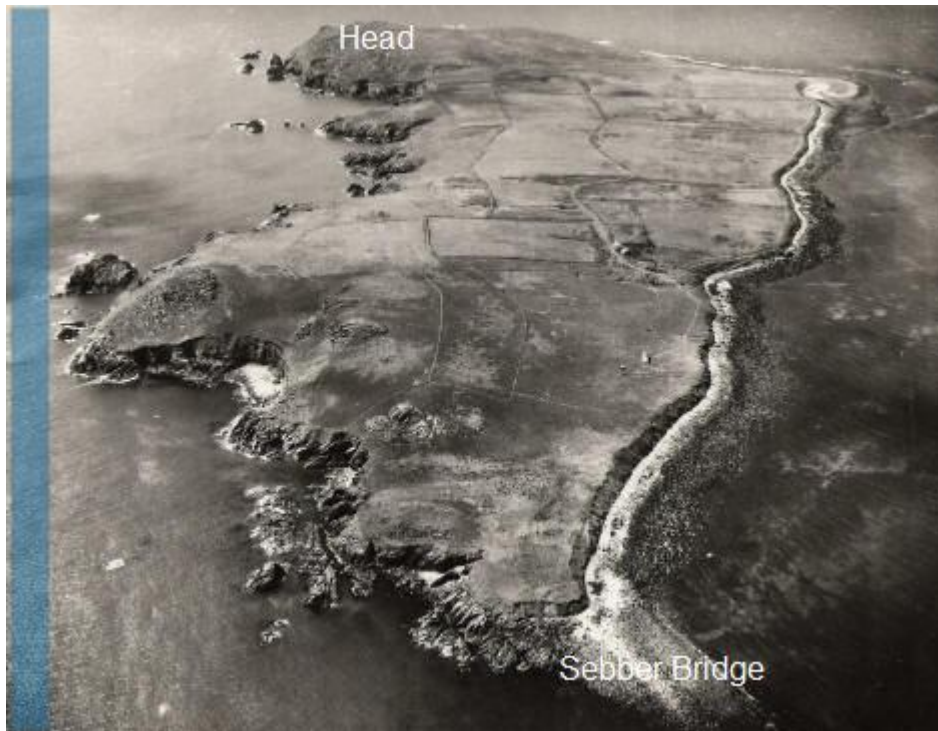


Like geese, cormorants migrate in large arcs or in wedge-shaped flocks, but are silent when flying. The word "cormorant" is derived, through French, from the Latin *corvus marinus*, or "sea crow."

A solidly built black cormorant with orange throat pouch and long neck. Long hooked bill tilted upward when bird swims. Adults have short tuft of feathers over each eye during breeding season.

Young birds are browner, whitish or buffy on breast, upper belly, and neck. In flight, the neck shows a slight crook, not seen in the similar Brandt's Cormorant, the larger Great Cormorant, or the smaller Neotropic.

## Fulmar



= Populated Areas

Fulmars are masters of flight, built for precision manoeuvres with long, narrow wings that catch any updraft off the waves. For all their poetry in flight, the Fulmars acquired their unusual name for a much less appealing trait. Fulmar comes from the Norse meaning “foul gull” and refers to their defensive habit of spitting acrid-smelling oil at potential predators.

This defence is most useful during the one time of year they are on land, the nesting season. One reference says the Fulmar’s stomach oil can be potentially fatal to another bird because the oil destroys the water repellence of the aggressor’s feathers, making it susceptible to wetting to the skin and dying from the cold. Like many of the northern seabirds, Fulmars nest on rocky seaside cliffs. Their single egg takes almost two months to hatch. Young fledge in six to eight weeks.

Young birds live at sea for several years before returning to land to nest for the first time. Fulmars have been an important resource for Arctic people — feathers used for bedding, stomach oil for lamps and medicine, and eggs and meat for food.



## Gannet



= Populated Areas

The Gannet is a fast and powerful flyer but its short legs and large webbed feet make it awkward at landings and take-offs.

- Can see forward with both eyes - which is unusual in birds
- May glide for hours just above the wave tips, seldom moving its wings
- Occupies the same nest year after year, until it becomes a substantial heap of feathers, fish skeletons, and droppings

Adult gannets have dazzling white plumage except for narrow grey spectacles and jet black, tapering wingtips. During the breeding season, the head and neck assume a delicate saffron yellow tinge. The eyes are an icy blue, and the bill is blue to grey-blue. Young gannets in autumn plumage are brown, with many white flecks. With the passing of each season, they become progressively whiter, reaching the complete adult plumage in their fourth or fifth year. The Northern Gannet is well equipped by nature for its spectacular plunges for fish from great heights.

Unlike most birds, it has binocular vision—that is, its eyes are positioned such that it can see forward with both. This presumably gives it the ability to estimate how far the fish are from the surface of the water. Its strong, streamlined bill is 100 mm long. It has no nostril holes, and its upper and lower bills fit tightly together so that little if any water is forced into the mouth on impact with the surface.

Its streamlined body has a system of air cells between the skin of its neck and shoulders and the muscle beneath. As the gannet prepares to dive, its air cells are inflated to cushion its body when it strikes the water.

