

Alaskan Seabirds

Match Numbered Photos With Text On Reverse

1



Common Eider

2



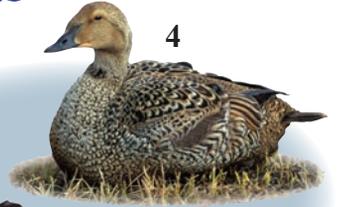
King Eider

3



Spectacled Eider

4



5



Steller's Eider

6

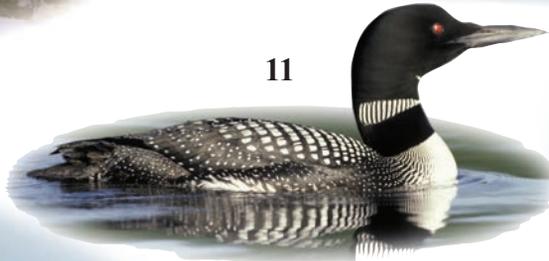


10



Common Loon

11



12



Yellow-Billed Loon

13

9



Pacific Loon

14



Red-Throated Loon

15



Red-Faced Cormorant

16



Pelagic Cormorant

17



Double-Crested Cormorant

18



Identification of Live Birds

Please match numbers with photos on front.

Bill outlines are life-sized for positive identification. Key identifiers in **bold**.

1. COMMON EIDER – M/S

- head greenish on back, bill orange-yellow
- forehead sloping, crown black
- back white, sides black, upperparts and breast white

3. KING EIDER – M/S

- bill bright orange 1, 2 Common Eider
- crown and rear of head pale blue, face white
- black wings with white patches, breast and neck white

5. STELLER'S EIDER – M/S

ESA status: Threatened

- head with greenish tufts
- head mostly white, black eye patch, chin and collar 3 King Eider
- body white/tan, with black on wings and tail
- belly brown and black/white shoulders

7. SPECTACLED EIDER – M/S

ESA status: Threatened

- eye patches are distinct - white with black border
- bill orange-yellow, forehead sloping, face with green patches
- chest black and back white 4 King Eider

Eiders: Diving ducks. Sexes different. In winter, spring and summer, male eiders are colorful, with distinct pattern. From late summer until winter, male eiders resemble females and are mottled brown. Hatch year birds resemble females.

2. COMMON EIDER – F/S/W

- forehead sloping
- body rust to gray overall 9, 10 Pacific Loon
- fine black barring on all feather

4. KING EIDER – F/S/W

- head small and rounded
- shoulders with crescent markings
- body gray-brown, plumage with fine barring

6. STELLER'S EIDER – F/S/W

ESA status: Threatened 11 Common Loon

- head squarish with pale eye ring and unfeathered upper bill
- body small, very dark
- white under wing distinguishes this from other eiders

8. SPECTACLED EIDER – F/S/W

ESA status: Threatened

- eye patch visible, distinct from other female eiders 12, 13 Yellow-Billed Loon
- upper bill with extensive feathering
- body brown with barred pattern 14 Red-Throated Loon

15. RED-FACED CORMORANT – S

- bill partly yellow, blue throat pouch with red border
- neck with thin plumes, body dark
- sides with white patches, similar to Pelagic Cormorant

16. PELAGIC CORMORANT – S

- bill dark, and throat region red
- neck with thin plumes, body dark and glossy
- sides with white patches, similar to Red-Faced Cormorant

17. DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT – S

- throat pouch large and yellow
- eye with small, white tufts above during breeding
- body dark

18. DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT – W

- throat pouch large and yellow
- body brownish, paler underneath

Cormorants: Diving birds. Sexes similar. All cormorants have hooked bills. Red throat pouch distinguishes Red-Faced Cormorant in all seasons. Pelagic Cormorant has smaller head, smaller overall size and proportionately longer tail than other cormorants. Double-Crested Cormorant flies with distinctive crooked or kinked neck; yellow throat pouch visible year round.

9. PACIFIC LOON – S

- bill dark, straight at tip, held horizontal
- crown and back of neck gray 5, 6 Steller's Eider
- throat dark gray-purple, and chin black
- side of neck and back with white vertical barring

11. COMMON LOON – S

- bill large, dark, and straight, held horizontal
- head and neck black, with white markings on collar
- body large with black and white bars and spots 7, 8 Spectacled Eider

12. YELLOW-BILLED LOON – S

- bill yellow, slightly upturned, held above horizontal
- body large with black and white bars and spots
- head and neck black, neck with white markings

10. PACIFIC LOON – W

- bill dark, straight at tip, held horizontal
- back of neck dark and white throat contrast strongly 15 Red-Faced Cormorant

COMMON LOON – W (no image)

- bill pale gray, straight, held horizontal
- cap, forehead, back of neck, and back of body gray-brown
- face, chin, throat, front of neck and belly white 16 Pelagic Cormorant

13. YELLOW-BILLED LOON – W

- bill pale, slightly upturned, held above horizontal
- back of neck, cap, forehead and back gray
- face, chin, throat, and belly white 17, 18 Double-Crested Cormorant

14. RED-THROATED LOON – S

- bill thin, small, dark and upturned, held above horizontal
- throat patch red, back of neck striped black
- head, side of neck and chin gray
- back dark, chest and belly white

RED-THROATED LOON – W (no image)

- bill thin, small, dark and upturned, held above horizontal
- cap, forehead, back of neck gray
- throat, chin, face and belly white
- back dark, speckled with white

Loons: Diving birds. Sexes similar. Color of bill, bill position relative to horizontal and head colors distinguish most loon species in all plumages.

