



# DISCOVER

## SEABIRD MIGRATION—WHO GOES WHERE?

Most seabirds in the UK are summer visitors—they breed and raise their young between May-October then leave for the winter. But where do they go?

Below are a few examples of the extraordinary journeys seabirds make from the Firth of Forth, Scotland.



© Phil Wilkinson

### ATLANTIC PUFFIN

Puffins leave their UK summer breeding grounds in August and travel to the middle of the North Atlantic and Arctic Ocean for the winter. They stay on the open ocean, floating on the sea in groups called 'rafts'. They return to their breeding colonies in March/early April.

### NORTHERN GANNET



© Rob McDougall

By the end of October, all the gannets have left Scotland for their migration South. Some individuals travel as far South as the West coast of Africa, spending their time at sea until it's time for them to return to the UK in February.

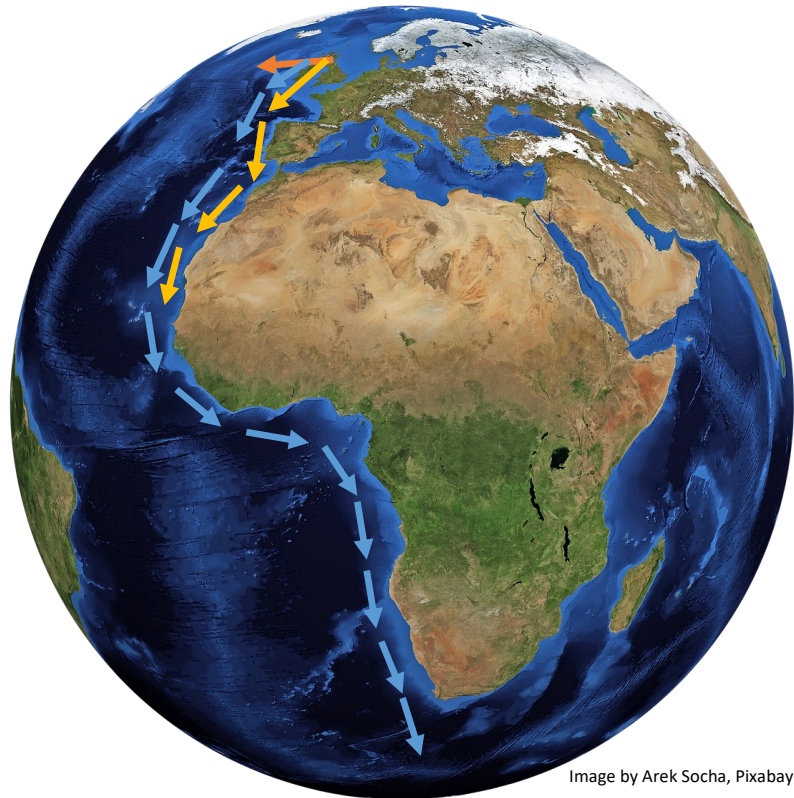


Image by Arek Socha, Pixabay

### ARCTIC TERN



© Greg Macvean

Believe it or not, this little bird undertakes the longest migration on the planet. Some individuals travel from the Arctic to the Antarctic and back again in one year. That's between 44,000 and 59,000 miles each year—the same distance as flying to the moon and back three times over its lifetime! (See spotlight page for more info).

*Seabirds use landmarks and the coastline to navigate as they migrate.*

Those that breed in Scotland leave in August and arrive back in May.

