



Gannets on the Bass

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October is the last month of this year that the Gannets will be with us on the Bass Rock. Already many of the adults and juveniles have left – the young heading to West Africa and the adults scattered around the coasts and seas of Europe. The stormy weather we experience at this time of year encourages many of the birds to leave for calmer waters. However, there are still quite a few birds still to be seen on the Bass; young that hatched out late in the season are still being fed by their parents. And adults, whose chick has already left, stay on the nest site and display to each other – reinforcing the bond between the pair before they ‘split up’ for the next few months. They’ll meet up again at the same nest site next February and the breeding cycle of the Gannet will start again.

In **November** The Bass Rock is now starting to look very bare as nearly all the gannets have flown – there may still be the odd one or two chicks and parents left. Due to new information received from loggers, some adult birds have been tracked to West Africa where fishing is easier through the winter months

During **December** all the Bass Rock gannets have flown to North Sea, Bay Biscay, Mediterranean and Europe and the chicks to West Africa. This gives the Rock a chance to *breathe* again before the arrival at the beginning of February when it all starts again for the next few months. There are still some birds to be seen e.g. gulls , peregrines eagerly watching from their view points, and occasionally the odd migrant seeking shelter and rest . Sometimes there are still some birds e.g. gulls etc to be seen and sometimes a few seals haul themselves on the Bass.

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