

**Gèadh  
Greylag goose**

The wild ancestor of the farmyard goose, greylag is the only goose species likely to be seen on Eigg during the summer. Most of the local population breed on Castle Island but birds can regularly be seen grazing the farm and croftland fields.

**Meannan-adhair  
Snipe**

Very much a bird of freshwater marshes, snipe are most often seen when flushed from underfoot. A typical view is of a small long-billed wader dashing off in zigzag flight and giving a sharp "snaip" call.



**Feadaig  
Ringed plover**

A bird of sandy beaches, this attractive little plover nests in precariously open situations and suffers heavy egg losses through disturbance and predation.



**Stearnag  
Arctic tern**

Along with its close relative the Common tern, Arctic terns appear around the island in May. These beautiful elegant little birds make the world's longest migratory journey with some individuals wintering in Antarctic waters.



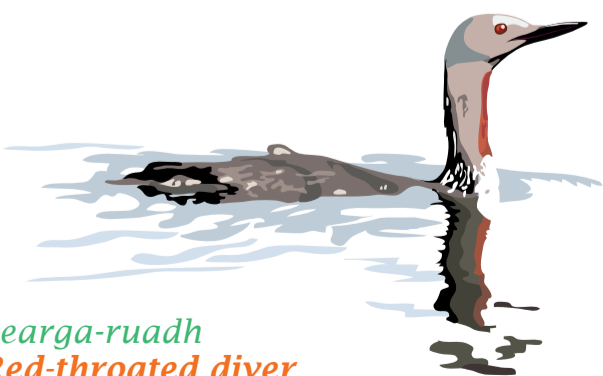
**Faoileag  
Common gull**

Four species of gulls occur commonly around the island's bays – great and lesser black-backed, herring and common. Common gull is the smallest of the group with dark eyes and rounded head giving it a rather gentle appearance.



**Learga-ruadh  
Red-throated diver**

Usually present offshore in small numbers, red throats are the only diver species likely to be seen after mid-May. Similar to shags in build, divers can easily be separated by their distinctive plumage. The red throat can be difficult to see and looks black at a distance.



**Improving Habitats**

The Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust 's wildlife management strategy has greatly enhanced the islands woodlands both biologically and scenically. Bird populations, including those of nationally declining species such as Willow Warbler and Bullfinch, have increased and the creation of rides has provided habitat for various dragonflies and butterflies.

**Discover Eigg**

To help you discover Eigg's rich variety of habitat and its wildlife, John Chester, the resident SWT wildlife warden, conducts guided walks on Thursdays from April to September. **Tel. 01687 482477**

Visitors can also borrow the SWT reserve rucksack containing Binoculars and bird identification guide by asking at the craftshop information point in the Pier Centre. Bird lists and walking maps are also available there. **Tel. 01687 482468**

For more information on the Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust and the SWT: [www.isleofeigg.org](http://www.isleofeigg.org) [www.swt.org.uk](http://www.swt.org.uk)

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**Lach Lochlannach  
Eider**

With their distinctive black and white plumage and crooning calls, male eiders are one of the most obvious birds around the bays in early summer. The females are mottled brown in colour. Look for them herding their broods of ducklings close to shore in June.

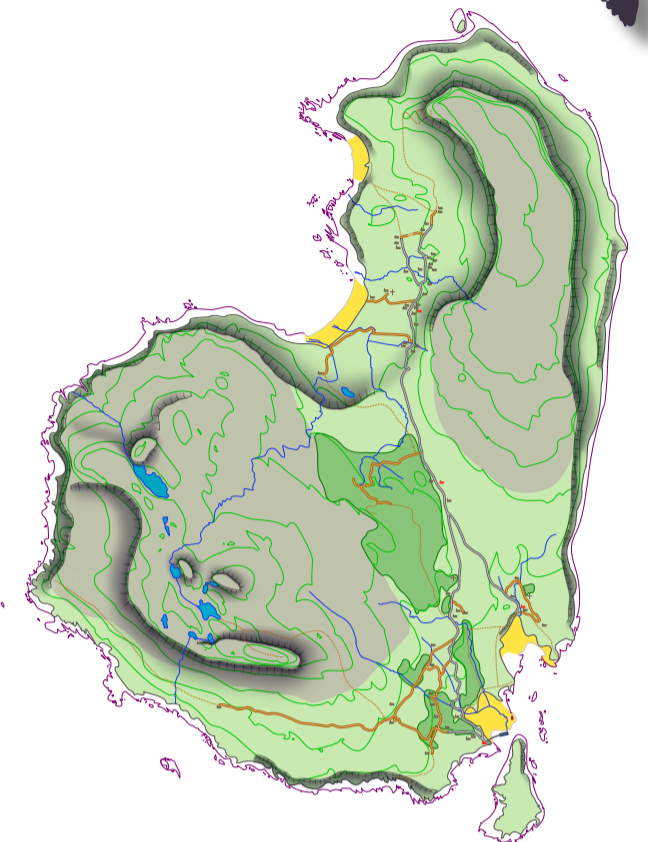


**A' Bhridein  
Oystercatcher**

Few birds are harder to miss than the colourful and excessively noisy oystercatcher. Breeding all around the coastline their shrill 'peeping' calls warn intruders from their nesting areas.



