



SEABIRDS



FACT FILE
For Kids

What is a seabird?



There are nearly
350 species of
seabird



Most seabird species nest in colonies



Seabirds, or marine birds, are birds that have
adapted to life in a marine environment



Seabirds eat fish, squid and
crustaceans



The first seabirds evolved
around 100 million years ago!



YELKOUAN SHEARWATERS



Feed at sea during the day and return back to cliffs to breed/look after their young at night.



30-38cm long
76-89cm wingspan

Conservation status:
Vulnerable



Found around the
Mediterranean

They only lay one egg
per year



BALEARIC SHEARWATERS



Similar to Yelkouan Shearwaters, feed at sea during the day and go back to the cliffs at night.



33cm long
85-90cm wingspan

Conservation status:
Critically Endangered



Found mostly on islands and coastal cliffs of the Balearic Islands.





SCOPOLI'S SHEARWATERS

Found on islands across the Mediterranean. The largest colony is on the rocky island of Zembra, off the coast of Tunisia.



45-52cm in length
112-122cm wingspan

Conservation status:
Least Concern



They mainly eat small fish, but also cephalopods and crustaceans.





EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL

Found on islands off the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts of Europe. Here in Malta, the islet of Filfla has the biggest colony in the Mediterranean.



14-18cm in length
36-39cm wingspan

Conservation status:
Least Concern

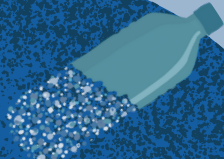


Feed on small fish,
squid, crustaceans and
jellyfish.



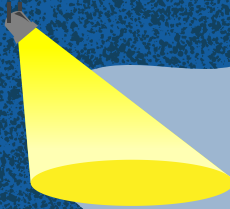
THREATS

Plastic Pollution



Microplastics can bioaccumulate in the bodies of the seabirds.

Light and Noise Pollution



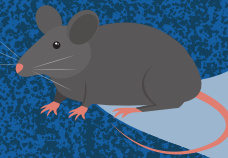
Disorients the birds when coming back to land.

Climate Change



Climate change disrupts the food chain leaving wildlife in danger.

Rat Predation



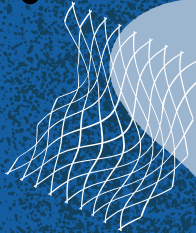
Human-caused litter and waste attract rats which then grow in numbers and predate the eggs/young.

Illegal Hunting



It can remove groups from the world.

Bycatch



This happens when fishers accidentally catch seabirds in their nets. In some places it is a serious problem.

HOW YOU CAN HELP!



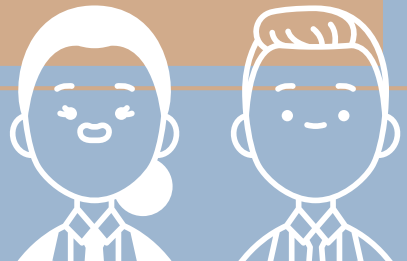
Raise awareness about Seabirds

By taking part in this project you are showing an interest in seabird conservation. This will help educate people and show the policymakers that these birds are worth protecting! Share this with your friends!

Contact politicians

Here are some powerful people whom you could contact on Facebook about seabird protection:

- Prime Minister Robert Abela - [@robertabelamt](https://www.facebook.com/robertabelamt)
- Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights: Anton Refalo - [@anton.refalo](https://www.facebook.com/anton.refalo)
- Environment Minister Aaron Farrugia - [@farrugiaaaron](https://www.facebook.com/farrugiaaaron)

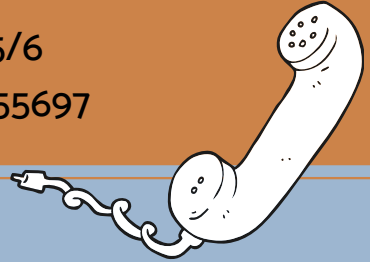


Found an injured seabird?

