Coastal Birds of
Haida Heritage Sites
and
Important Bird Areas

www.ibacanada.ca
Taadll Skaa’anda  Pacific Loon

- pale grey head, white vertical lines on neck, when in breeding plumage from February to October
- found in Haida Gwaii year-round
- nests in lakes in the arctic
- dives for small fish

Photo: Tim Bowman, USFWS
Taadll  Common Loon

- black head and bill, black and white checkered back, when in breeding plumage from March to October
- found in Haida Gwaii year-round
- nests in quiet sheltered lakes
- dives for small fish

Photo: Bert de Tilly
• grey barring or streaking underneath, dark helmet with mustache under eye
• found in Haida Gwaii year-round
• nests on cliff ledges near water
• hunts other birds from high in the air, diving at prey at very high speed
large white-headed gull with grey back and wingtips; large yellow bill with orange spot
found in Haida Gwaii year-round
builds nests of seaweeds and grass, which hold two or three eggs
eats fish, small aquatic invertebrates, steals food from other animals
K’yaaluu

Pelagic Cormorant

- black with shiny feathers which can appear green or purple; long slender neck and narrow bill
- found in Haida Gwaii year-round
- builds nest from grass on low cliffs
- usually lays four eggs; adults feed close to shore on a variety of fish; chicks hatch in late June and July
dark body with orange bill and pink legs
found in Haida Gwaii year-round
nests on rocky shorelines just above high-tide line; take care to not disturb nesting from April to July
uses bill to pry limpets off rocks and to open mussels
male has white mark below eye; both male and female have white wing patches

found in Haida Gwaii year-round

nests in north and interior of BC at inland freshwater lakes

dives to feed on molluscs and clams
male has white patches on back and front of head; large red, yellow and white bill; female has white spots on sides of head and base of bill
• found in Haida Gwaii year-round
• nests in northern tundra
• flocks dive for molluscs and clams
• dark body, black head, white collar; white V pattern on tail shows when flying
• flocks migrate through in spring; and winter in Haida Gwaii from September to March
• nests in high Arctic tundra
• feeds on eelgrass and other aquatic plants
K’iida K’uuxaw  Harlequin Duck

- male is colourful grey, blue and red, with white markings; female is brown with white patches on face
- found in Haida Gwaii year-round
- chooses fast-flowing streams with quiet gravel bars for raising ducklings
- feeds on aquatic insects and fish

Photo: Krista Kaptein
Sgaagadawa  Pigeon Guillemot

- black body with white wing patch during summer breeding season; bright red feet
- found in Haida Gwaii year-round
- nests in crevices on rocky shores
- usually have two chicks; parents feed the chicks fish throughout the day; chicks usually fledge in August
Gwah  Common Murre

- dark head and back with white underparts; long, slender, pointed bill
- found in Haida Gwaii year-round
- nests on remote islands on bare cliff ledges
- chicks are fed one fish at a time throughout the day

Photo: Greg Schechter
• grey back with black throat during breeding season between January and September; white patch on side of neck; thin white stripe above eyes
• found in Haida Gwaii in spring, summer and fall
• nest in burrows in the ground where they lay two eggs
• parents and chicks depart for the sea around the end of May, two days after hatching
• during breeding season between April and September, adults are mottled brown
• found in Haida Gwaii year-round
• nests inland, on mossy branches of old-growth trees, where they lay a single egg
• parents carry food many kilometres to nest, usually at twilight
Cassin’s Auklet

- grey body; white mark above eye
- found in Haida Gwaii in summer and fall
- nests in burrows or rock crevices
- lays a single egg; parents return to colony at night to feed their chicks regurgitated plankton

Haaja

Photo: Tom Benson
Hlaagwaats’ii  Rhinoceros Auklet

- distinctive white feathers on head, yellow horn at base of bill during summer breeding season
- found in Haida Gwaii in spring, summer and fall
- nests in burrows in forested areas on remote islands
- lays a single egg; parents return at night to feed their chicks whole fish
Jiik’iiga  Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel

- the smallest seabird; bluish-grey body, black around eye
- found in Haida Gwaii in spring, summer and fall
- nests in colonies in underground burrows on islands
- feeds far offshore on small marine animals picked from the water surface while flying; single chick is fed regurgitated plankton; most young leave the nest in August and September
Saa.nga  

Sooty Shearwater

- dark brown body with silvery-white patches under wing, slender bill with hooked end
- found in Haida Gwaii in summer and fall
- nests in South Pacific
- feeds mainly on squid and fish

Photo: D. Faulder
Was Horned Puffin

- white face, black marks at eye, yellow and orange bill
- rarely seen; sometimes with Tufted Puffins near rich feeding grounds at the south of Haida Gwaii
- nests in rock crevices high on steep cliffs on remote islands
- eats whole fish

Photo: Dick Daniels
Kuuxan  

Tufted Puffin

- white face, yellow head tufts, and orange cap on bill during the summer breeding season
- found in Haida Gwaii in summer
- nests in burrows on steep slopes of remote islands
- adults feed underwater within sight of land; parents make many trips a day carrying fish to the young
Bird names in Skidegate Haida from:
HlGaagilda
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www.laskeekbay.org

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