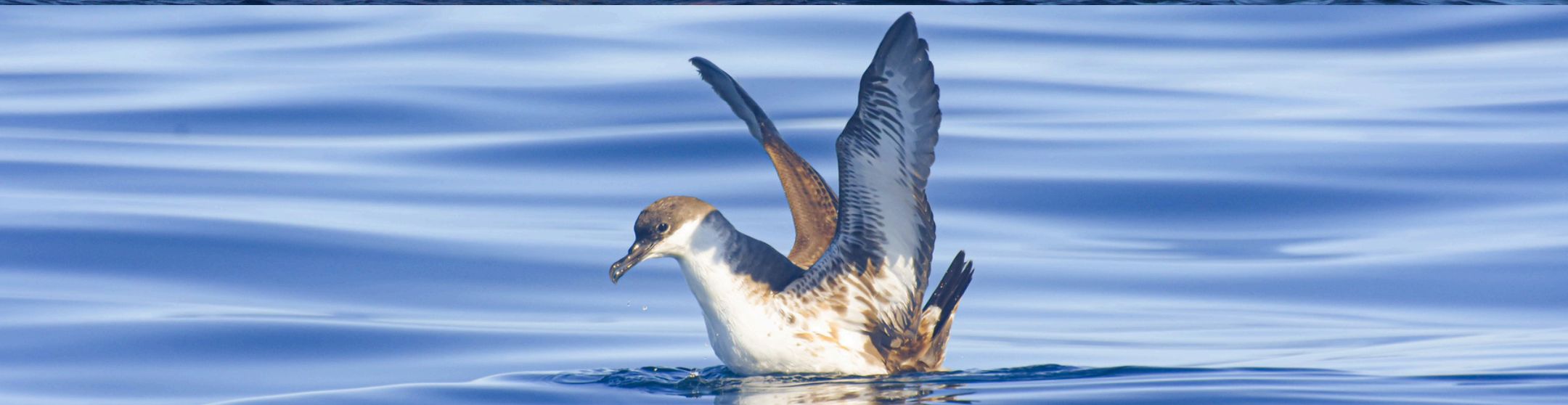


Quick guide for Sagres' seabirds



15th Sagres Birdwatching & Nature Activities Festival
2024



Introduction

This guide has been produced as part of the 15th Edition of Sagres Birdwatching & Nature Activities Festival and is not an exhaustive list - the species illustrated here are likely to be seen at this time of year on seabirding trips in Sagres.

The descriptions here refer to adult birds, with the most common characteristics between different variations, or illustrating the most common variations in autumn.

This information has been compiled from the publications listed at the end of the document.

How to use this guide

In each page you will find:

English common name

Portuguese common name

Scientific name



Phenology- migratory behaviour relative to mainland Portugal

Size- L: Bird length; WS: Wingspan

Morphology- Characteristics that make it possible to identify the bird illustrated.

Bird illustration

Index

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Shearwaters..... | 1 |
| • Great Shearwater | 1 |
| • Sooty Shearwater | 1 |
| • Cory’s Shearwater | 2 |
| • Balearic Shearwater | 2 |
| • Manx Shearwater | 3 |
| Storm-petrels | 3 |
| • European Storm-petrel | 3 |
| • Leach’s Storm-petrel | 4 |
| • Wilson’s Storm-petrel | 4 |
| Gulls | 5 |
| • Audouin’s Gull | 5 |
| • Yellow-legged Gull | 5 |
| • Lesser Black-backed Gull | 6 |
| • Mediterranean Gull | 6 |
| • Sabine’s Gull | 7 |
| Skuas | 7 |
| • Long-tailed Jaeger | 7 |
| • Arctic Jaeger | 8 |
| • Pomarine Jaeger | 8 |
| • Great Skua | 9 |



Index

| | |
|--|----|
| Terns | 9 |
| • Sandwich Tern | 9 |
| • Arctic Tern | 10 |
| • Common Tern | 10 |
| Cormorants | 11 |
| • Great Cormorant | 11 |
| • European Shag | 11 |
| Gannets | 12 |
| • Northern Gannet | 12 |
| Razorbill | 12 |
| Ducks, sandpipers and phalaropes | 13 |
| • Common Scotter | 13 |
| • Red Phalarope | 13 |
| • Common Sandpiper | 14 |
| • Whimbrel | 14 |
| • Eurasian Whimbrel | 15 |
| Seabird Checklist | 16 |
| Credits and references | 16 |

Great Shearwater

Pardela-de-barrete

Ardena gravis



Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Phenology - Passing migrant.

