

Seabird Photography Competition – Terms & Conditions

For this competition we are looking for images of any of the 23 seabirds that breed in Scotland each year. These include: Atlantic puffins, Northern gannets, razorbills, common guillemots, black guillemots, kittiwakes, herring gulls, great black-backed gulls, lesser black-backed gulls, common gulls, black-headed gulls, roseate terns, Arctic terns, common terns, little terns, sandwich terns, fulmars, European storm-petrels, Leach's storm-petrels, Manx shearwaters, shags, great skuas, and Arctic skuas.

The best image of each seabird species will be displayed in an exhibition in our harbour space, next to the boat office. The best 12 images from this selection will also be included in our 2026 Scottish Seabird Centre Calendar which will be used to raise funds for our vital conservation and education work.

Photographs taken in the last 5 years can be submitted. Photos taken on or before 31/12/19 will not be eligible.

Top tip: entering a photo of a less-photographed species (i.e. not puffins!) will give you a better chance of featuring in the exhibition and/or calendar!

The 23 photographs selected by the judges will appear in the Scottish Seabird Centre's 25-Year Scottish Seabird Photography Exhibition, and 12 images will be selected for **Scottish Seabird Calendar for 2026**. All proceeds from the calendar will be used to support the Scottish Seabird Centre's vital charity work (charity number SC025837). The overall winner will be voted for by Scottish Seabird Centre members and visitors. The judges will also choose their favourite overall entry in the Over-18 category and their favourite image from an Under-18 entrants. You can enter up to ten photos in total. The closing date for entries is **29 August 2025**. The person who takes the overall winning photo, as chosen by Seabird Centre members and visitors, will receive a gift card to the value of £200 donated by competition sponsors Opticron, to be spent on their equipment *and* a free space on a 2026 Bass Rock Landing Trip (if the winner is under 16 they will receive free tickets for an Isle of May landing trip for themselves and an accompanying adult). The judges winning images in the under 18 and over 18 categories will receive an Opticron gift card to the value of £150 and a voucher for a Catamaran trip around the Bass Rock in 2026. Please read the competition general rules before entering.

GENERAL RULES

1. The title for the photography competition is "Scotland's Seabirds". We are looking for images of any of the 23 seabirds that breed in Scotland each year. These include: Atlantic puffins, Northern gannets, razorbills, common guillemots, black guillemots, kittiwakes, herring gulls, great black-backed gulls, lesser black-backed gulls, common gulls, black-headed gulls, roseate terns, Arctic terns, common terns, little terns, sandwich terns, fulmars,

European storm-petrels, Leach's storm-petrels, Manx shearwaters, shags, great skuas, and Arctic skuas.

Photos of pets and zoo animals are not permitted. Images of UK wildlife in captivity are also ineligible. That includes photographs of wildlife taken in cages, aquariums, tanks, enclosures, pens or in any situation where the animal has been captured or restrained. The Scottish Seabird Centre's decision as to the eligibility of individual photographs will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Entrants must not cause injury or do anything distress to any animal or damage its habitat, either deliberately or inadvertently, whilst trying to take a photograph. This includes the flying of drones, which should not be flown too close or too noisily to wildlife, or their habitats or nest sites.

Entrants – including those using drones – must have the necessary permits and licences for photographing wildlife, and should, where necessary, have permission from the landowners to be on their land. They should be ready to provide proof if asked to do so by the competition organisers.

2. Photographs entered must be taken in Scotland.

3. Entrants can submit up to ten photos in total (in landscape orientation and as JPEGs) to the competition website. To enter your photos, you will need to send them via WeTransfer (or any other transfer service) to photos@seabird.org. A recommended £5 donation is requested for each entrant. Registrations can be made here:

<https://scottishseabirdcentre.beaconforms.com/form/e5a8a793>

4. We are aware that digital photography does allow for some image enhancement. You can enter images that have had spots, scratches or other blemishes removed. You can have worked on the colour or enhanced the image for the sake of the composition. You can also crop the image to improve composition.