A Northern Gannet in flight is supremely graceful. The wings of an adult bird may span almost 2 m and are narrow, tapered toward the ends, and swept back slightly, like those of a gull. Its long strong bill extends forward in flight, tapering smoothly into the small head, which merges with a thick neck that in turn joins the body in a clean, smooth contour.

The legs are tucked well up under the smoothly tapering tail. The gannet's shape appears to offer minimum resistance to air flow. Few seabirds are more spectacular in their fishing methods than this one. The gannet may fly alone or as part of a group, usually cruising 18 to 30 m above the sea. When a gannet sees a fish in the water below, it dives more or less vertically, with partially folded wings and great speed. Its impact with the water may send spray as high as 3 m, and the momentum of its dive is thought to carry the bird below its prey. Swimming strongly with the aid of its large webbed feet, and possibly at times with its wings, the gannet captures its prey. On reaching the surface, or even before, it swallows the fish and takes off to resume the hunt or to return to the gannetry to feed its nestling.

## Great Black Backed Gull



= Populated Areas

This is the largest of all gulls and is easy to distinguish with its huge size, black back, powerful head and bill, even in comparison to the Lesser Black Backed Gull.

The Great Black Backs may be found well out to sea as well as along the coasts. They breed on remote headlands and islands. The plumage is snow white with a very dark grey (almost black) mantle. There are black wing tips with white "mirrors". The legs are pale flesh pink and the bill is yellow with a red spot on the lower mandible. The flat forehead and large bill gives it a "mean" appearance. The flight of this bird is wonderfully graceful and powerful.

Rocky cliffs and small islands are the usual nesting sites, while the nest itself consists of an untidy mass of grass, seaweed, thrift and similar plants, together with sticks and other rubbish which may be at hand. There is only one clutch of eggs per year consisting of 2 or 3 dark olive or dark olive buff thinly blotched with brown. Lays May or June.



## Herring Gull



= Populated Areas

The Herring Gull is everybody's idea of a seagull, being present throughout the year at coastal cliffs, beaches, harbours and towns. It is also familiar at inland sites in winter, especially reservoirs and refuse tips.

Its pale grey back separates it from the Black-backed Gulls and its larger size, more menacing profile and red-spotted beak distinguish it from the Common Gull. First winter birds are harder to separate from the similar-sized Lesser Black-backs though they are slightly bulkier and the feathers of the wing and mantle show more extensive pale markings, making their upper parts look blotchy rather than mostly dark. In flight the inner primaries are noticeably paler than the rest, making a diagnostic pale panel.

Adults have light grey backs, white under parts, and black wing tips with white 'mirrors'. Their legs are pink, with webbed feet and they have heavy, slightly hooked bills marked with a red spot. Young birds are mottled brown.

The Herring Gull regularly drinks fresh water when it is available. If none is around, the gull will drink seawater. Special glands located over its eyes allow it to excrete the salt. The salty excretion can be seen dripping out of the gull's nostrils and off the end of its bill.

## Hooded Crow



= Populated Areas

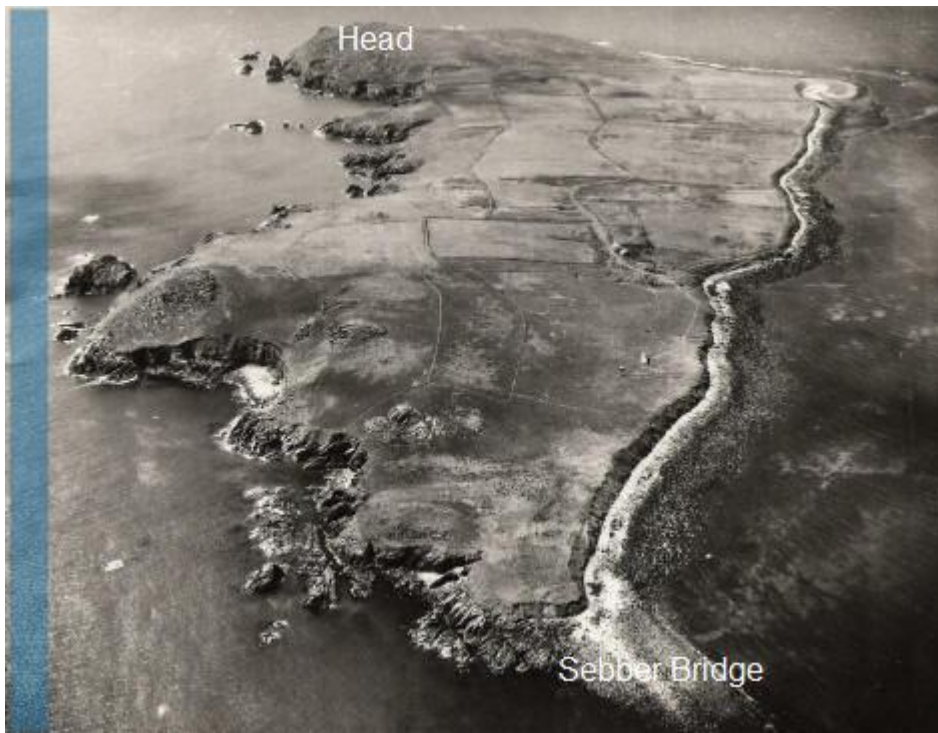
Except for the head, throat, wings, tail and thigh feathers, which are black and mostly glossy, the plumage is ash-grey, the dark shafts giving it a streaky appearance. The bill and legs are black. There is only one moult in autumn, as in other crow species. The male is the larger bird, otherwise the sexes are alike.

