

Atlantic Puffin



Did you know?

Their beak changes color!

Atlantic Puffins are small seabirds that grow only 25cm or 9 inches in length. They are also known as the "sea parrot" for their beak, which changes color from a dull grey during the winter, and blooms to bright orange in spring!

They have one partner!

Puffins only return to land for breeding during spring and summer, where thousands gather in colonies on the coasts of the North Atlantic Ocean. They usually pair up with the same partner as previous years – some may have been together for 20 years!

Fly fast and dive deep!

They are excellent at swimming and flying! Their wings propel them through the water and the air, flapping up to 400 times per minute, allowing them to reach speeds of 55mph or 88kmh. Plus, their webbed feet help them to dive as deep as 200ft or 60 metres!

What do they eat?

Puffins eat small fish such as herring, hake and sand eels. Because of a flexible-hinged jaw, serrated inner mouth and strong tongue, they can hold around a dozen fish at one time!

Vulnerable species

Atlantic Puffins are considered vulnerable because some populations are in decline due to overfishing, which can lead to a shortage of food for them, as well as pollution such as oil spills.



Atlantic Puffins can be found here!

