

SeaBC Sea Bird Count Kids Checklist



Ahoy Kids Birding Aboard!

How many of the bird families listed below can you find?

Check off each type of seabird you can find!

(These pictures are *silhouettes*. The birds may be white, gray, black, or brown in real life, depending on the type of bird and whether it is a young bird or an adult.)

Brown Booby at the helm by ©Katharine Lowry, s/v Lista Light.

Gulls (and Fulmar) — *The Garbage Pickers*

Gulls come in all sizes, from the tiny Little Gull to the hefty Great Black-backed Gull. Also look for a Northern Fulmar, which looks like a gull with a weight-lifter neck. Gulls and fulmars follow your boat to pick garbage like food scraps or your pumped pooper. Ewwww!



Terns (and Noddies) — *The Graceful Fliers*

Delicate, gull-like birds, with pointed wings and usually forked tails. Terns and noddies like to rest on little pieces of driftwood or lines of seaweed.

Alcids — *The Penguin Look-a-likes*

Small black-and-white chunky birds that look like little penguins! But it's not a penguin unless you are sailing near the South Pole!



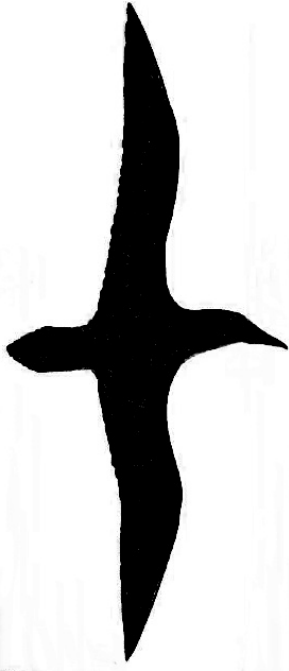
Phalaropes — *The Shorebirds at Sea*

Sandpipers that float on the ocean! Unlike most birds, the females are colorful and make the plain drab males do all the work at the nest.



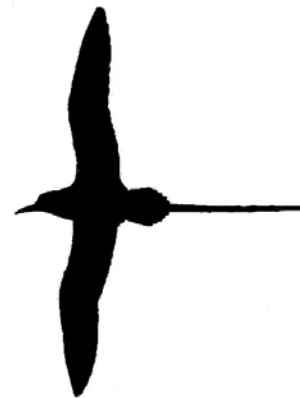
Boobies and Gannets — *The Plunge-Divers*

Large-bodied heavy birds with big dagger-like bills. They feed by plunging straight down into the ocean, making a big splash!



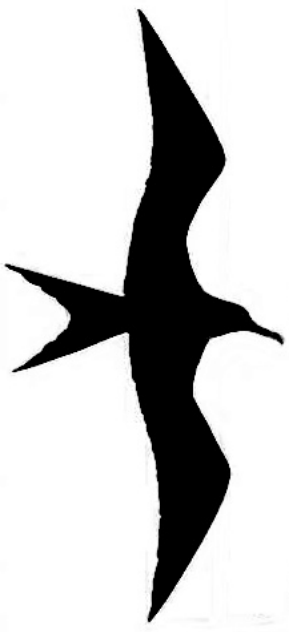
Tropicbirds — *The Longtails*

Glamorous white birds, the adults have long streaming tails. These birds are meaner than they look, often killing the chicks of other seabirds!



Frigatebirds — *The Pirate Birds*

Dark, sinister-looking birds, a “flying cross” often seen floating high overhead. They get their food by stealing from other birds, chasing them at sea like pirates.



Skuas and Jaegers — *The Bullies*

Hefty big-bodied birds like dark gulls with big muscles. Usually seen attacking other seabirds to steal their food, or racing by at high speed. Jaeger means “hunter” in German.



Storm-Petrels — *The Water Dancers*

Small martin-sized birds that patter, skip, or bounce along the ocean surface as they pick food. They are the “swallows of the sea.”



Shearwaters and Petrels — *The Wave Slicers*

Straight-winged gliders that seem to fly without flapping, banking wingtip to wingtip over the waves. These birds (along with storm-petrels, fulmars, and albatrosses) are called “tube-noses” because they have a tube on the top of their bills, dripping out salt water like a runny nose. But they live at sea, so can only drink salt water, and they need to get rid of that excess salt somehow!



Albatrosses — *The Globe Trotters*

Large soaring ocean birds with a wing span as wide as your boat! (7 feet or longer.) Every birder-aboard dreams about seeing an albatross at sea, so if you see one you are very fortunate!