**Isle of Eigg  
Birds**



**Discover our island's  
diverse bird life**

**Sulair  
Gannet**

The United Kingdom holds 70 per cent of the world's breeding Gannets and although they do not nest on Eigg they can often be seen fishing dramatically close offshore.



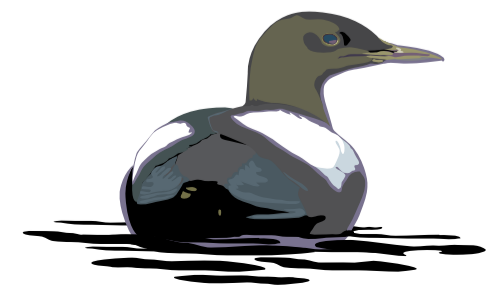
**Fachach  
Manx shearwater**

Large rafts of shearwaters can regularly be seen offshore throughout the summer. Although some breed in the cliffs above the croftland the vast majority come from the large colonies on the nearby island of Rum.



**Eun a' chrùbain  
Black guillemot**

Breeding around the rocky coastlines and usually found close to the shore, black guillemots are distinctive little birds. Their overall blackish plumage and large white wing patches preclude confusion with most other species.



**Fitheach  
Raven**

The largest of the crow family, ravens are omnivorous feeders, eating anything from carrion and eggs to insects & berries. With their deep 'cronking' calls and skilled aerobatics they are usually easily observed around the rocky crags.

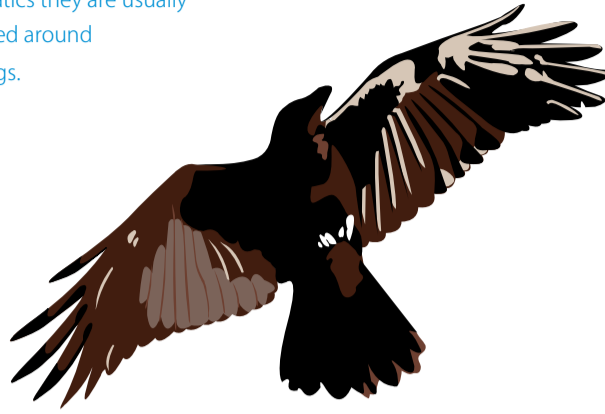


(Buzzard in flight)



**Brèid air tòin  
Hen harrier**

Hunting low over the marshes and moorland, the grey, white and black male harrier is a beautiful almost gull like raptor. Females and young birds are mostly brown in colour but display an obvious white rump.



**Clamhan  
Buzzard**

The commonest bird of prey on the island, buzzards can frequently be seen soaring over the woods and cliffs while giving their distinctive mewing calls. Although a versatile hunter, buzzards rely heavily on the island's rabbit population for prey.

**Cloichearan  
Stonechat**

A small, rather robin-like bird of the moorland fringes and marshes with a loud hard "tacking" call, stonechats are widely scattered around the island. Stonechats, unlike its migratory relative the whinchat, are resident.



**Iolaire  
Golden eagle**

The island supports two pairs of eagles and they can sometimes be seen soaring over the Sgurr and other high cliffs. Their huge size should give them away – they dwarf any mobbing raven or crow.



**Crìonag Ghiuthais  
Willow warbler**

Throughout the early summer the island's woodlands are filled with the wistful song of our most abundant summer visitor. An attractive green and yellow little bird, the late summer sees them depart on their epic journey back to their winter quarters in Africa.

**Dreathann-donn  
Wren**

Found from the Sgurr ridge down to the shorelines, the tiny wren is the island's most widespread bird. For such a small bird it possesses an amazingly loud and powerful song which can be heard throughout the year.



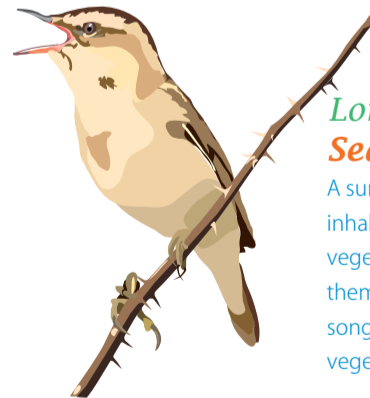
**Naosg  
Twite**

Found around the moorland fringes & rough grazings, twite are rather nondescript though attractive little finches. They can often be picked out by their nasal "twai" flight calls.



**Snathdag  
Meadow pipit**

The abundant small bird of open countryside, meadow pipits are found throughout much of the island and are the chosen victims of cuckoos. A closely related species, rock pipit, occurs around the shorelines.



**Loiliseag  
Sedge warbler**

A summer visitor to the island, sedge warblers inhabit reedbeds and other types of damp vegetation. They often draw attention to themselves with their hard grating calls and song, often given from deep within a stand of vegetation.

**Trilleachan  
Common sandpiper**

A common breeder around the shorelines, sandpipers are summer migrants to the island. They can readily be identified by their repeated thin call and characteristic bobbing action when on the ground.



**Feannaig  
Hooded crow**

Replacing the familiar black carrion crow in the north and west of the country, the distinctive "hoodie" is common on Eigg. Omnivorous in its feeding habits, Hoodies breed in all but the most exposed parts of the island.