Size - L: 43-51 cm; WS: 105-122 cm

Morphology - Black beak; dark cap and white collar; diffuse spot in the centre of the abdomen; armpits and inner part of the anterior surface of the wings white with dark bars and spots; wingtips more pointed. Stiff, rapid wing beat.

Similar to Cory's Shearwater, but a little smaller.

Sooty Shearwater

Pardela-preta

Ardena grisea



Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Phenology - Passing migrant.

Size - L: 40-50 cm; WS: 93-106 cm

Morphology - Medium size and dark in colour, with long, pointed wings and a silvery infra-alar panel. In low light it looks completely black, even the wings, but in bright light it looks more brownish, with the infra-wing panel visible. Fast, powerful and direct flight.

Cory's Shearwater

Cagarra

Calonectris borealis



Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Phenology - Estival breeding

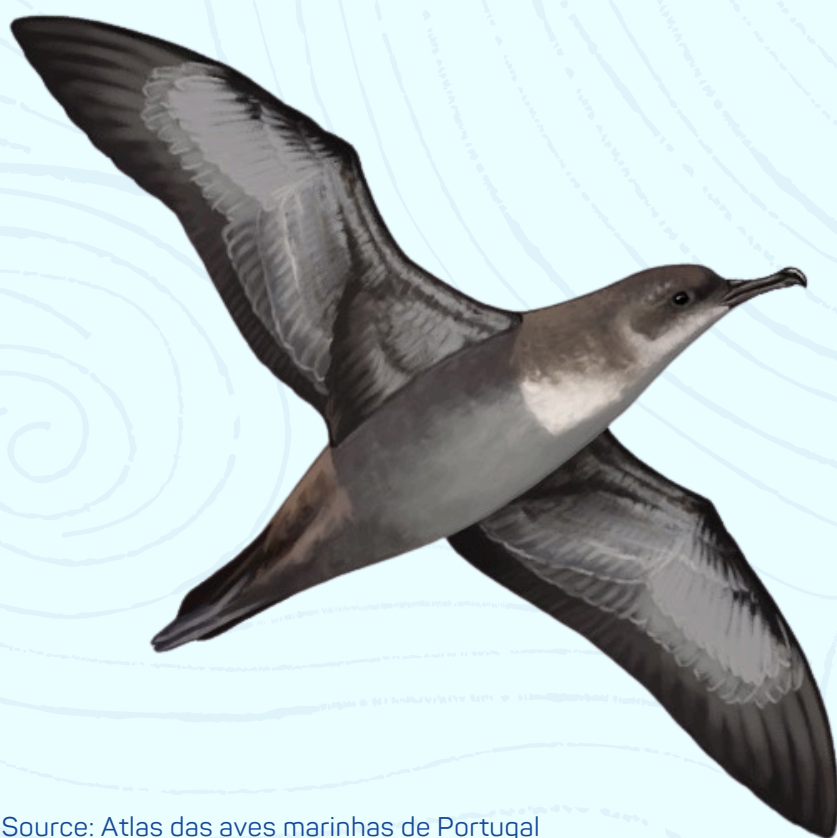
Size - L: 50-56 cm; WS: 118-126 cm

Morphology - Pale yellow beak, darker near the tip; brownish-grey upperparts; brownish-grey sides of the chest, neck and head; white belly; long, flexible wings, always arched.

Balearic Shearwater

Pardela-balear

Puffinus mauretanicus



Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Phenology - Estival, passing migrant and wintering.

Size - L: 34-39 cm; WS: 78-90 cm

Morphology - Brownish back; white belly and underwing coverts, with no contrast between dark and light; short tail.

It can be confused with the sooty shearwater, but the balearic shearwater is smaller and more pot-bellied.

Manx Shearwater

Fura-bucho-do-atlântico | Pardela-do-atlântico

Puffinus puffinus



Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Phenology - Passing migrant.

Size - L: 30-35 cm; WS: 71-83 cm

Morphology - Black on the upper parts and white on the lower parts, with great contrast; the dark colour of the head extends to below the eyes and the dark tone of the upper parts reaches the sides of the chest; it has a kind of white half-collar; it never, or rarely, has protruding legs.