We will not accept composite images - entries that stitch two or more separate photographs together to make one image, or entries that superimpose elements photographed separately onto an image. We will not accept the use of AI during the creation, design or development of the images.

We want you to stay faithful to the spirit of the competition and never deceive the viewer or misrepresent the aspect of nature being portrayed. The Scottish Seabird Centre and the judges reserve the right to exclude any image they believe may have been excessively treated so as to alter its authenticity.

5. The competition is open to **UK residents only** (including residents of the Channel Islands and Isle of Man). Employees of the Scottish Seabird Centre are not eligible to enter. Entrants under the age of 18 need the verifiable permission of a parent or guardian to enter.

6. Entrants must not be professional photographers. For the purposes of this competition, a professional photographer will be considered to be someone who makes more than half their annual income from the sale of their photographs.

7. Entrants under the age of 18 will need their parents or guardians to fill out the registration form on their behalf. All contact from production will be made through the parent/guardian, but please include the child's name and age on entries to ensure they are credited correctly.

8. The competition submission period closes at 10am on Friday 29 August. Entries received after this time will not be considered. Those who have no access to the internet to submit entries or those with accessibility questions should contact the Scottish Seabird Centre on [01620 890202](tel:01620890202).

The Scottish Seabird Centre cannot accept any responsibility for any problem with the internet service provider, network or other system which may result in any entry being delayed or not properly registered.

Unsuccessful entrants will not be contacted and no feedback on any entry will be provided.

9. All photographs will be judged on the following criteria:

- Composition
- Technical ability
- Originality
- Public appeal
- Suitability for inclusion in a calendar
- Adherence to the list of Scottish breeding seabirds as stated at the beginning of this document

10. The photographs will be judged through the following process:

Stage One

All entries will be assessed in the first instance by members of the Scottish Seabird Centre marketing and communications team. From this initial process a maximum of 150 of the best photographs will be chosen to go forward for the final judging.

Stage Two

A second panel of judges will then review all the entries on the short-list and select the 23 best, based on the above criteria – one of each Scottish breeding seabird species. The panel will also select their overall favourite and their favourite image taken by an under-18 entrant.

The judges will then select the best 12 images from this for inclusion in the calendar.

Each of the shortlisted entrants will be contacted by a member of the Scottish Seabird Centre marketing team within a week of judging. The judging will take place within six weeks of the competition closing date.

If after reasonable attempts a shortlisted entrant cannot be contacted, the Scottish Seabird Centre reserves the right to offer the place on the shortlist to the next best entry.

Stage Three – The Public Vote

All 23 finalists will be featured on the Scottish Seabird Centre's website, social media platforms, and e-newsletter - and Scottish Seabird Centre members and supporters will be asked to vote for their favourite. The overall winner will be the entry which receives the most public votes. Details of how the public can vote, and the rules of the voting, will be published on the Scottish Seabird Centre website and in online communications.

11. The prize for the overall winner will be a gift card to the value of £200, which can be spent with Opticron, and a free space on a 2026 Bass Rock landing trip. The entry selected as the overall judges' favourite will receive a gift card to the value of £150 which can also be spent with Opticron and a gift voucher for a Catamaran boat trip around the Bass Rock in 2026; and the judges' favourite image by an under-18 entrant will receive a £150 Opticron voucher and a gift voucher for a Catamaran boat trip around the Bass Rock in 2026 too. The prizes are as stated and cannot be deferred or transferred. There will be no cash alternatives. The judges' favourite and the overall winner can be the same photograph – in which case the winning photographer will receive both prizes.

12. The 12 images selected for the calendar shall appear in the **Scottish Seabird Centre Calendar 2026**, to be sold in aid of the Charity's vital conservation and education work. The finalists' photos may also be published in the Scottish Seabird Centre's magazine and used in other promotions of the competition.

