

Citizen Science survey on board the Pelican of London

Citizen Science is the activity where anybody can collect very valuable data that expert scientists will use for their work.

From 10 to 15 May 2022, we sailed with a crew of sail trainees through the Irish Sea, onboard the Pelican of London, and at the same time, collected some citizen science data.

It's very easy to become a citizen scientist, you just have to write down what you see, when and where, and send it to specialized organizations or institutions. If you can also give some extra information such as the sea state, animal behaviour or species interaction, that gives even more accurate data to the scientists. Nowadays, much of this is done using apps.

These are some of our findings:

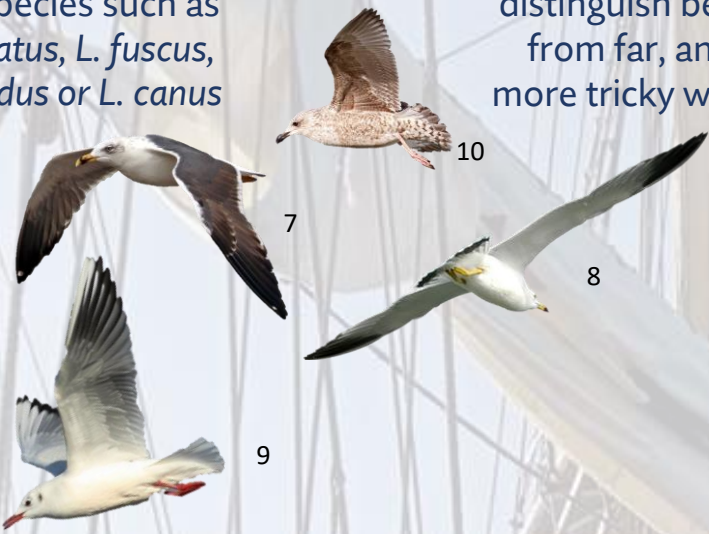
Seabirds

Sea gulls

This group includes several species such as *L. argentatus*, *L. fuscus*, *L. ridibundus* or *L. canus*

Larus spp.

Many times it is hard to distinguish between them from far, and it is even more tricky with juveniles.



Flying following the ship, in large groups.

Gannet

Morus bassana



Very common, flying very close to the ship, sometimes high.

Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo



Flying and diving close to the shore and on bays, even with a very foggy weather.

Stratus



Cumulus



Cumulonimbus



Clouds

Pictures from our voyage

Cirrus



Cirrocumulus



Altostratus stratiformis



The Globe app¹ helps the scientist of NASA with ground truthing: we send them the clouds we can see from the surface, below the clouds, and they will compare them with the results from the satellites, that are observations from above the clouds. This way they get more reliable results.



Razorbill

Alca torda



Offshore, resting on the water during harsh weather.

Fulmar

Fulmarus glacialis



Solitary, offshore. Very few individuals observed.

Guillemot

Uria aalge



Forming groups up to 10 individuals flying very close to the waves or resting on the water.

Cetaceans

Groups of **common dolphins** – *Delphinus delphis* (up to 17 individuals together)

Following our course at the bow of the ship, with some juveniles.

Close to fishing trawlers because dolphins get some food from their nets.



References:

¹Globe observer app: <https://observer.globe.gov/about/get-the-app>

Photos of the seabirds: ²Bird Watch Ireland, ³RSPB, ⁴Farewell Spit Tours – Gannets, ⁵Fulmar Consulting, ⁶Alamy, ⁷Wikipedia, ⁸VectorHQ, ⁹Birds of the World, ¹⁰larusfuscus.blogspot.com

¹¹Dolphins images from American Cetacean Society