KEY TO IDENTIFICATION

F - Female; M - Male; S - Early spring and summer; adult breeders; alternate plumage;

W - Late summer, fall and winter; adult, non-breeders; basic plumage; juveniles



Alaskan Seabirds

Match Numbered Photos With Text On Reverse



Crested Auklet



Least Auklet



Cassin's Auklet



Rhinceros Auklet



Pigeon Guillemot



Common Murre



Thick-Billed Murre



Ancient Murrelet



Kittlitz's Murrelet



Marbled Murrelet

Identification of Live Birds

Please match numbers with photos on front.

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1. CRESTED AUKLET – S

- **head greenish on back, bill orange-yellow**
- **forehead sloping, crown black**
- back white, sides black, upperparts and breast white

1 Crested Auklet

2. LEAST AUKLET – S/W

- **bill dark red, short with paler tip**
- eye yellow, throat white, white line behind eye
- underparts mottled black and white, back dark
- underwings white, shoulder feathers white-tipped

2 Least Auklet

3. CASSIN'S AUKLET – S/W

- bill short and dark
- **obvious white crescents above and below eye**
- body small with gray chin, throat and breast
- belly and undertail feathers white

3 Cassin's Auklet

4. PARAKEET AUKLET – S

- **red bill thick, short and upturned**
- belly and undertail feathers white
- body dark

4 Parakeet Auklet

5. RHINOCEROS AUKLET – S

- **bill with distinct yellow horn at base**
- **white plumes behind eye and cheek**
- body gray overall but back dark and belly mottled white and gray

5 Rhinoceros Auklet

6. RHINOCEROS AUKLET – W

- **bill with no horn, white plumes reduced**
- body gray overall but back dark and belly mottled white and gray

6 Rhinoceros Auklet

7. PIGEON GUILLEMOT – S

- **bill thin and dark, inside of mouth bright red**
- **all black body, white wing patch with dark wedge**
- feet and legs red

8. PIGEON GUILLEMOT – W

- **bill thin and dark, inside of mouth bright red, face dark**
- **body mottled black and white on back, white wing patch with dark wedge**
- feet and legs red

9. COMMON MURRE – S

- bill long and slender
- head, back and neck blackish
- **white breast and belly contrast sharply with dark back**
- **white belly extends into neck as rounded edge**

10. COMMON MURRE – W

- bill long and slender
- **dark stripe extends from eye across cheek**
- foreneck white
- black head and back

11. THICK-BILLED MURRE – S

- **bill dark and pointed, with thin, white line on upper bill**
- **upper body and throat more black than common murre**
- **white belly extends into black neck as a point**
- black wings with white trailing edge

12. THICK-BILLED MURRE – W

- **bill dark and pointed, with thin, white line on upper bill**
- face dark, no dark line on cheek
- foreneck white

13. ANCIENT MURRELET – S

- **bill small and pale yellow**
- **crown, throat and back of neck black, white cheeks**
- head with white plumes, giving an ancient appearance

14. KITTLITZ'S MURRELET – S

- **bill short, dark and stubby**
- **cap on head not defined, and face more pale than Marbled Murrelet**
- **body all brown, mottled and speckled, belly mostly white**
- **back, breast and head mottled light grey to tawny**
- white outer tail feathers visible when first taking flight
- white shoulders visible in flight and at-sea

8 Pigeon Guillemot

9, 10 Common Murre

15. KITTLITZ'S MURRELET – W

- **bill short, dark and stubby**
- **black cap on head is narrow and does not extend below eye**
- face, throat and back of neck white, back, rump and sides black
- white shoulders visible in flight and at-sea

11, 12 Thick-Billed Murre

16. MARBLED MURRELET – S

- **bill short, dark and pointed**
- **black cap on head not defined**
- **body mottled brown entirely**
- white shoulders visible in flight and at-sea

17. MARBLED MURRELET – W

- **bill short, dark and pointed**
- **black cap on head is broad and extends below eye**
- white throat, chin and underparts, back and rump black
- white shoulders visible in flight and at-sea

13 Ancient Murrelet

Alcids: Diving birds. Sexes similar. Kittlitz's and Marbled Murrelet distinguished in the breeding season by bill shape, extent of white on body and feather pattern or color. Rhinoceros Auklet is distinguished from other auklets by its large body size and bill; more related to puffins than auklets. All alcids except Cassin's Auklet change plumage in the winter, and in many cases, look like entirely different species.

