

# FEBRUARY ID CHALLENGE

## COASTAL BIRDS



**TOP TIP!**  
Seawatching is a rewarding but demanding practice, requiring experience before you get good at it

### ID tips & tricks: species pairs



Calum Dickson/Alamy\*

#### ROCK PIPIT

- Large, with long, 'strong' bill
- Dark overall, breast and belly streaking smudged
- Back relatively plain, lacking bold streaking
- Legs often dark
- Outer tail feathers can look pale grey
- Nearly always on rocks, coastal buildings etc or weedy shore



WILDLIFE GmbH/Alamy\*

#### MEADOW PIPIT

- Smallish pipit with 'weak' bill
- Medium/pale breast and flanks with fine black streaks
- Back obviously streaked
- Legs pale red or pinkish orange
- Outer tail feathers white
- Usually on grassy habitats



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#### BLACK-THROATED DIVER

- Grey at the front end, black at the rear
- Moderately sized dagger-shaped bill
- Smooth grey head and neck, no 'collar'
- White oval at water line



David Chapman/Alamy\*

#### GREAT NORTHERN DIVER

- Black at the front end, grey at the rear
- Large, deep, dagger-shaped bill
- Sometimes quite angular, neck has half-collar
- No white oval at water line



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#### RAZORBILL

- Blunt (laterally flattened) bill
- Long tail
- Plumage black-and-white



Chris Gomersall/Alamy\*

#### GUILLEMOT

- Thin dagger bill
- Short bill
- Short tail