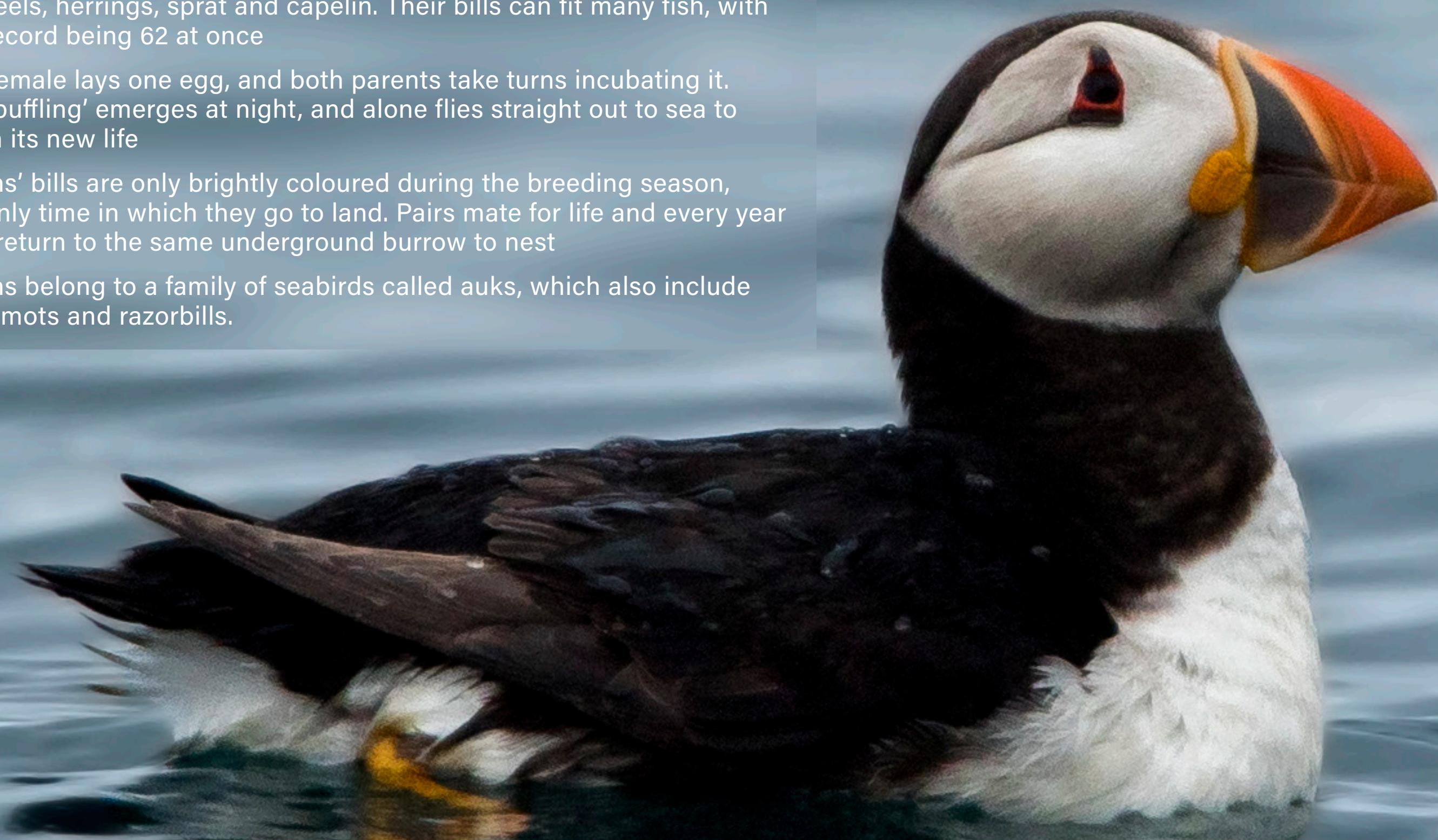


SAVING OUR SEABIRDS

ATLANTIC PUFFINS

- Puffins spend most of their lives at sea, hunting small fish such as sandeels, herrings, sprat and capelin. Their bills can fit many fish, with the record being 62 at once
- The female lays one egg, and both parents take turns incubating it. The 'puffling' emerges at night, and alone flies straight out to sea to begin its new life
- Puffins' bills are only brightly coloured during the breeding season, the only time in which they go to land. Pairs mate for life and every year they return to the same underground burrow to nest
- Puffins belong to a family of seabirds called auks, which also include guillemots and razorbills.



PUFFINS IN JERSEY

Jersey's puffins suffered a dramatic decline over the last century, falling from 150-200 pairs to only four confirmed pairs by 2020

- Puffins are easily seen in Jersey from the coastal footpath, as they sit on the water between Grève de Lecq and Plémont Bay, between March and July
- Birds On The Edge is working on conservation measures to help our puffins survive in Jersey and to help the population to increase
- Puffins and other seabirds will abandon nests and even chicks if they are disturbed, so to protect them from disturbance, boats, kayaks and boards should not enter the Seabird Protection Zone during the breeding season

If you would like more information on the puffins or on how to contribute to this project please contact the National Trust for Jersey.



NORTHERN FULMAR



- This small, grey seabird is often mistaken for a seagull but is a member of the albatross family, the tube-noses, named because of the tubes just above their bill where salt glands remove excess salt from their blood
- Fulmars produce a special oil in their stomachs which is fed to their chicks, used as an energy-rich food source, it can also be vomited out as a defense against predators. And rock climbers!
- Fulmars pair for life, laying a single egg and sharing the chick-rearing tasks
- Fulmars are quite a recent colonist to Jersey, first breeding here in 1975. There are now around 100 pairs and they can be seen almost year-round, flying alongside the cliffs or low over the water.

OYSTERCATCHER



- Oystercatchers are not really seabirds but are related to plovers and sandpipers
- They are common on Jersey's beaches in winter but our small, and noisy, breeding population nest on the cliffs and, if undisturbed, shingle beaches and even walls
- Nesting on the north coast, their striking black and white plumage has often led to these birds being mistaken for puffins or razorbills and even, with their black backs and bright red bills, for choughs
- Oystercatchers are easily disturbed by activities on the cliffs and could be lost as a breeding species in Jersey.

RAZORBILL



- Razorbills are also auks and the closest living relative of the extinct great auk
- Razorbills are primarily black with a white underside, and were it not for their black bill, could easily be confused with puffins
- Like puffins, they live out to sea, only coming to land during the breeding season (March to June)
- Razorbills mate for life and the female lays a single egg in a crevice in the cliffs. Chicks leave the nest and follow their father out to sea well before they are able to fly
- Numbers in Jersey have declined to less than a dozen breeding pairs.

THREATENED GLOBALLY

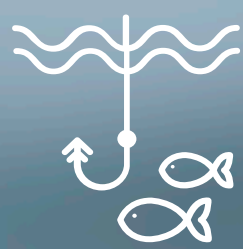
Puffin numbers are declining due to direct or indirect effects of human activities. The main threats to them are:



- Changes in the distribution and abundance of the small fish they eat, and increase of large winter storms, due to climate change



- Marine pollution, oil spills and entanglement with fishing gear



- Reduction of food availability due to commercial fishing



- Predation when nesting by introduced mammals such as rats, cats and ferrets.