The flight is slow and heavy and usually straight. The length varies from 48 to 52 cm. When first hatched the young are much blacker than the parents. The Hooded Crow, with its contrasted grays and blacks, cannot be confused with either the Carrion Crow or Rook, but the kraa call notes of the two are almost indistinguishable. The Hooded Crow is omnivorous, with a diet similar to that of the Carrion Crow, and is a constant scavenger.

It drops molluscs and crabs to break them after the manner of the Carrion Crow. On coastal cliffs the eggs of gulls, cormorants and other birds are stolen when their owners are absent, and it will enter the burrow of the Puffin to steal eggs.

Nests are occasionally placed on or near the ground. The nest resembles that of the Carrion Crow, but on the coast seaweed is often interwoven in the structure. The four to six brown-speckled blue eggs are incubated for 17-19 days by the female alone, who is fed by the male. The young fledge after 32-36 days.

## Kittiwake



= Populated Areas - Cliffs from Sebbes Bridge to the Head

A gentle looking, medium-sized gull with a small yellow bill and a dark eye.

It has a grey back and is white underneath. Its legs are short and black. In flight the black wing-tips show no white, unlike other gulls, and look as if they have been 'dipped in ink'.

After breeding birds move out into the Atlantic where they spend the winter.

## Lapwing



= Populated Areas



Distinctive wading bird with a broad breast band. Commonly known as peewit or green plover. In spring lapwings have a tumbling display flight and distinctive perr-u-weet-weet call. Has a more distinctive loud excited pee-wit call which rises in pitch on second note.

Feeds in stop-start manner, taking invertebrates (earthworms, small snails, beetles, earwigs, spiders), insects and seeds. Chicks feed on small beetles, flies and insect larvae. Breeding is from Late March to early July. Nests on open ground with short or no vegetation, which are either solitary or in small groups.

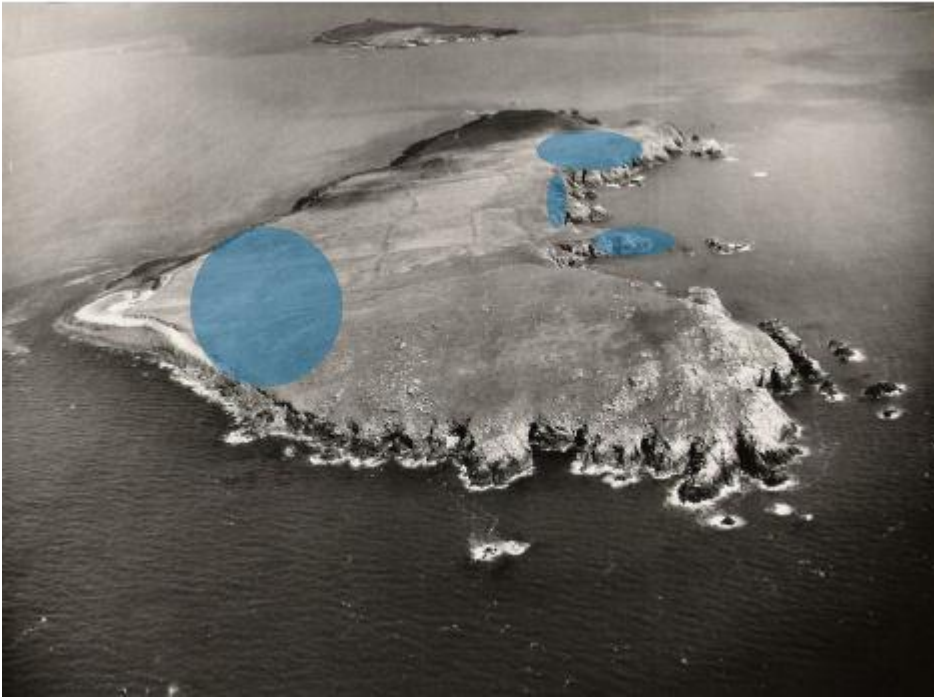
Usually four eggs are laid, slightly pointed at one end. These are streaked and blotched on a stone coloured ground and difficult to see. After twenty-six days incubation, chicks are well developed and able to walk and feed themselves

Parents with chicks are particularly aggressive, mobbing anything that looks remotely like a predator and feigning injury if all else fails. It attempts to entice predators away from its young by feigning injury such as trailing one wing along the ground as if broken.

Worms are captured by an intriguing method. The lapwing patters about on the ground, imitating the sound of falling raindrops. Vibrations in the earth cause the worms to surface.



## Lesser Black Backed Gull



= Populated Areas

The Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) is a large gull which breeds on the Atlantic coasts of Europe. This species breeds colonially on coasts and lakes, making a lined nest on the ground or cliff.

Normally, three eggs are laid. They are similar in size to the Herring Gull or just slightly smaller. The only confusable species in Europe is Great Black-backed Gull.