European Storm-petrel

Alma-de-mestre

Hydrobates pelagicus



Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Phenology - Passing migrant.

Size - L: 15-16 cm; WS: 37-41 cm

Morphology - Smallest storm petrel that occurs in European waters. It doesn't have a bar on the upper wing coverts, but it does have a characteristic wide white bar on the underside of the wings; the uropygial spot is wide and uniformly white.

It can be confused with the leach's storm petrel, but in flight the smaller size of the kite will be obvious.

Leach's Storm-petrel

Painho-de-cauda-forcada

Hydrobates leucorhous



Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Phenology - Passing migrant.

Size- L: 18-21 cm; WS: 43-48 cm

Morphology - Relatively large robin with long wings; white spot on uropygium relatively long and V-shaped; pale bar on upper side of wings prominent; underside of wings dark; wings pointed; forked tail only visible from certain angles.

Wilson's Storm-petrel

Casquilho

Oceanites oceanicus



Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Phenology - Passing migrant.

Size - L: 16-18 cm; WS: 38-42 cm

Morphology - Completely dark in colour; large white rump patch; square tail; pale bar on the upper side of the wings; smooth underside of the wings.

It can be mistaken for the common scoter, but it is a little larger and the colouring is different, as are the wings, which are wider at the tip.

Audouin's Gull

Gaivota-de-audouin

Larus audouinnii



Phenology - Estival, passing migrant and wintering.

Size - L: 44-52cm; WS: 117-128cm

Morphology - Pale grey upper wings; dark red beak; very dark iris; greyish or dark grey legs.

Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Yellow-legged Gull

Gaivota-de-patas-amarelas

Larus michahellis



Phenology - Resident

Size - L: 52-58 cm; WS: 120-140 cm

Morphology - yellow beak with a curved tip and a red dot; bright yellow legs; light grey back.

Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Gaivota-d'asa-escura

Larus fuscus



Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Fenologia - Wintering, passing migrant and breeder.

Size - L: 48-56cm; WS: 117-134cm

Morphology - dark grey back; yellow legs; yellow beak with a red dot.

Mediterranean Gull

Gaivota-de-cabeça-preta

Larus melanocephalus



Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Phenology - Passing migrant and wintering.

Size - L: 37-40 cm; WS: 94-102 cm

Morphology - Very pale wings and back; black head in summer and just a spot on the head in winter; all white flight feathers; very pale grey upperparts; scarlet beak and legs.

Sabine's Gull

Gaivota-de-sabine

Xema sabini



Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Phenology - Passing migrant.

Size - L: 30-36 cm; WS: 80-87 cm

Morphology - Large wings; forked tail; upper wings have an intense contrast pattern; in summer and autumn they have an almost black hood.

Long-tailed Jaeger

Moleiro-rabilongo

Stercorarius longicaudus



Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Phenology - Passing migrant.

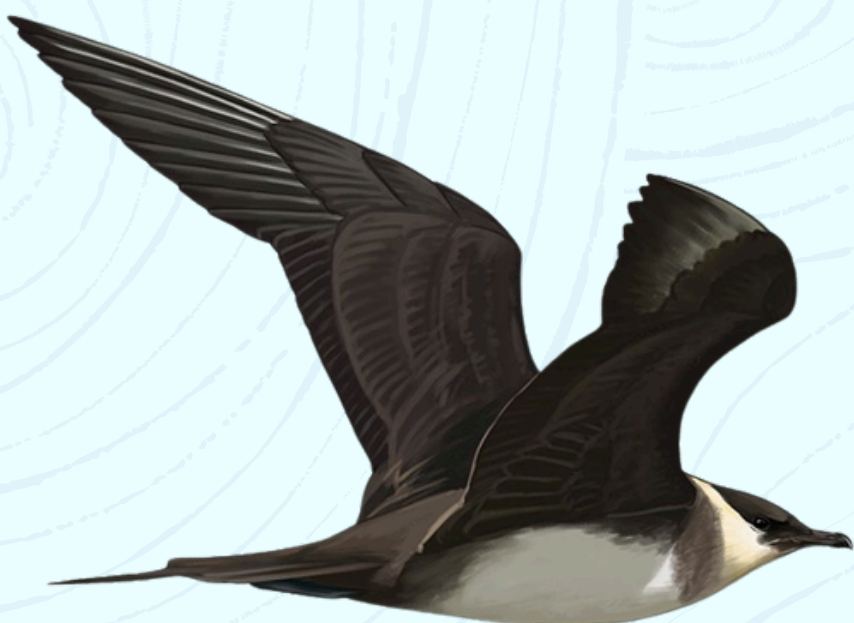
Size - L: 35-41 cm; WS: 105-112 cm

Morphology - Very long tail; long, narrow wings; in summer it has a distinctive cap.

