



ATLANTIC PUFFIN



DESCRIPTION

Puffins are easily recognisable with white bellies and **brightly coloured beaks**.

Newly hatched "pufflings" are small grey fluffy chicks and will only get their bright colours as adults.



SCIENCE

Puffins are ready to become parents around five years old and can **live for over 20 years**. Both parents take turns caring for a single egg in a burrow or crevice. Changes in the environment and attacks by animals can make successfully raising chicks more difficult.



FUN FACT

Puffins hunt small fish like sandeels and carry their catch back to the nest when they have a chick. They usually carry around 10 fish but puffins returning with over **60 fish** in their bills have been seen!



SOME OPTIMISM



Puffin numbers are increasing in Wales and monitoring efforts, such as the **Puffarazzi Project**, are working hard to identify the causes of puffin's decline.



CONSERVATION OPTIMISM



BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE



DESCRIPTION

Kittiwakes are **two seabird species**, the black-legged kittiwake found in Europe and North America and the red-legged only found in North America. Kittiwakes spend most of their lives at sea.



SCIENCE



Winter is spent feeding on fish, worms and shrimp in at sea, returning to clifftop colonies to breed in spring. Clifftop nesting reduces risk of attacks by **predators**. But reduced food availability, due to climate change and unsustainable fishing, remains a threat.



FUN FACT

Kittiwakes get their name from the sound of their 'kittee-wa-aake' call. Their scientific name, *Rissa tridactyla*, means 'three-toes', referring to the unusually small hind toe on a kittiwake foot.



SOME OPTIMISM

In 2021, a seabird tracking collaboration revealed a **major seabird hotspot** in the North Atlantic. This area is used as wintering grounds by kittiwakes, and making it a Marine Protected Area could make a vital contribution to **protecting the species**.





ARCTIC TERN



DESCRIPTION

Arctic terns are recognisable with a distinct black cap, red beak and red legs. They are often called the '**sea swallows**' due to their ribbon-like tails.



SCIENCE

In the UK, Arctic terns are considered a **priority for protection** due to their declining population. This is mainly caused by our damaged oceans leading to a **lack of food**.

FUN FACT

Arctic terns have one of the **longest migration routes** in the world! They fly between the Arctic and the Antarctic up to **22,000 miles (35,000 km)** each year!

SOME OPTIMISM

Some seabirds changed their behaviours during the COVID-19 pandemic in absence of visitors. Arctic terns have colonised new nesting grounds on Farne Islands in 2021. It will be important to monitor the effect the return of visitors has on them in 2022.





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COMMON GUILLEMOT



DESCRIPTION

Guillemots have **brown backs and white bellies**. Their colony often looks crowded as they nest very close together. The return to the same place every year and keep their mate for life.



SCIENCE

Guillemots spend most of their lives **at sea** only coming on land to breed. They are particularly at risk of **oil spills** because their reaction is to **dive deeper** rather than fly off. Monitoring of oil spills can prevent this and the number of large oil spills has been going down in recent years.



FUN FACT

Every **guillemot egg** looks different so the parents can recognise their own egg. The eggs are also **pointed at one end** – researchers think that this prevents them from **rolling off the cliffs** guillemots nest on!



SOME OPTIMISM

Some sites important for guillemot breeding, like the Skellig Islands or the Cliffs of Moher in Ireland, have been designated as **Special Protection Areas** to protect important seabird habitats.

