



Meet the rosys

Roseate terns (affectionately known as rosys) have elegant tail streamers and handsome, rosy-hued breast feathers.

After spending the winter off the coast of Africa, diving for small fish, they head to Coquet to nest. Unlike other tern species which nest in the open, rosys prefer to nest in crevices and small holes and readily take advantage of nestboxes.

Once widespread around the UK, roseate terns nearly became extinct in the 19th Century, because their plumage was much prized for hats. Legal protection saved them, but now they're in trouble again. Since the 1960s, they've experienced one of the most dramatic population crashes of any of our nesting seabirds.



The Roseate LIFE Project

Whilst safeguarding the main roseate tern colonies on Coquet and in Ireland, we need to provide suitable conditions for them to return to places where they used to breed. In a bid to protect these birds, and reverse the declines in their populations, the EU LIFE Programme has awarded more than £2.5 million to the RSPB, BirdWatch Ireland and the North Wales Wildlife Trust, to carry out this ambitious five-year project.



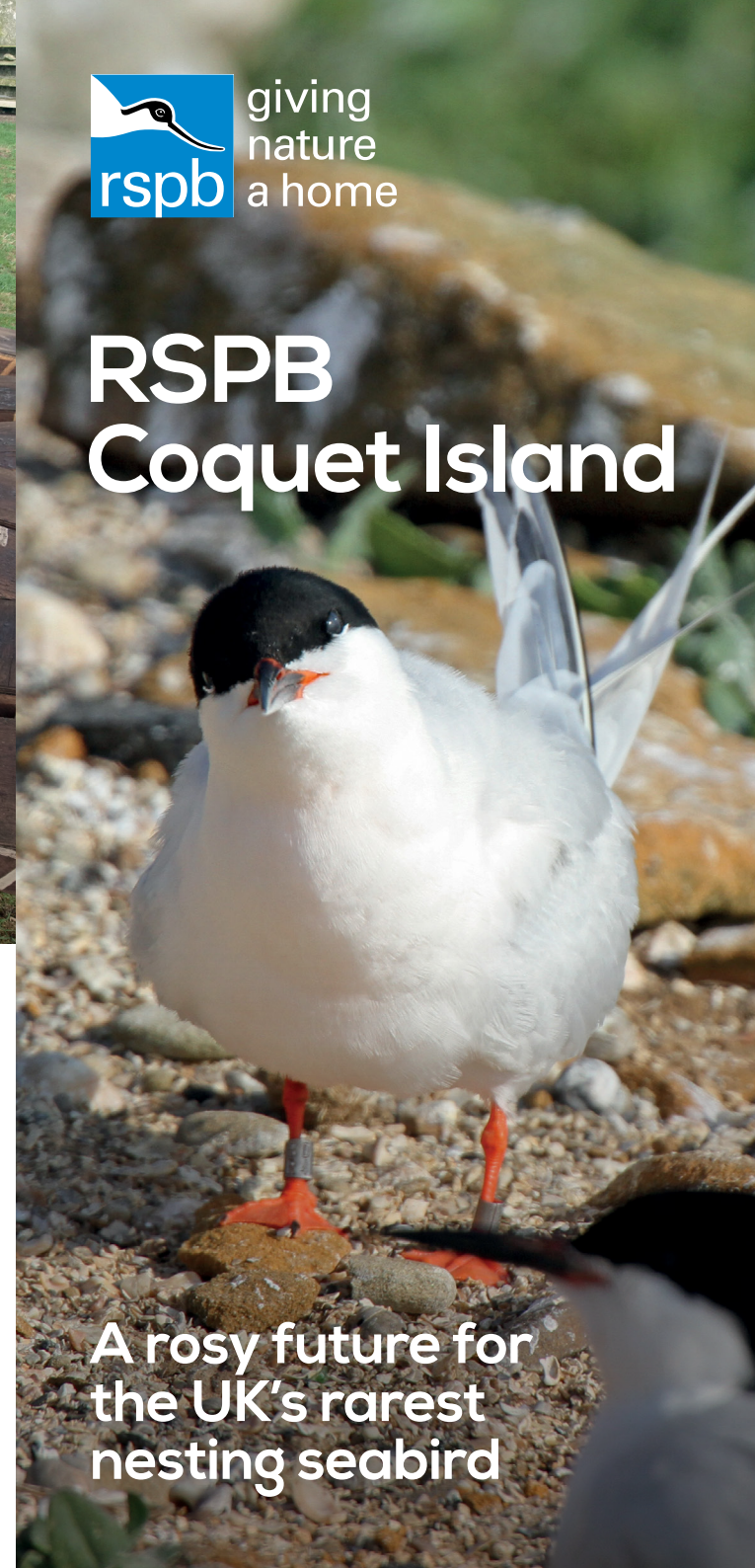
The project "Improving the conservation prospects of the priority species roseate tern throughout its range in the UK and Ireland" is supported by the LIFE Programme of the European Union.

Images: roseate tern in flight by Chris Gomersall (rspb-images.com); all other images by Paul Morrison and Wesley Davies.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654. 020-1-2043-16-17



RSPB Coquet Island



A rosy future for the UK's rarest nesting seabird

Coquet Island – a special place

Just off the Northumberland Coast is a very special little island. Although it's shorter than Newcastle's Tyne Bridge, every summer Coquet Island comes alive with the sights and sounds of over 44,000 seabirds and their families.

And it's now the only home in the UK for our rarest nesting seabird – the beautiful roseate tern.

The RSPB has been caring for Coquet and its seabirds since the 1970s. As roseate tern populations fell to critical numbers (just 56 pairs in the whole of the UK in 2000), innovative tern nestboxes have helped them to thrive – in this one last place.



Coquet Island's seabirds

The most numerous seabirds on the island are puffins, which riddle the plateau with their burrows. There are three other species of tern here too: Sandwich, Arctic and common. They all migrate thousands of miles every year to the sanctuary of Coquet from as far away as the Antarctic Circle.

In 2000, the RSPB created a roseate tern terrace on Coquet, with bespoke nestboxes, and the rosies promptly moved in. These boxes protect the precious chicks from harsh weather and the attentions of predators. Although their colonies were lost elsewhere in the UK, through the wardens hard work, Coquet's rosies have now recovered to 104 pairs in 2016, reaching triple figures for only the second time in 40 years.

An ambitious new partnership project is underway to help this vulnerable little bird. The project will increase our understanding of what roseate terns need and the problems they face, and help them to establish new breeding colonies in other areas of the UK and Ireland. You can read all about it on the project website and their social media pages (facebook and twitter).

roseatetern.org



Your chance to see...

It's hardly surprising that people want to experience the excitement and spectacle of Coquet's fantastic seabird colony. Sadly, the island's habitats, and its seabird colony, are so fragile that landings cannot be permitted at any time of year.

However, you can still get up close to the action on one of the privately-run boat tours that will take you around the island. Catch a boat from Amble Quayside; sailing times are displayed at Amble Tourist Information Centre.

And you can now watch the roseate terns live from May to August on the Coquet Island webcam rspb.org.uk/coquetlive Tell us what you see!

If you'd like to help the UK's seabirds, including Coquet's roseate terns, why not join the RSPB? Together we'll give nature a home.

rspb.org.uk/joinandhelp

[facebook.com/rspbsaltholmeandnortheast](https://www.facebook.com/rspbsaltholmeandnortheast)

[@RSPB_N_England](https://twitter.com/RSPB_N_England)