Contact BirdLife Malta

Working hours: (+356) 2134764 5/6

Evenings/weekends: (+356) 79255697

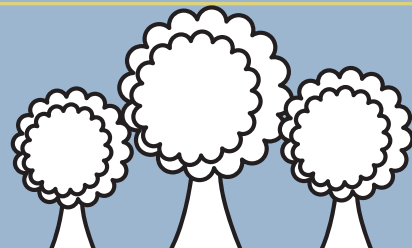


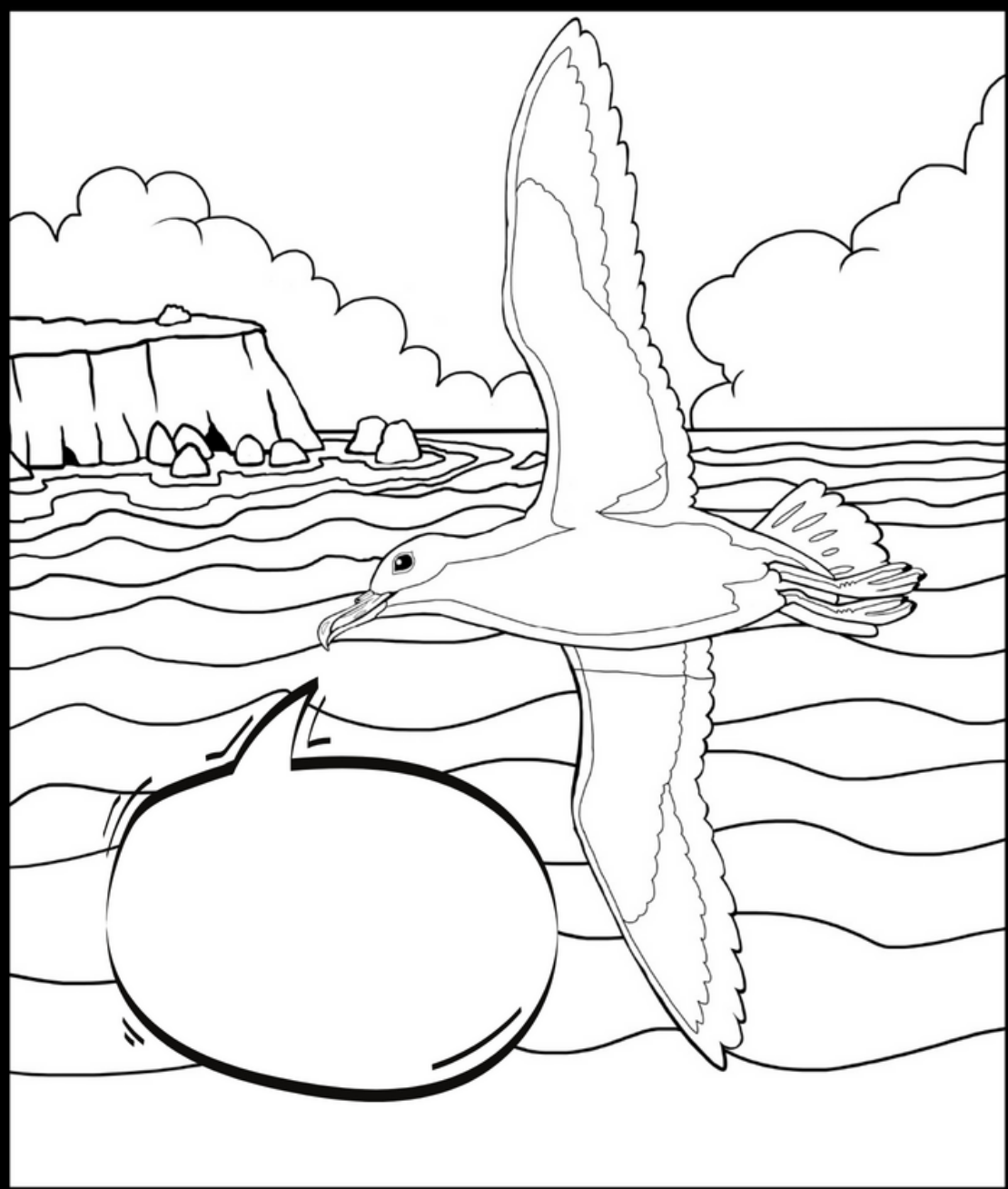
Pick up your litter

By picking up your litter, especially when on coastal areas and near cliffs, you will help reduce rat predation and sea pollution. Which are both threats to seabirds.

Support BirdLife Malta's nature reserves

Visiting and donating to our nature reserves will ensure these nature spaces are maintained, protected and can continue to be a safe haven for all wildlife, including the migratory birds.





Yelkouan Shearwaters (Garnija)

Instructions

1

Colour-in the blank outline of the Yelkouan Shearwater using the filled-in example in the bottom left as a guide.

2

Using what you have learnt, within the speech bubble, write what you think a seabird would ask us humans to do to help protect their species.

3

As an extra optional task, we would like for you to send us a video of yourselves holding your artwork whilst speaking to the camera saying why seabirds are important to you and why it is essential that we protect them.

You can send us your art works via email to:
events@birdlifemalta.org





Drawings by Dan Collin and Victor Falzon

Written and Designed by Lewis Collins, Giada Lampitelli

Pictures by Aron Tanti, Benjamin Metzger, BirdLife Malta, Hannah Greetham, Paulo
Lago, Pep Arcos, Victor Paris