16, 17 Marbled Murrelet

KEY TO IDENTIFICATION F - Female; M - Male; S - Early spring and summer; adult breeders; alternate plumage;

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Alaskan Seabirds

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1

Horned Puffin



2



3

Tufted Puffin



5

Fork-Tailed Storm-Petrel



6

Arctic Tern



7

Aleutian Tern



8

Northern Fulmar



9

Glaucous Gull

10

Glaucous-Winged Gull



11

Parasitic Jaeger



13

Black-Legged Kittiwake



14

Red-Legged Kittiwake



Dark Shearwater

15, 16

Identification of Live Birds

Please match numbers with photos on front.

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1. HORNED PUFFIN – S

- bill with large, bright orange and yellow plates
- face white with fleshy ‘horn’ extending up from eye
- body dark above and white below

2 Horned Puffin

2. HORNED PUFFIN – W

- bill dull/pale orange without large, colorful plates
- body dark above and white below

1 Horned Puffin

3. TUFTED PUFFIN – S

- bill with large, bright orange and yellow plates
- face white, yellow tufts behind eye
- body entirely dark

4. TUFTED PUFFIN – W

- bill dull/pale orange without large, colorful plates
- face gray, yellow tufts behind eye absent
- body entirely dark in adults, white or dark in juveniles

4 Tufted Puffin

5. FORK-TAILED STORM-PETREL – S/W

- small bill with terminal nail (hook)
- dark forehead and eye patch
- forked tail, distinctively blue-gray body, white U on back visible in flight
- rarely seen on the water, bouncy flight like a butterfly

5 Fork-Tailed Storm-Petrel

6. ARCTIC TERN – S

- bill deep red, black cap on head extends below eye
- back and upper wings gray, rump and tail white
- long, forked tail, wings lack black wedge on tips, legs red

6 Arctic Tern

7. ALEUTIAN TERN – S

- bill dark, slender and pointed
- black cap, white forehead and thick black stripe from cap to bill
- underparts gray, underwing pale, rump and tail white
- long, deeply forked tail, legs black

8 Northern Fulmar

8. NORTHERN FULMAR – S/W

- bill with yellow plates, tubes above nostrils and terminal nail (hook)
- body colors range from light to dark gray, underwings mostly white
- body large, stocky and wings long, rapid wing beats, glides on stiff wings

9 Glaucous Gull

9. GLAUCOUS GULL – S

- eye yellow
- bill large and yellow, with red spot
- body white with light gray wings

10. GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL – S

- eye dark
- bill large and yellow, with red spot
- body white with light to dark gray wings and upper body

14. RED-LEGGED KITTIWAKE – S

- bill pale, short and thick, eye dark
- body white, back gray, wings white with black wingtips
- legs bright red
- immature birds have black ear spot, and bold wing pattern and no collar

15. SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER – S/W

- tubular nostrils and terminal nail
- underwing color variable but if white, color is solid
- steep forehead, bill slender, short and dark
- body dark overall but plumage variable, wings long and narrow

10 Glaucous-Winged Gull

16. SOOTY SHEARWATER – S/W

- tubular nostrils and terminal nail
- underwing is white or pale, color is diffuse
- sloping forehead, bill long, thick and dark
- body dark overall, wings long and narrow

Gulls and Gull-like birds: Sexes similar. Seasonal and age-related differences in plumage.

Large gulls, like Glaucous and Glaucous-winged Gulls, can be confused with Jaegers/Skuas, Fulmars and Shearwaters. For positive identification, examine bill (shape, size and color), body size relative to wing length, and the color of wing linings. Shearwaters and Fulmars fly near the surface of the water, alternating flaps with long glides; Gulls flap slowly; Jaegers have powerful, direct flight and stocky bodies. Jaegers/Skuas, like fulmars, have light and dark color morphs, and three species are found in Alaska. Small to medium sized birds, like Storm-Petrels, Terns and Kittiwakes may be confused with small Gulls (Mew and Sabine's). For positive identification, examine bill shape, size and color, presence or absence of black cap on head, body color and body size relative to wing length.

11. PARASITIC JAEGER/ARCTIC SKUA – S

- light morph has brown upperparts, white underparts
- cap on head black, covering eye, yellow patch below cap sometimes
- white patch on primaries above and below wing
- long tail feathers, body stocky

13 Red-Legged Kittiwake

12. PARASITIC JAEGER/ARCTIC SKUA – S

- dark morph has brown head, underparts and upperparts
- white patch on primaries above and below wing
- long tail feathers, body stocky

14 Black-Legged Kittiwake

13. BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE – S

- bill pale, slim and longer than Red-Legged Kittiwake, eye dark
- body white, back gray, wings white with black wing tips
- legs black
- immature birds have black ear spot, bold wing pattern and black collar

15 Short-Tailed Shearwater

16 Sooty Shearwater

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