Arctic Jaeger

Moleiro-pequeno

Stercorarius parasiticus



Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Phenology - Passing migrant and wintering.

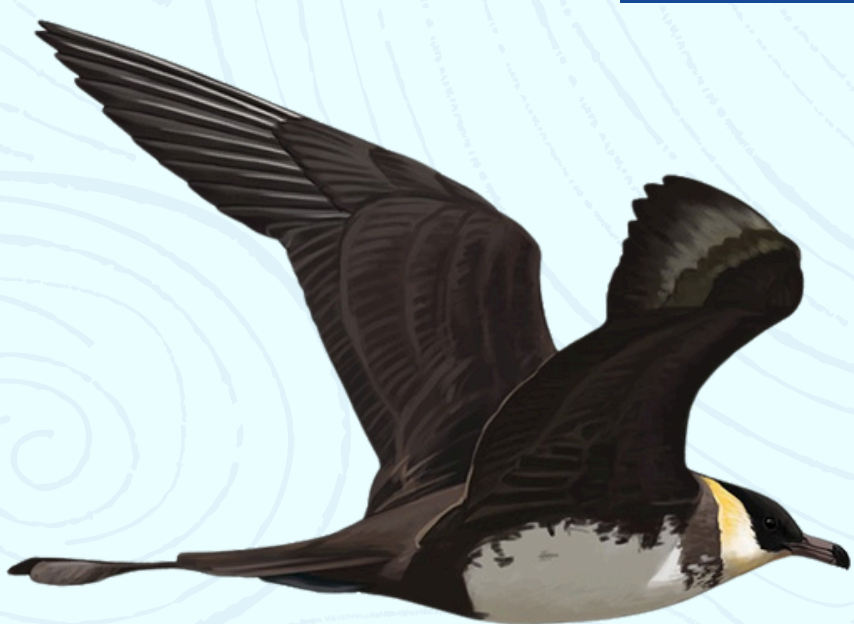
Size - L: 37-44 cm; WS: 108-118 cm

Morphology - In winter it has a pointed tail, while in summer it is tapered; relatively narrow wings; light spots on the primaries; dark cap; light spot around the beak.

Pomarine Jaeger

Moleiro-do-ártico

Stercorarius pomarinus



Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Phenology - Passing migrant.

Size - L: 42-45 cm; WS: 115-125 cm

Morphology - Broad wing; light primary spots on both sides of the wings; spoon-shaped tail in summer and square in winter.

Great Skua

Alcaide | Moleiro-grande

Catharacta skua



Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Phenology - Passing migrant and wintering.

Size - L: 50-58 cm; WS: 125-140 cm

Morphology - Large and heavy; heavy beak; strong head and neck with broad central rectrices with rounded tips; nape, neck and upperparts with coarse yellowish-brown stripes; white spot on wings; barrel-shaped body.

Sandwich Tern

Garajau-de-bico-preto

Thalasseus sandvicensis



Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Phenology - Passing migrant and wintering.