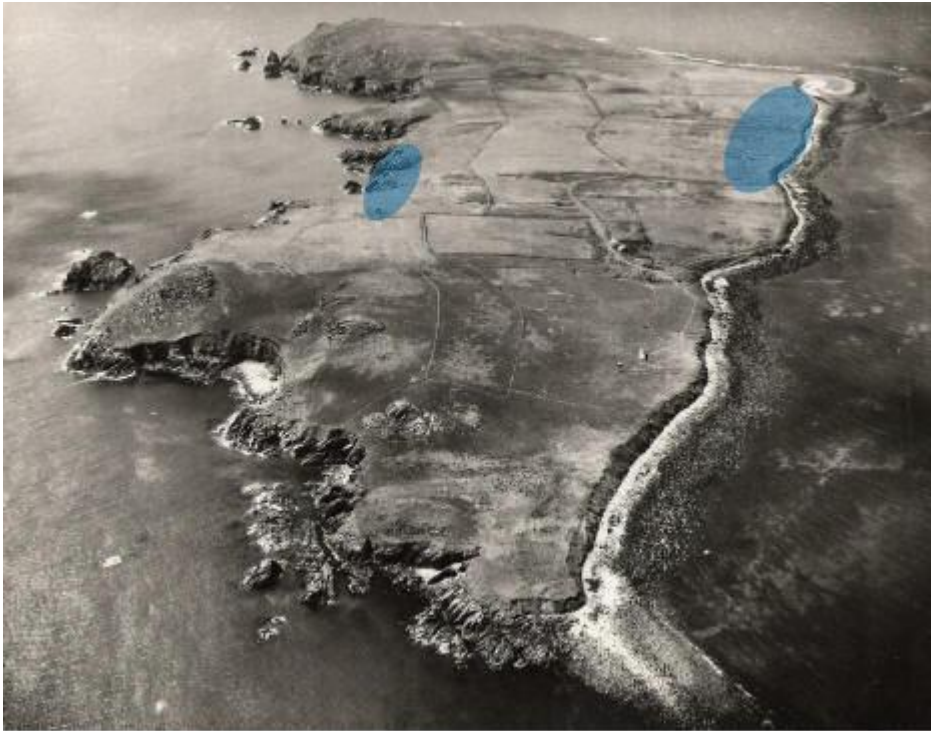
Lesser is a smaller bird, with slimmer build, yellow rather than pinkish legs and smaller white "mirrors" at the wing tips. The adults have black or dark grey wings (depending on race) and back. The bill is yellow with a red spot. The head is greyer in winter, unlike Great Black-backed.

Young birds have scaly black-brown upper parts and a neat wing pattern. They take four years to reach maturity. Identification from juvenile Herring Gulls is most readily done by the more solidly dark (unbarred) tertial feathers.

The call is a "laughing" cry like that of the Herring Gull (to which this species is closely related), but with a markedly deeper pitch. They are omnivores like most *Larus* gulls, and they will scavenge as well as seeking suitable small prey.



## Manx Shearwater



= Populated Areas

The Manx Shearwater is a member of the Procellariiformes, the order of birds which includes the albatrosses, the Fulmar and the storm-petrels. It is beautifully adapted to leaving at sea, with long, narrow wings, and its feet placed far back on its body for efficient swimming. Unfortunately this makes life on land difficult; it cannot walk properly, but shuffles along on its belly, making it easy prey for predators such as gulls. Unfortunately this makes life on land difficult; it cannot walk properly, but shuffles along on its belly, making it easy prey for predators such as gulls.

In order to minimize this danger, Manx Shearwaters nest in burrows and only come to, or leave, in the dark. Manx Shearwaters are extremely noisy at their colonies after dark, the darker the night, the more tumultuous the sound, as birds fly in whilst others emerge from the burrows.

Once they have reached breeding age, Manx Shearwaters return in March, when they clean out their burrows and find their mates, most choosing the same partner as the year before. After mating, the female leaves the island for about a fortnight to form the single, large egg, 15% of her body weight.

She returns to the Bay of Biscay which she passed through on her northwards migration, back from South America, where she can feed on the plentiful stocks of sardines. The male, meanwhile, stays nearby, visiting the burrow each night, perhaps to ensure that no one else takes it over.

When the female returns, usually by the middle of May she lays the egg and departs again to feed, leaving the male to take the first incubation stint. Thereafter the pair take it in turns to incubate the egg, each doing so from four to eight days at a time while the other goes off to feed.

## Mallard



= Populated Areas

The mallard is a large and heavy looking duck. It has a long body and a long and broad bill. The male has a dark green head, a yellow bill, is mainly purple-brown on the breast and grey on the body. The female is mainly brown with an orange bill. The Mallard is the ancestor of nearly all domestic duck breeds (everything except the Muscovy Duck).

Many of the domestic breeds look like the wild birds, but usually are larger. They are variable in plumage, often lacking the white neck ring or having white on the chest. Mallard pairs are generally monogamous, but paired males actively pursue forced extra-pair copulations.

Copulation between members of a pair usually takes place in the water after a long bout of elaborate displays. Forced copulations are not preceded by displays, and several males may chase a single female and mate with her.

Mallard pairs form long before the spring breeding season. Pairing takes place in the fall, but courtship can be seen all winter. Only the female incubates the eggs and takes care of the ducklings.

