

Explanatory Notes for table of Seasonal Periods for Birds in the Scottish Marine Environment

The table gives recommended periods when the listed species should be considered when planning activity **in the Scottish marine environment**.

The filled cells indicate two week periods when it would be expected to encounter that species in **significant numbers**, and the shading represents the most likely status of birds during that period. Pale cells mean that the species is not usually found in any significant numbers in Scottish marine environment at that time, although they may be present in Scotland in other habitats.

The periods indicated are those when significant proportion of the population of each species will be using the marine environment. Earliest and latest dates of individuals occurring will most probably fall outside the indicated periods

The indicated periods apply to Scottish Waters - timings throughout Scotland will vary slightly (for example breeding attendance may be earlier in south, wintering departure later in north).

1) Grey geese are only regularly found at sea during migration periods, breeding and wintering periods are not included in this table

2) Moulting periods are approximate, individuals may be encountered in full wing-moult (and therefore flightless) in the periods indicated. Body or sequential moult occurs outside these periods, but birds retain the power of flight.

3) Some birds occupy breeding colonies for periods ahead of breeding proper starting. Where this occurs regularly is indicated in the table

The table is colour coded - a key to codes appears at the foot of the table.

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Suggested seasonal definitions for birds in the Scottish Marine Environment

Species	Seasonal allocations for key marine species in Scotland											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Whooper Swan												
Pink-footed Goose												
White-fronted Goose												
Icelandic Greylag Goose												
Barnacle Goose												
Shelduck												
Scaup												
Common Eider												
Long-tailed Duck												
Common Scoter												
Velvet Scoter												
Common Goldeneye												
Red-breasted Merganser												
Red-throated Diver												
Black-throated Diver												
Great Northern Diver												
Northern Fulmar												
Manx Shearwater												
Storm Petrel												
Leach's Petrel												
Northern Gannet												
Great Cormorant												
European Shag												
Slavonian Grebe												
Arctic Skua												
Great Skua												
Atlantic Puffin												
Black Guillemot												
Razorbill												
Common Guillemot												
Little Tern												
Sandwich Tern												
Common Tern												
Roseate Tern												
Arctic Tern												
Black legged Kittiwake												
Black-headed Gull												
Little Gull												
Common Gull												
Lesser Black-backed Gull												
Herring Gull												
Great Black-backed Gull												

Colour Code Key

Breeding period (strongly associated with nest site)	
Breeding site attendance (not closely associated with nest site)	
Migration Period (birds in marine environment only on active passage)	
Flightless moult period	
winter period (non-breeding)	
Not present in significant numbers (in Scottish marine areas)	

Colour Code Key						
Breeding period (strongly associated with nest site)						Black
Breeding site attendance (not closely associated with nest site)						Blue
Migration Period (birds in marine environment only on active passage)						Light Blue
Flightless moult period						Dark Blue
winter period (non-breeding)						Medium Blue
Not present in significant numbers (in Scottish marine areas)						Very Light Blue