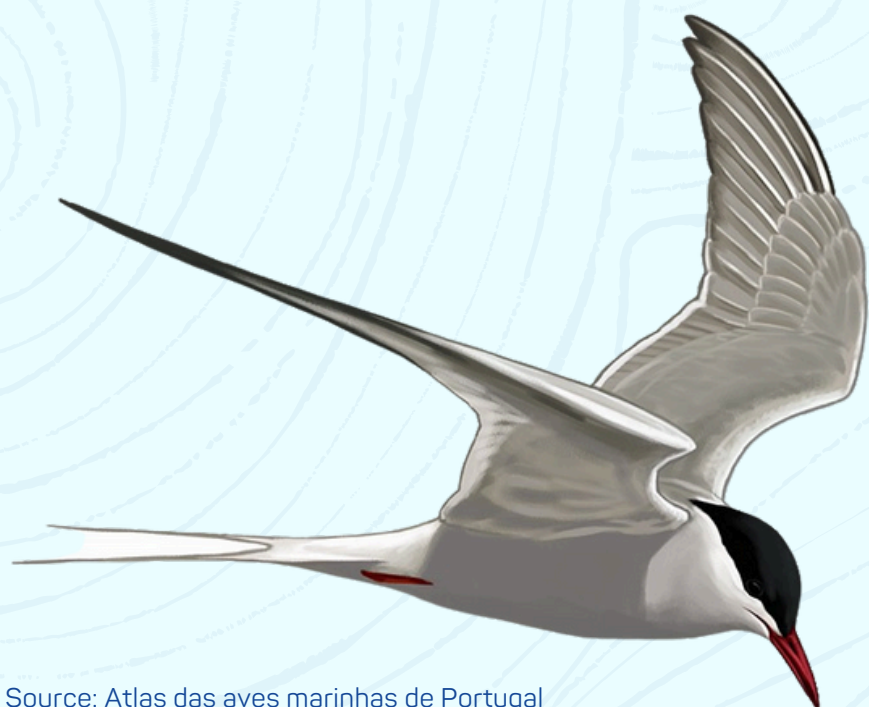
Size - L: 37-43 cm; WS: 85-97 cm

Morphology - Large size; long black beak with a yellow tip; in summer it has grey upperparts and white underparts; wide white back edge which gives it a very whitish appearance; during the summer the outer primaries darken, forming a black wedge or tip; black legs.

Arctic Tern

Garajau-do-ártico

Sterna paradisaea



Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Phenology - Passing migrant.

Size - L: 33-39 cm; WS: 66-77 cm

Morphology - Very short legs; blood-red beak with no black tip; very pale grey underside of throat, chest and abdomen; white cheeks and upper throat; white flight feathers, translucent when seen from below.

Common Tern

Garajau-comum

Sterna hirundo



Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Phenology - Estival breeding and passing migrant.

Size - L: 34-37 cm; WS: 70-80 cm

Morphology- Reddish-orange beak with a black tip, redder in summer and blacker in winter; pale grey underparts that generally don't contrast with the white sides; short tail feathers; dark wedge-shaped spot on the upper side of the wings. It can be confused with the Arctic Tern, but the Common Tern is larger and has a longer head and legs.

Great Cormorant

Corvo-marinho-de-faces-brancas

Phalacrocorax carbo



Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Phenology - Wintering and resident.

Size - L: 77-94 cm; WS: 121-149 cm

Morphology - Large size; long, thick neck; strong beak; yellowish beak; white face; black colouring with bluish and greenish tinges; black wings with bronze tinges; appears less glossy in winter.

European Shag

Corvo-marinho-de-crista | Galheta

Phalacrocorax aristotelis



Phenology - Wintering and resident.

Size - L: 78-68 cm; WS: 95-110 cm

Morphology - Black colour, when breeding the plumage is more glossy and appears greenish; yellow beak commissure that contrasts with the dark surround; thin beak.

Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Northern Gannet

Alcatraz | Ganso-patola

Morus bassanus



Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Phenology - Wintering and passing migrant.

Size - L: 85-97 cm; WS: 170-192 cm

Morphology - Easy to spot due to its large size; white colouring; yellowish head; black wingtips; long, narrow wings; strong beak.

Razorbill

Torda-mergulheira

Alca torda



Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Phenology- Wintering and passing migrant

Size- L: 38-43 cm; WS: 60-69 cm

Morphology- Blunt, black beak with white lines; sturdy neck; long, pointed tail; black upperparts with white underparts and wings.

It can be confused in flight with the common murre, but the razorbill is slightly smaller and its legs are hidden in flight, unlike those of the common murre.

Common Scoter

Negrola

Melanitta nigra



Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Phenology- Wintering and passing migrant

Size- L: 44-54 cm; WS: 70-84 cm

Morphology- Medium-sized; small peak, with the male's having a protuberance at the base; elongated tail; all-black plumage in the case of males; females have a high contrast on the head between the black plumage and the white cheeks, also with paler primaries.

Red Phalarope

Falaropo-de-bico-grosso

Phalaropus fulicarius



Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Phenology- Wintering and passing migrant.