## Meadow Pipit



= Populated Areas

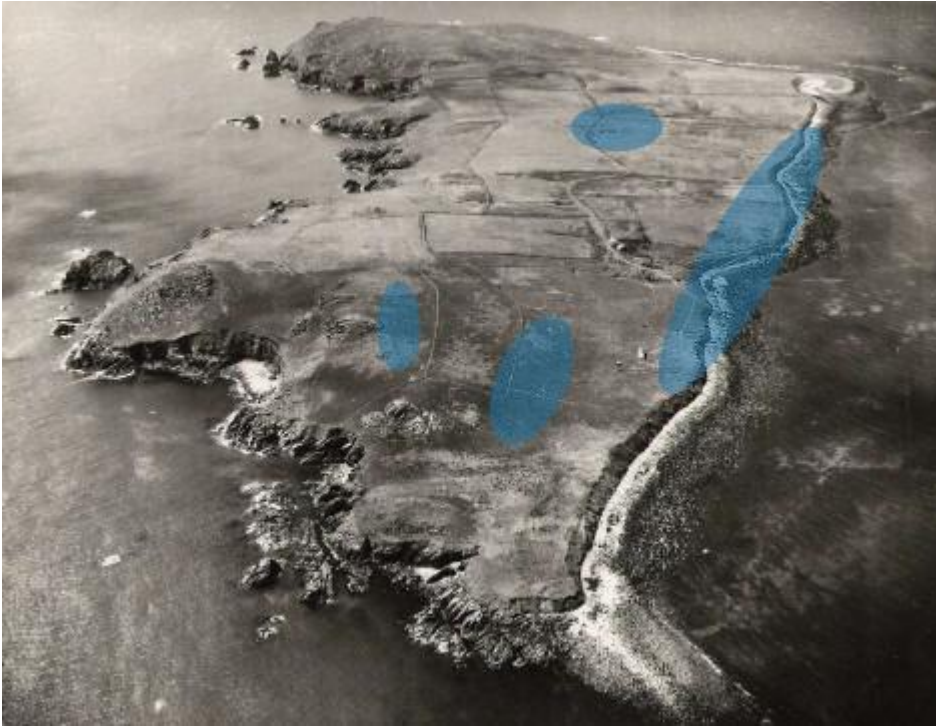
The Meadow Pipit looks like a Song Thrush, but is only slightly larger than a Great Tit. The male and female Meadow Pipits are alike.


Typically, the upper parts are grey to olive-brown in colour with darker streaks. The under parts are pale grey or buff coloured with bold streaks and spots on the breast and flanks. The belly and outer tail feathers are white. The legs are a dull pink. Juvenile Meadow Pipits are pinkish-buff and lack the dark streaks on the flanks. The Tree Pipit is very similar to the Meadow Pipit, but its general appearance is cleaner with more distinct markings, the legs are a paler pink and the hind claw is much shorter. The song is delivered during the bird's aerial display, which consists of flying from a perch, rising upwards in a fluttering ascent, and then parachuting downwards on half spread wings.

The song comprises a series of accelerating "tseep tseep..." as it rises, decelerating "tseut tseut...", and a trill to finish. The diet is mainly invertebrates including flies, spiders, moths and beetles, but also seeds in autumn and winter.

Meadow Pipits breed in open country on heaths, moors, bogs, and coastal marshes. The nest is on the ground usually well concealed, and built by the female from dry grass and lined with finer grass and hair. The smooth, glossy eggs are white with heavy brown spotting, and about 19 mm by 15 mm. Incubation is by the female only. The young are fed by both parents. Meadow Pipit broods are often parasitized by the Cuckoo.

## Oystercatcher



 = Populated Areas

The Pied Oystercatcher is shy of humans and seldom allows close approach. It is mostly silent when feeding but may utter a whistled 'peepapeep' or 'pleep-pleep' when in flight.

All oystercatchers have a bright orange-red bill, eye-rings and legs and a red eye. Young birds are similar in appearance to the adults, but lack the intense red-orange colour and are browner than of black.

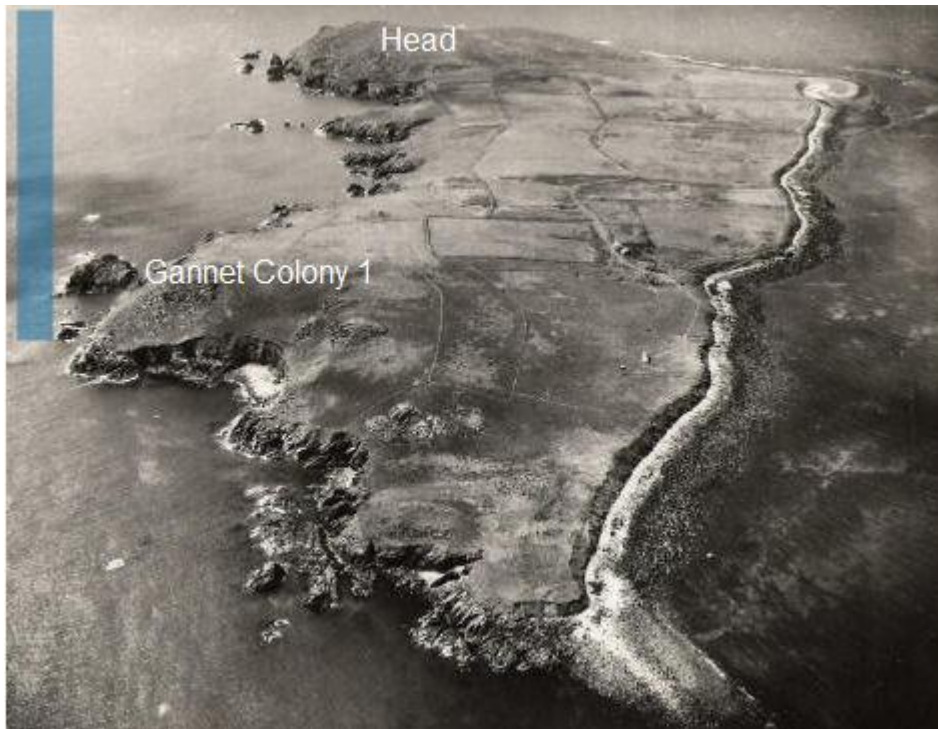
The size ranges from 48 - 51 cm. The white breast and belly distinguish the Pied Oystercatcher from the closely related Sooty Oystercatcher, *H. fuliginosus*, which has all black plumage.

