



**Yorkshire  
Wildlife Trust**

## Getting to know the seabirds of Flamborough Cliffs nature reserve

### Top spotting tips!



Look high, low and out to sea – scour the cliffs top to bottom and get ready to spot those heading back from a fishing trip.



Zoom in – the birds can be seen with the naked eye but if you have a pair of binoculars, bring them along for a closer look.



Listen as well as look – each species has a different call or sound. Tuning in will help you work out who's who on the cliff face.

### GANNET (*Morus bassanus*)

With long wings and dagger-like bills for catching larger fish, look for our largest seabird plunging at high speeds into the water in pursuit of their prey! Adults are white with a yellow head and black wing tips; youngsters start off dark and speckled. They build their nests further round the Headland at Bempton. **Best time to see them:** January-October



MARTIN BATT

### SHAG (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*)

With their long wings and necks and blackish plumage, shags are easily confused with cormorants, but are slimmer, smaller and have a more delicate, narrow bill. During the breeding season, they sport a quiff on their forehead and a yellow patch at their bill-base. Nests are built on low cliff ledges. **Best time to see them:** all year



MARTIN BATT

### PUFFIN (*Fratercula arctica*)

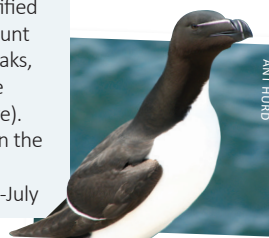
These clowns of the cliffs may be small in size but they're big in character. Recognisable by their multi-coloured bill, bright orange legs and clumsy landing and departures! Puffins nest in holes and crevices on the cliff face and raise a single chick, called a puffling. **Best time to see them:** April-July



WILDSTOCK

### RAZORBILL (*Alca torda*)

This elegant auk is black above and white below. They can be identified by their thick bill which has a blunt end and two distinct white streaks, one vertical (at the tip) and one horizontal (leading up to the eye). They incubate one single egg on the bare cliff ledge. **Best time to see them:** March-July



ANT HURD

### HERRING GULL (*Larus argentatus*)

The large, noisy gulls of our coastal towns and clifftops are grey above and white below with black wingtips (youngsters are brown and speckled). They may be recognisable but these birds are declining in their traditional clifftop breeding habitat where they make their nests in grassy areas above the chalk. **Best time to see them:** all year round



ANT HURD

### KITTIWAKE (*Rissa tridactyla*)

This small, dainty gull is perhaps the loudest of our seabird citizens; listen out for the repeated cry of 'kitti-way-ik'! Adults are grey above and white below with black, dipped-in-ink wingtips and a small yellow bill. They build their nests from mud and plants on cliff ledges and outcrops. **Best time to see them:** March-August



JAMES ROGERSON

### GUILLEMOT (*Uria aalge*)

Look out for their long narrow bills and chocolate-coloured upperparts. You may spot 'bridled' birds, which have a thin white stripe across their eye. Guillemots don't build a nest; they incubate a single egg on their webbed feet, as they stand shoulder-to-shoulder on the cliff ledge. **Best time to see them:** March-July



ANT HURD



GEORGE STOVILE

### FULMAR (*Fulmarus glacialis*)

Fulmars are related to albatrosses. When flying, spot them by their stiff, straight wings and shallow wingbeats. They create their nests on cliff edges. Fulmars eject a foul-smelling stomach oil to deter predators and have tubed beaks that can filter out salt from seawater. **Best time to see them:** All year round



### Helping Flamborough's seabirds



Please take **all** litter home with you to prevent it going into the sea



Please keep your dogs on a lead and under close control



Please do not fly drones above this precious nature reserve

#### KEY



Car park (pay & display)



Toilets



Bin



Road

Public footpath



Bird hide



Rockpooling



Seabird Viewing

(please note some of these paths may change as access agreements change)