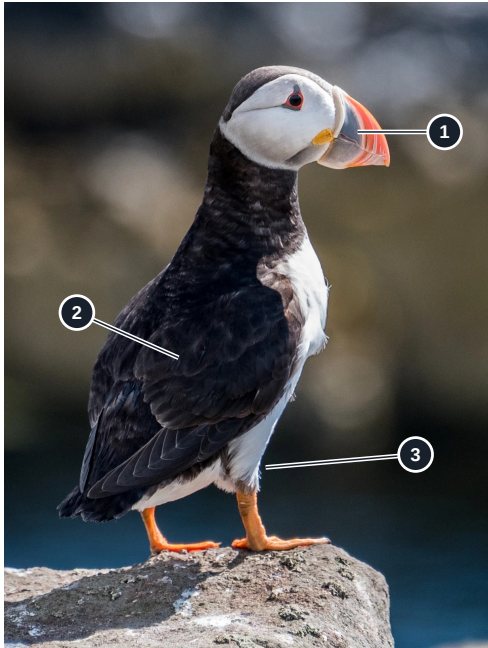


Puffin vs penguin

Similar outfit, different bird

Atlantic Puffin

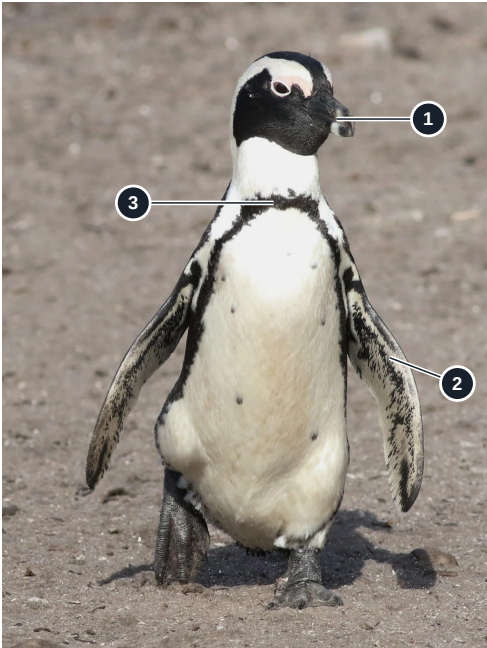
Fratercula arctica



- 1 Broad bill
- 2 Feathered wings
- 3 White belly

African Penguin

Spheniscus demersus



- 1 Dark, pointed bill
- 2 Flippers
- 3 Chest band

The birds are shown at different scales. Atlantic Puffin: adult breeding plumage.

FEATURE	ATLANTIC PUFFIN	AFRICAN PENGUIN
Bird family	Alcidae - the auks	Spheniscidae - the penguins
Wings	Used for flight and underwater propulsion.	Flippers for underwater propulsion; cannot fly through air.
Where it lives	North Atlantic coasts, islands and open sea.	Coasts and islands of southern Africa.
Bill	Broad and triangular; adult breeding colours fade outside the season.	Dark, pointed bill.
Nest shelter	Often a burrow; sometimes a rock crevice.	Burrows, rock or vegetation shelter, and artificial nests.
Food for chicks	Fish carried back in the bill.	Food brought back and regurgitated to the chick.

Puffin: "Am I Puffin Boring You Yet?" by Chris Combe. flickr.com/photos/cosmicherb70/20085135212/
Penguin: "African penguin, Spheniscus demersus, at Stony Point, Betty's Bay, Western Cape, South Africa" by Derek Keats.
Penguin source: flickr.com/photos/dkeats/24629775724/. Photos cropped; labels added.
Photos and annotations: CC BY 2.0 / creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/
Sources: allaboutbirds.org/guide/Atlantic_Puffin/ and sanbi.org/animal-of-the-week/african-penguin/
Reviewed 29 October 2026. Names and facts refer to these two species.