Oystercatchers feed on bivalve molluscs, which are prised apart with their specially adapted bills. Food is found by sight, or by probing their long, chisel-shaped bills in the mud.

Young Pied Oystercatchers are one of the few waders that are fed by their parents using this specialised feeding technique. Worms, crustaceans and insects are also eaten.



## Puffin



= Populated Areas - Cliffs from Gannet Colony 2 to the Head

Puffins are sea birds that can fly, swim, and dig burrows. They have thick, waterproof feathers that protect them from the cold. Their webbed feet help them swim. The huge, parrot-like bill stores fish as they hunt underwater.

It is wide in profile and narrow when viewed from the front. In breeding season, the bill becomes brightly coloured. Puffins are carnivores (meat-eaters) that dive in the sea for food. They eat mostly small fish. A puffin can dive for up to a minute but most dives usually last 20 to 30 seconds. While underwater, the puffin swims by using its wings to push it along under the water almost as if it were flying, while using its feet as rudders. They dig a deep burrow in which the female lays a single egg. Both parents feed the chick for about 6 weeks. The parents then abandon the chick that will leave the burrow after about a week without food. It will then go the sea and fish for itself. Puffins often mate for life.

A puffin can fly 48 to 55 mph (77 to 88 km/hr). The puffin beats its wings rapidly to achieve this speed reaching up to 400 beats a minute. The wings can move so fast that they become a blur, giving a flying puffin the appearance of a black and white football.

Puffin originally meant "fatling." The name was used to describe the chubby chicks of the Manx Shearwater, with which puffin chicks were confused. In the last half of the 1800's the puffin was given the scientific name of *Fratercula arctica*, which means "little brother of the north" in Latin.

Little brother may also be interpreted as 'little friar' an allusion to the puffin's black and white plumage which is reminiscent of a friar's robes. A second connotation of little friar may be drawn from the puffin's sometime



habit of holding its feet together when taking off, suggestive of hands clasped together in prayer. Regardless of the scientific name, local names still abound. These include such colourful names as "clown of the ocean" and "sea parrot." People used to claim that a puffin was actually a cross between a bird and a fish because of its superb ability to swim underwater.

## Raven



= Populated Areas

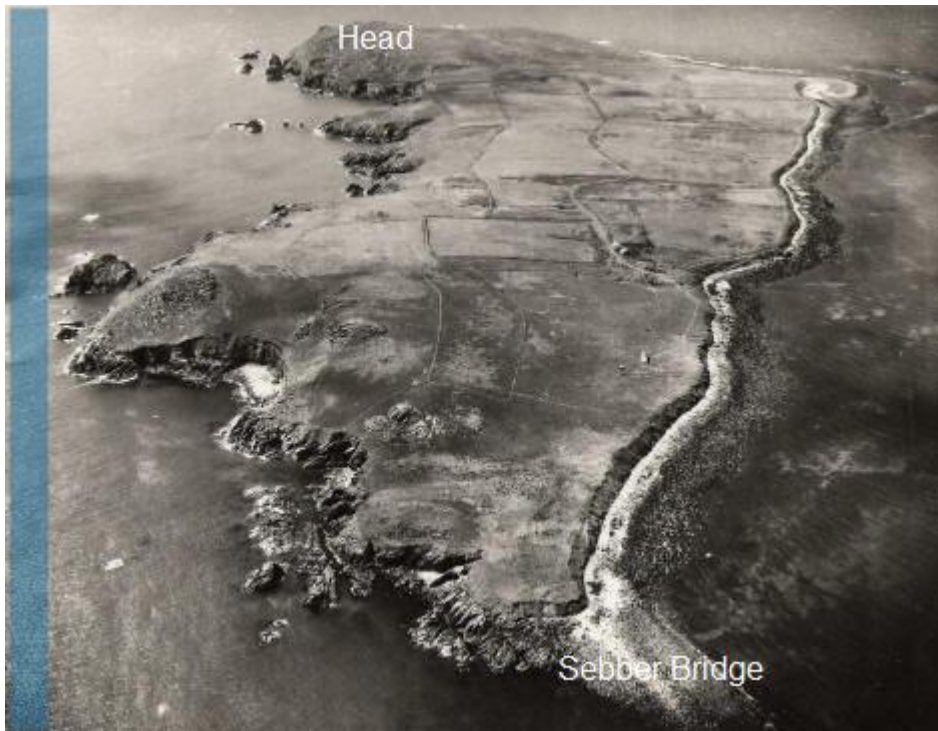
The raven is a large, black crow-like scavenger. Ravens mate for life. They usually nest in dense forests or on rocky coasts. The nest, built in trees or on cliffs, is made of sticks and lined with fur, moss, and lichens. The female lays four to seven greenish eggs with brown spots. Both parents feed the young.