13. In the event of a technical problem or evidence of impropriety with regard to the viewers' vote, the judges shall have the final decision. If the viewers' vote results in a tie, the judges shall have the casting vote. The judges' decisions will be final and no correspondence can be entered into.

14. All entries must be the original work of the entrant and must not infringe the rights of any other party. The entrants must be the sole owner of copyright in all photographs entered and must have obtained permission of any people featured in the entries or their parents/guardians if children under 16 are featured. Where an individual or a residential or commercial property, belonging to someone other than the photographer is featured, or it has been taken on private land the photographer must seek permission and be prepared to provide written consent, when requested by the Scottish Seabird Centre. Further, entrants must not have breached any laws when taking their photographs.

15. We are looking for original photographs, so entries must not have won any national or international competition prize previously. For the purposes of this competition, 'national'

refers to the whole of the UK – or to individual national competitions in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland.

16. Entrants will retain copyright in the photographs that they submit to the Scottish Seabird Centre. By entering the competition all entrants grant to the Scottish Seabird Centre the right to publish and exhibit their photographs in the Centre, in the Calendar, and on their website and social media platforms in perpetuity.

Entrants whose photographs are one of the finalists or selected to appear in the **Scottish Seabird Centre Calendar 2026** pursuant to paragraph 12 above, grant to the Scottish Seabird Centre the further rights to publish and exhibit their photographs in print, on their respective websites or in any other media in perpetuity. No fees will be payable for any of the above uses. While we make every effort to credit photographers, including in printed reproductions of their work, we cannot guarantee that every use of the photographs will include the photographers' names. Entrants must ensure that the photograph is not used to publicise or promote companies, individuals, organisations or causes – other than the Scottish Seabird Centre (including the photographic competition, the calendar and any associated promotions) and the winning photographer themselves – **until the 31st January 2026**.

17. If shortlisted and/or featured in the competition, the Scottish Seabird Centre team may undertake reasonable background research about you. This may include searches of publicly available records such as participation in previous competitions or information from social media profiles, including Facebook, X, Instagram, TikTok and LinkedIn. Such personal data will be restricted to relevant members of the team. Entrants warrant they have not acted or omitted to act in a manner that will bring the Scottish Seabird Centre into disrepute. Information associated with entrants will be held by the Scottish Seabird Centre and be handled in the strictest confidence and as with all personal data, in accordance with our [data protection/privacy policy](#).

18. By entering, entrants will be deemed to have agreed to be bound by these rules and the Scottish Seabird Centre reserves the right to exclude any entry from the competition at any time and in its absolute discretion if the Scottish Seabird Centre has reason to believe that an entrant has breached these rules, acted fraudulently in any way or brings the Charity into disrepute. When an entry is submitted by a parent or guardian on behalf of an entrant, the parent and/or guardian shall be responsible for the entrant's compliance with these rules.

19. The Scottish Seabird Centre reserves the right to cancel this competition or alter any of the rules at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, and if circumstances arise outside of its control.

20. If the winner is unable to be contacted after reasonable attempts have been made, the Scottish Seabird Centre reserves the right to either offer the prize to a runner up, or to re-offer the prize in any future competition.

21. These rules are governed by the laws of Scotland. This competition is administered by the Scottish Seabird Centre.

24. Please take your photos responsibly and always follow the Countryside Code. You can find more information here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code>

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140605090108/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/images/photography-guidance_tcm6-35807.pdf

25. For information about licences for photographing wildlife please follow the guidance here;

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protected-species-when-to-apply-for-a-licence-to-survey-film-or-photograph-them>

Photographs must be taken responsibly adhering to all government guidelines across the British Isles. Respect must be given for local habitats, communities and business such as farmland and nature reserves where there may be local instructions in place for visitors, walkers and others enjoying the countryside.

We will only accept JPEGs (of no more than 3MG) sent to us at photos@seabird.org, we will not accept hard copies sent through the post.

Scottish Seabird Centre, as data controller, is responsible for handling personal data you provide, in accordance with data protection law.