



SPOTTER SHEET

AUTUMN SHOREBIRDS

This guide identifies some of the birds that you might see on the coast around the Firth of Forth in the autumn. Use the circles provided to tally how many you've seen!

CURLEW

Numenius arquata



Curlews have mottled brown plumage and long downcurved bills which act like tweezers, helping them eat worms, insects, molluscs and crabs.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT

Limosa lapponica



With a straighter bill than the Curlew, the Godwit enjoys sand and mudflats where it can probe for food. Look for the pinkish bill base with dark tip.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE

Anser brachyrhynchus



Pink-footed geese pass through Scotland in large numbers in autumn, coming from Iceland and Greenland on their way farther south.

LAPWING

Vanellus vanellus



A black cap extending into an impressive crest makes the Lapwing distinctive. It also has a short dark bill, white chest and pinkish short legs.

LITTLE EGRET

Egretta garzetta



With the appearance of a white heron, the Little Egret has a long neck, black bill, black legs and yellow feet.

OYSTERCATCHER

Haematopus ostralegus



An eye-catching orange-red bill makes the Oystercatcher quite easy to spot. It has a stocky black and white body, pink legs and a red eye.

TURNSTONE

Arenaria interpres



Smaller than a Redshank, the Turnstone has a dark mottled back and breast with a white underside. At home on rocks or sandy beaches.

REDSHANK

Tringa totanus



A Redshank has a straight bill that is red at the base and black at the tip. Its lengthy red legs give it its name. Listen for its loud ringing calls.



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