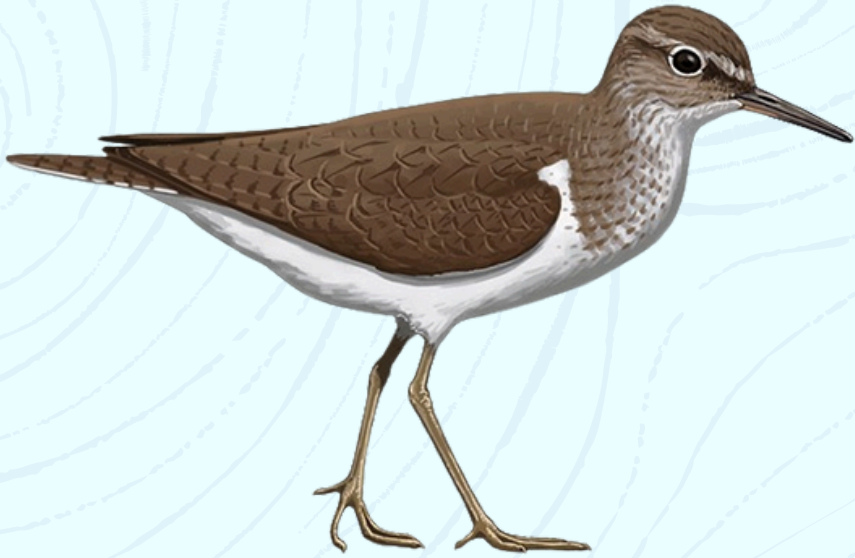
Size- L: 20-22 cm; WS: 36-41 cm

Morphology- Black, light grey and white plumage; pale bluish-grey, almost smooth upperparts and wings; white crown with dark edges; dark bill, usually brownish-yellow at the base; usually seen swimming or flying over the sea.

Common Sandpiper

Maçarico-das-rochas

Actitis hypoleucos



Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Phenology- Breeding, wintering and passing migrant.

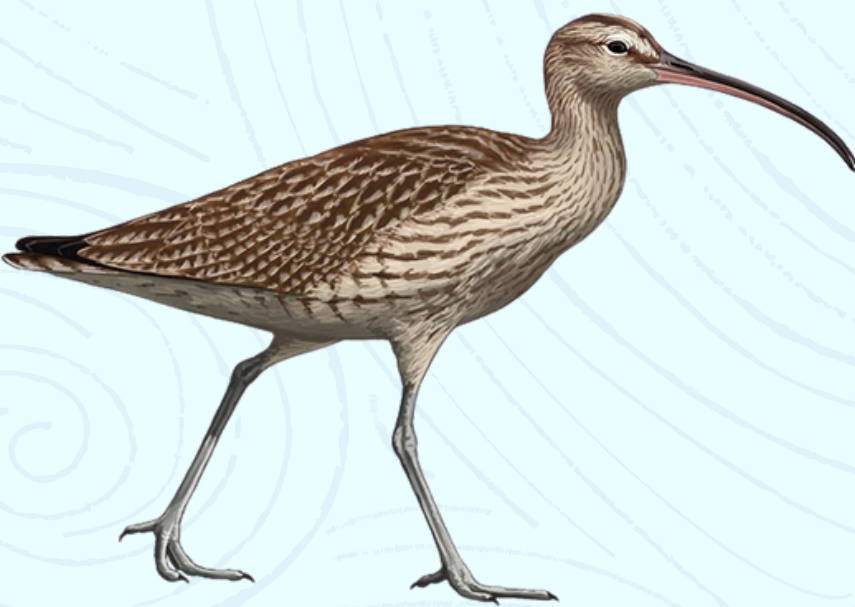
Size- L: 18-20 cm; WS: 32-35 cm

Morphology- Small with a short neck; long tail; short legs; brown upperparts with a white part between the carpal joint area and a well-demarcated spot on the sides of the chest; legs can be brownish, greenish or yellowish-grey.

