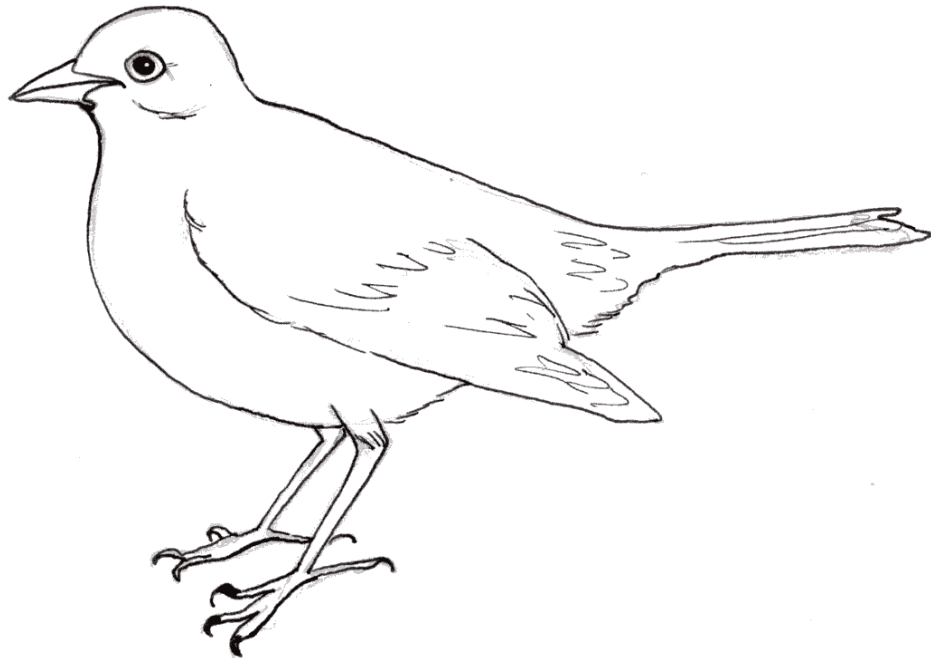


What is a Bird?

Work in a group of 3 – 4. Discuss each of the statements and then ✓ those which are true for **all** birds.



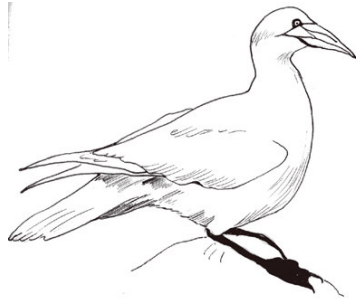
	True
All birds are vertebrates. (They have backbones.)	
Not all birds build nests.	
All birds have two wings and two legs.	
All birds lay eggs	
All birds eat insects.	
All birds migrate. (They travel to different areas and live there for some time before moving on)	
All birds fly.	
Bird bones are generally lighter than mammal bones.	
Not all birds have feathers.	

When you have finished report back to the other groups. Did you all agree?
Can you reach agreement?

What is a Seabird?

Seabirds are birds that are specially adapted to help them cope with life at sea.

Discuss in your group what you think a seabird is. Make a list of your group ideas.



Use the information you gathered at the Scottish Seabird Centre and other resources to complete the table. Use True (T), False (F), or Can't Tell (CT)

	T	F	CT
All seabirds have webbed feet.			
All seabirds eat fish.			
Seabirds cannot find anywhere to nest in Scotland.			
Seabirds can drink salty water.			
All seabirds have waterproof feathers.			
Most seabirds mature and lay eggs at a younger age than land birds.			
All adult seabirds have white bellies.			
Seabirds generally have more chicks than land birds.			
Land birds usually live longer than seabirds.			

You are well on the way to becoming seabird experts!

Discuss the statements that you recorded as 'Can't Tell'. Using books and the internet see if you can find out the correct answers and explain them.

Which Gull is Which?

Gulls differ from each other in the following main characteristics:

- size
- colour of the back / wings
- colour of the legs
- colour / size of the bill



Use the exhibition or other reference resources to complete the table by inserting the missing characteristics.

Species	Size	Head Colour	Back Colour	Bill Colour	Leg Colour
black-headed gull	small	black			dark red
common gull	small	white	pale grey	yellow	yellow-green
herring gull	medium			yellow with red spot	flesh-coloured
kittiwake		white	pale grey		
great black-backed gull	very large			yellow with red spot	
lesser black-backed gull		white	dark grey		

Which Auk is Which?

Auks are specially suited to chasing fish underwater. They use their short wings as flippers to “fly” underwater. Four kinds of auk nest in Scotland. The Bass Rock is home to three of them. Find information about these three birds. Match each speech bubble to the bird or birds which might have said it!

My pear shaped egg is blotched and spattered. It can be green, cream or blue.

I have bright orange feet and legs.

I have a heavy black bill which is slashed with white lines.

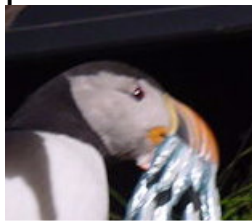
razorbill



guillemot



puffin



I dropped into the sea beside my dad before I could fly. He fed me until I was fully grown.

I use my bill and claws to dig a burrow in which I lay my egg.

Some members of my species have a special white eye ring and a line on the cheek called a “bridle”.

- Find the name of the other auk which nests in Scotland. Where does it nest?
- Find out about other auks which do not nest in Scotland.
- The great auk became extinct in 1884. Find out what happened and why.
- Find out about other endangered species of bird. What if anything is being done to help?