The common raven, found throughout Asia, Europe, and North Africa, grows more than 24 inches (60 cm) in length. Its glossy black plumage has a bluish sheen. Ravens belong to the genus *Corvus* of the crow family, *Corvidae*. The common raven is *C. corax*. The raven is a large, black crow-like scavenger.

Ravens mate for life. They usually nest in dense forests or on rocky coasts. The nest, built in trees or on cliffs, is made of sticks and lined with fur, moss, and lichens. The female lays four to seven greenish eggs with brown spots. Both parents feed the young.

The common raven, found throughout Asia, Europe, and North Africa, grows more than 24 inches (60 cm) in length. Its glossy black plumage has a bluish sheen. Ravens belong to the genus *Corvus* of the crow family, *Corvidae*. The common raven is *C. corax*.

## Razorbill



= Populated Areas - Cliffs from Sebber Bridge to the Head

Razorbills belong to the auk family, along with guillemots and puffins. They look rather similar to guillemots but their dark feathers are black rather than chocolate brown, they are plumper and have thicker, heavier-looking bills. On the water, a razorbill floats higher than a guillemot and its longer tail tilts upwards.

The razorbill is well-named because the edges of its hooked upper beak are very sharp indeed, enabling it to grasp fish well and to defend itself against predators. Razorbills eat mainly fish such as sand eels but they also eat molluscs (snail-like creatures), crustaceans (crabs etc.) and planktonic worms. Fish are carried crosswise in the bill, in the same way as the puffin does.

Up to eight fish can be carried at once. Razorbills, guillemots and puffins do not compete directly for food because guillemots catch large fish, which they carry singly; puffins catch small fish and razorbills catch medium-sized fish.

Razorbills spend much of the year well out to sea. As with other auks, they are expert underwater swimmers, using their wings. A razorbill takes off from the water rather clumsily, feet pattering along the surface, but then it flies strongly with rapid wing-beats. During the late summer, the birds moult all their flight feathers at the same time, making them unable to fly for a while.

Razorbills nest in colonies in remote, sheltered holes and crevices in cliffs, among boulders on rocky foreshores; sometimes they choose a puffin hole but only very rarely use exposed ledges chosen by guillemots. The birds arrive at their colonies from the end of January onwards, but breeding begins in earnest in April. No real nest is made, except sometimes a few plants or stones are used.

A single egg is laid from early May onwards and both parents incubate it for 33 - 36 days, and then share the feeding duties. At about 18 days old, the still down-covered chick launches itself from the cliff, fluttering down on tiny wings, usually at night to avoid predatory gulls.

They often fall onto rocks or into heavy surf but they are well protected by fat and feathers and can swim strongly. Their parents continue to feed them out at sea until they can fly and fend for themselves.

## Rock Pipit



= Populated Areas

The rock pipit is a large stocky pipit, larger than a meadow pipit and smaller than a starling. It is streaky olive-brown above and dirty white underneath with dark streaking. It breeds around the coast where there are rocky beaches.

There is a narrow, broken eye-ring and a pale supercilium. The outer tail feathers are creamy, rather than white, and the legs look dark at long range and pinkie-red close-up (bright pinkie-orange on the Meadow Pipit).

When disturbed while feeding, it flutters about, frequently repeating its note, settles on a rock or stone, or on the grass, keeps vibrating its body, and waits until the intruder departs.



## Shag



= Populated Areas - Cliffs from Sebber Bridge to the Head

Shags are goose-sized dark long-necked birds similar to cormorants but smaller and generally slimmer with a characteristic steep forehead. In the breeding season adults develop a dark glossy green plumage and prominent recurved crest on the front of their head.

Shags usually stay within 100-200km of their breeding grounds. Nests in coastal colonies on ledges and sea-cliffs.

Eats fish and occasionally crustacea and molluscs. It Grunts and croaks during the breeding season; generally silent in winter.