Whimbrel

Maçarico-galego

Numenius phaeopus



Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Phenology- Wintering and passing migrant

Size- L: 37-45 cm; WS: 78-88 cm

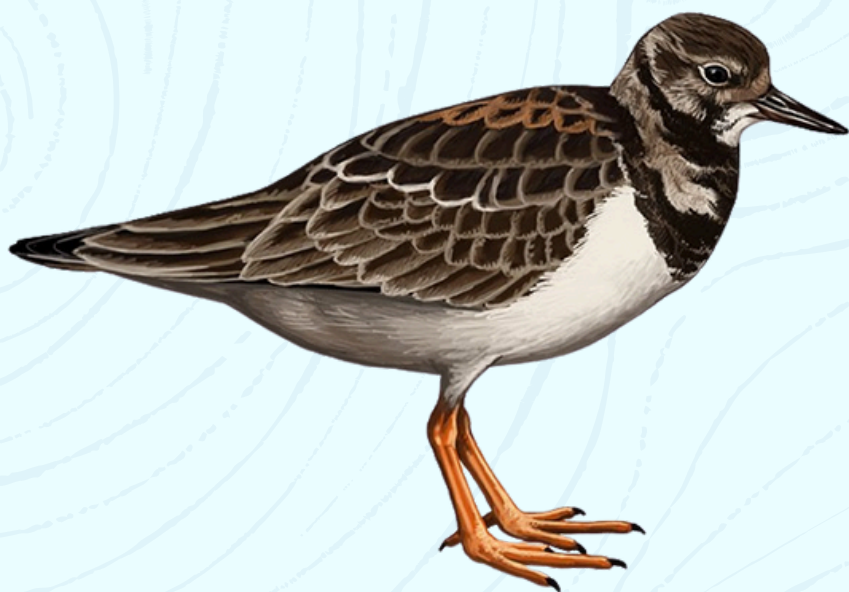
Morphology- Evenly distributed grey-brown stripes and streaks; dark crown sides and eye stripe; strong supraciliary stripe.

It can be confused with the royal sandpiper, but the latter has a white uropygium, while in the grey sandpiper it is the same colour as the rest of the body.

Eurasian Whimbrel

Rola-do-mar

Arenaria interpres



Source: Atlas das aves marinhas de Portugal

Phenology- Wintering and passing migrant

Size- L: 21-24 cm; WS: 43-49 cm

Morphology- Orange-brown scapulars and wing coverts (darker closer to winter); clear black and white pattern on head in summer, brown head in winter; bright orange legs.

Easily identifiable by its behaviour - it uses its beak to turn over stones.



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Seabird checklist

SAGRES BIRDWATCHING & NATURE
ACTIVITIES FESTIVAL 2024

- ☐ Arctic Jaeger
Stercorarius parasiticus
- ☐ Arctic Tern
Sterna paradisaea
- ☐ Audouin’s Gull
Larus audouinnii
- ☐ Balearic Shearwater
Puffinus mauretanicus
- ☐ Common Sandpiper
Actitis hypoleucos
- ☐ Common Scoter
Melanitta nigra
- ☐ Common Tern
Sterna hirundo
- ☐ Cory’s Shearwater
Calonectris borealis
- ☐ Eurasian Whimbrel
Arenaria interpres
- ☐ European Shag
Phalacrocorax aristotelis
- ☐ European Storm-petrel
Hydrobates pelagicus
- ☐ Great Cormorant
Phalacrocorax carbo
- ☐ Great Sheatwater
Ardena gravis
- ☐ Great Skua
Stercorarius skua
- ☐ Leach’s Storm-petrel
Hydrobates leucorhous
- ☐ Lesser Black-backed Gull
Larus fuscus
- ☐ Long-tailed Jaeger
Stercorarius longicaudus
- ☐ Manx Shearwater
Puffinus puffinus
- ☐ Mediterranean Gull
Larus melanocephalus
- ☐ Northern Gannet
Morus bassanus
- ☐ Pomarin Jaeger
Stercorarius pomarinus
- ☐ Razorbill
Alca torda
- ☐ Red Phalarope
Phalaropus fulicarius
- ☐ Sabine’s Gull
Xema sabini
- ☐ Sandwich Tern
Thalasseus sandvicensis
- ☐ Sooty Shearwater
Ardena grisea
- ☐ Wimbrel
Numenius phaeopus
- ☐ Wilson’s Storm-petrel
Oceanites oceanicus
- ☐ Yellow-legged Gull
Larus cachinnans michahellis
- ☐ Other:

Share and tag us on your final checklist!

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All of the information in this guide was obtained from the following sources:

Illustrations: Martí Franch

Meirinho A, Barros N , Oliveira N , Catry P, Lecoq M, Paiva V, Geraldés P, Granadeiro JP, Ramírez I & Andrade J (2014). Atlas das Aves Marinhas de Portugal. Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves. <http://www.atlasavesmarinhas.pt>

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