

Seabird spotting

Seabirds rely on the sea to survive and are adapted to a life in the marine environment. Most seabirds spend a large part of their life at sea only coming to land to breed.

All seabirds have glands near their bill which remove salt from their blood.

Northern Gannet

Morus bassanus

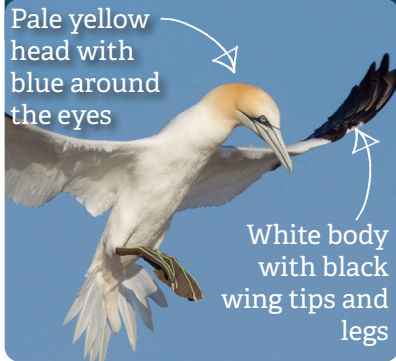


Hugan

Body 89-96 cm with wingspan of up to 2m.

Northern gannets have air sacs between their muscle and skin which help to cushion the impact when they dive into the water.

Big, distinctive white sea bird



What to look for:



Gannets are big birds, quite noticeable amongst the other common seabirds. Look out for their amazing diving skills; they can hit the water at 60mph.

Herring Gull

Larus argentatus

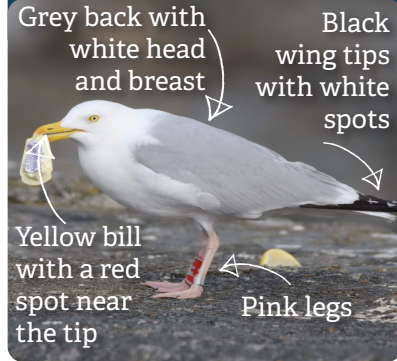


Gwylan y penwaig

Body 55-67 cm with wingspan of up to 1.4m.

Herring gulls have learnt to open mollusc shells by dropping them onto hard surfaces from a height.

Big, pale, widespread gull



What to look for:



Herring gulls are now a familiar sight in towns, famous for their loud calls and bin raiding. Despite this, they are endangered and need our help to recover.

Black-headed Gull

Chroicocephalus ridibundus



Gwylan benddu

Body 35-38 cm with wingspan of up to 1m.

The black-headed gull 'ke-ke-ke' and 'kverarr' calls sounds like laughing.

Small, noisy, agile gull



What to look for:



Often in large groups these gulls are constantly chattering and squabbling. Their noisy nature is probably what you will notice first! Look out at inland lakes too!

Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo



Mulfran

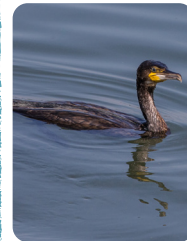
Body 85-90 cm with wingspan of up to 1.5m.

Their feathers are not waterproof, so they perch on rocks and hold out their wings to dry.

Big, dark coloured waterbird



What to look for:



Flying low to the sea, or bobbing along the surface in-between dives, cormorants are a common coastal sight. They also use lakes and reservoirs as fishing grounds.

Oystercatcher

Haematopus ostralegus

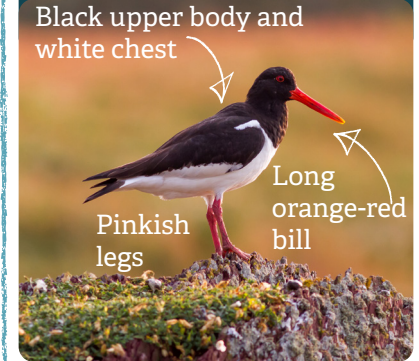


Pioden fôr

Body 40-45cm with wingspan of up to 80-86cm.

Oystercatchers mostly feed on mussels, cockles and worms, not oysters!

Big, black and white wader



What to look for:



Their distinctive call is the sound of the seaside for many people. You'll hear their loud 'kleep-kleep' call before you see them. Sometimes seen in huge flocks of thousands.

What is it?