



CORMORANT
[80- 100cm] long
Broigheal

Large, dark seabird with long, hook tipped bill. In good light plumage has oily sheen. In summer, adult has white patch on face and thighs; in winter thigh patch lost and face

appears grubby. Large, webbed feet used to good effect when swimming at surface or underwater in search of fish. Plumage lacks complete waterproofing and so it is often seen perched on rocks or posts with wings held out to dry. Breeds on cliffs. In winter repairs to nearby rivers and estuary. Can give a low guttural *rr-rah* calls on breeding cliffs.

FULMAR [wingspan 105—110 cm]
Fulmaire

Superficially gull-like but easily told by stiff-winged, gliding pattern. Expert aeronaut, riding up-draughts off cliff face and ocean gales with consummate ease.



Back and upperwings blue/grey but plumage otherwise mostly white except for dark smudge behind eye. Often seen when resting or nesting on cliff ledge, Tube nostrils and bill plates then apparent. Sociable at breeding colonies, birds uttering cackling, grunting calls. Ejects foul-smelling crop contents in defence of nest.

This has only been an introduction to the bird population of Ardmore and has concentrated on Coastal Birds only. Other birds such as Rock Pipts, Pheasant, Kestrel, Peregrine Falcons are here too, as well as being frequently seen on the upland meadows of the Ardmore Headland.

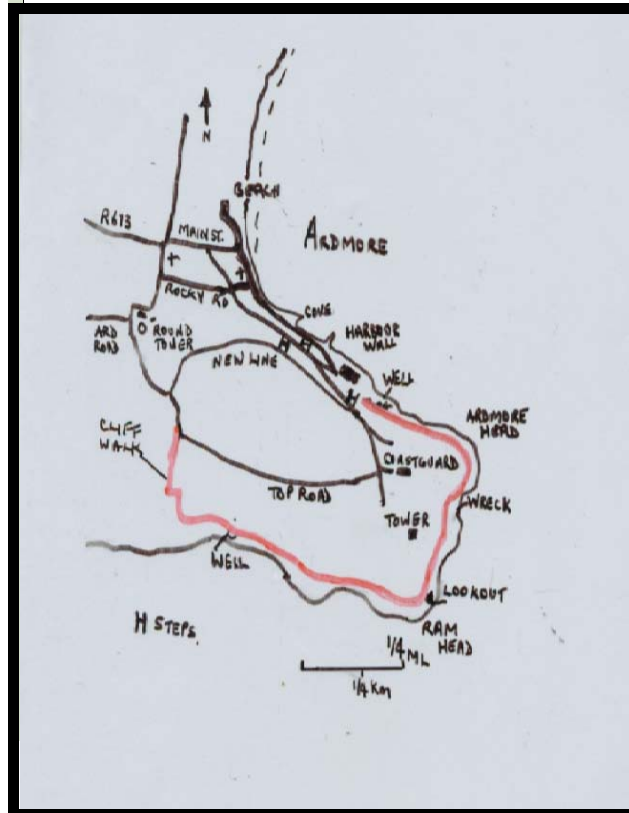
Oystercatchers and Herons can also be spotted up here, although they are wetland birds who generally feed on Ardmore Strand below.



GANNET [90 cm]
Gainead

Distinctive white body with black wing tips.; Creamy yellow head and black lores. Graceful flight and dramatic plunging in to the water for feeding (see cover), feeds mostly out on open sea and has substantial breeding colonies from Wexford, to Cork and Kerry. Juvenile has dark

brown plumage speckled with dots. Usually silent at sea, but noisy on breeding colonies giving loud barking *arrah* calls. Can be seen here on the cliffs but no breeding colony established.



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Birds Native to Ardmore's Scenic Cliff Walk



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LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL. [53-58 cm]

Droimneach beag

Similar in proportion to Herring Gull, but adult bird easily told by dark grey back and upperwings. Because precise tone varies, yellow legs are best diagnostic features. A locally common breeding species on this coast. Mainly coastal feeders, but also inland on rubbish tips. Loud deep *Kyow* call

BLACK- HEADED GULL. [35– 38 cm] long

Sleibhin

Our most numerous small gull here in Ireland. Plumage varies with the seasons and age, but always recognisable in flight by white leading edge to wings. Breeds beside upland lakes and on coastal marshes. Outside breeding season visits urban areas, car parks, also following ploughs on arable land. Noisy harsh *kuarr* and *kwup* calls.



GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL.

[64-79 cm] Droimneach Mor

Our largest gull. Massive yellow bill and pink legs. Upper wings uniformly black in flight. Breeds in small numbers. Pairs usually widely spaced, nest sited close to seabird colony; preys on smaller bird species. In winter stays near coast; visits in land rubbish tips. Laughing call noticeably deeper than that of other gulls, *aouk* bark and trumpeting *ee-aouk-ouk-ouk*.



HERRING GULL

[56-66 cm] long

Faoilean scadan

A familiar noisy bird, generally the most numerous gull species. Common to the coast. Nests in loose colonies here on cliffs. Adult has blue/grey back and upper wings with white spotted, black wing tips; body otherwise white. Legs pink and bill yellow with orange spots near tip. Juvenile identified with dark bill, mottled grey brown; acquires adult plumage with successive moults over subsequent two years. When disturbed gives loud *kee-ya* and deep *gak-gak* calls

KITTIWAKES [41cm] Saidhbear

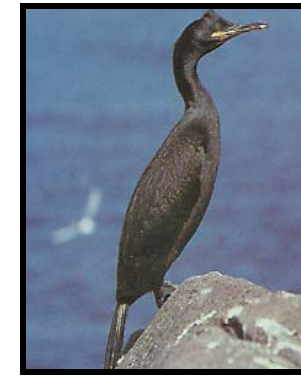
Easily recognised with blue/grey and otherwise white plumage; bill yellow with black legs/feet. In flight can be easily mistaken for common gull, except wingtips are pure black. Juvenile is striking in flight with black zig-zag markings on upper wing, black tip to tail and black nape band. Arguably our only true seagull, with non breeding period spent entirely at sea; confident flight even in roughest weather. Has an identifying call *kittee-waak*. Nests mostly on precipitous cliff ledges overhanging the sea.



SANDWICH TERN. [42cm]

Geabhrog scothdhubh

Elegant seabird, looks pure white at distance. Can be seen on coast from April to September. Easily recognised in flight by powerful, buoyant flight on long narrow wings and frequently uttered *churrick* call. Back and upper wing of adult pale grey, but plumage otherwise white except for a dark crest. Legs black and bill black with yellow tip.



SHAG Seaga

[65-80cm] long

Superficially similar to Cormorant (see over-leaf), but smaller with green oily sheen visible at close range or good light. Adult has narrow yellow patch at base of bill. Juvenile

has dark brown upperparts Found throughout the year on rocky parts of cliffs or beach. Seemingly indifferent to rough seas. Dives often and for considerable periods. Characteristically leaps out of water as it dives. Frequently seen perched on rocks with wings outstretched to dry. Gives a range of croaks, grunts and hisses.

BLACK GULEMOT [34CM] Foracha dhubh

Distinctive at all times of the year. Has mainly sooty black plumage except for striking white patch on wing, conspicuous both at rest and in flight. At close range, red legs and orange red gape can be seen. Usually seen singly close to shore on rocky outcrops. Rather scarce. Dives well in search of bottom dwelling fish Breeds in fairly small and loose colonies on the rocky coast. Utters loud, whistling *spiiiiieh* calls at breeding areas