## Shelduck

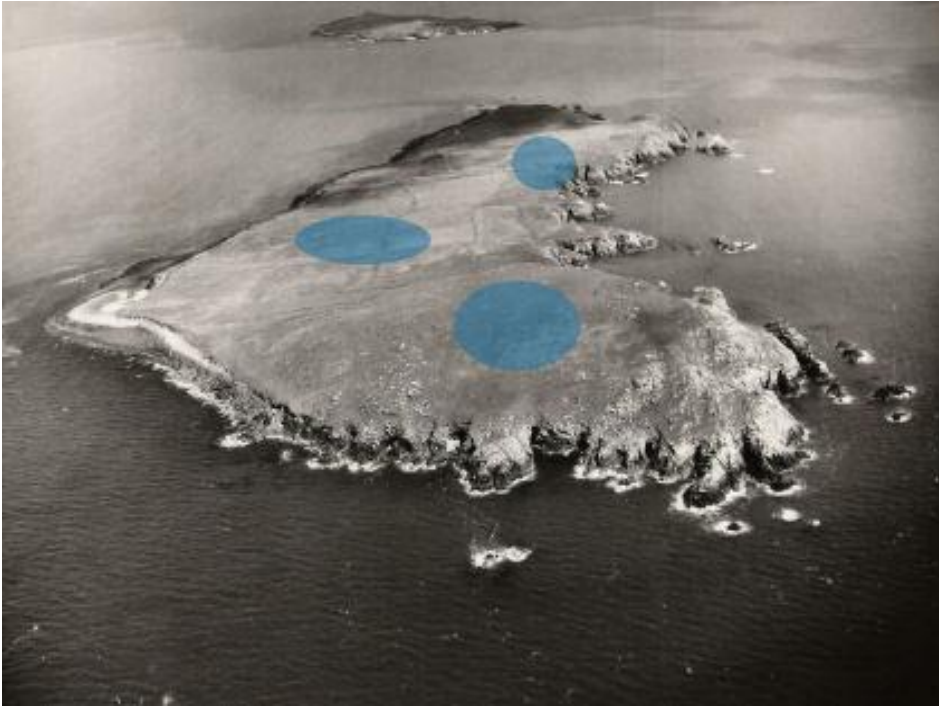


= Populated Areas

The shelduck is a mainly white duck, larger than a mallard but smaller than geese such as greylag and Canada. It has a particularly prominent red bill, black-green head, and chestnut and white upper parts.

In flight, shelducks look heavy and have slow-beating wings. They eat invertebrates, small shellfish and aquatic snails.

## Skylark



= Populated Areas

A large Lark, most familiar for its clear warbling song performed high in the air on spring mornings. Adults show a long streaked crest which can be raised or flattened on the head.

Heavy streaking on the buffish breast. Underpass creamy. Flight is undulated with noticeable white edges at the rear of the wings and sides of tail. Bill is pale, thick and pointed. Legs pinkish with a long hind claw. Song consists of continuous loud warbling and is delivered from high in the air with the bird hovering in a stationary position or in fluttery display flights. When flushed, gives a rippling chirrup call. Adults feed on a range of insect, seed, worm and larvae. Seeds and shoots such as nettles, dock and knotgrass are taken as well as invertebrates such as beetles, spiders and grasshoppers. Chicks are fed almost entirely on insects.

Breeding is from mid-April to mid-July on the ground, primarily in grass but also crops. On average four eggs are laid, white with brownish-black speckles and incubated for eleven days. The young stay in the nest for ten days after hatching. Skylarks because of their exuberant song were popular cage birds in Victorian times. To avoid injury, birds were kept in canvas topped cages, in case they forgot themselves and tried to fly skywards. Birds were also eaten as a delicacy.

Both these practices are outlawed and such wonderful birds are free and unmolested by fanciers or gourmets. Skylarks sing most freely in spring when they establish their territories, by thrusting ever upwards in slow hovering vertical progression, all the time straining to achieve vocal superiority over their rivals. The song continues for over five minutes, then the skylark plummets quickly to ground, landing some distance from the nest and runs in cover to nest site.

## Snipe



= Populated Areas

Snipe are medium sized, skulking wading birds with short legs and long straight bills. Both sexes are mottled brown above, with paler buff stripes on the back, dark streaks on the chest and pale under parts. During the breeding season snipe are best looked for on moor land, especially on early spring mornings when males can be heard giving their 'drumming' or 'bleating' display. In winter, look patiently around the edges of pools in well-vegetated wetlands.

They eat small invertebrates, including worms and insect larvae. They search for invertebrates in the mud with a "sewing-machine" action of their long bills

Some snipe species have been hunted for food and sport since the invention of the shotgun. They can be extremely difficult targets, confounding even very skilled hunters with their erratic flight, their unexpected flushes, their excellent natural camouflage and the treacherous and difficult terrain they typically inhabit. The elusive nature of the snipe is well-known among hunters.

In the days of market hunting, the most skilled hunters of all would often bring many Common Snipe to market earning the moniker "sniper" as a badge of respect for the difficulty in shooting this amazing little bird. The term has evolved into the modern usage sniper, referring to a skilled antipersonnel sharpshooter.

## BIRD BREEDING STATUS

SPECIES	BREEDING STATUS	SPECIES	BREEDING STATUS
Artic Tern		Puffin	B
Blackbird	B	Razorbill	B
Chaffinch		Redshank	
Chiffchaff		Redwing	
Common Tern		Robin	B
Common Gull		Rock Dove	B
Cormorant	B	Roseate Tern	
Curlew		Sand Martin	
Dunnoek	B	Sandwich Tern	
Fieldfare		Sedge Warbler	B
Fulmar	B	Shag	B
Gannet	B	Shelduck	B
Goldcrest		Skylark	B
Goldfinch		Snipe	B
Great B-B Gull	B	Song Thrush	B
Guillemot	B	Spotted Flycatcher	B
Herring Gull	B	Starling	B
House Martin		Stonechat	B
Jackdaw	B	Swallow	
Kittiwake	B	Swift	
Lapwing	B	Teal	
Lesser B-B Gull	B	Turnstone	
Linnet	B	Wheatear	B
Mallard	B	Whimbrel	
Manx Shearwater	B	Whitethroat	B
Meadow Pipit	B	Willow Warble	
Oystercatcher	B	Woodpigeon	B
Pheasant	B	Wren	B