

OCEANIC BIRDS

Digital Article, ValueOcean

*Majestic birds crossing on
the Oceans and Seas...*



VALUEOCEAN

OCEANIC BIRDS are present in all the seas of the world, some of them fly all their life on the high seas and return to land only to nest. These species are classified as pelagic oceanic birds, because they find their food only in the water column, far from the coast. They make long trips to feed and usually do not return in the winter period. Most of them are large body size and wingspan and tend to be longlived. They have glands in the skin that allow them to keep their plumage water-proof. They are deep sea gliding birds that spend their lives embracing the wind and only stop to collect their food.

In addition, they have a high philopatry, that is to say, fidelity to the places where they were born and nested. All this makes them more vulnerable to the environmental deterioration that occurs in breeding sites, as well as in the feeding areas, where most of the fishing activities are carried out.

This is how many oceanic sailors can enjoy the overflight of these majestic and beautiful birds around their boats. Some species that will be able to be observed are: **Wandering albatross**, **Magnificent frigate birds**, **Gray shearwater** and the **Silver petrel**, among others.

*Magnificent oceanic birds
surprise the sailors at high sea...*



OCEANIC BIRDS

Identified scientifically as the species:

Diomedea exulans and known by the common name of: **Albatros errante** in Spanish, **Wandering albatross** in English and **Albatros hurleur** in French.

Is the largest of the ocean birds, measuring 3,4 meters in wingspan and weighing about 8kg. They have wings with white feathers, being the main or primary ones black. It shows large wing covers speckled with black towards the wing ends. Its beak or ranfoteca is pale pink with the nasal orificies gently inclined upwards.

They feed during the day, mainly on cephalopods and fish that they capture by means of the overflight of the marine surface, without diving.

It is a pelagic bird that inhabits all the oceans of the southern hemisphere, especially the subtropical and sub-Antarctic seas. It goes from one place to another, hence, its 'errant' name. It nests mainly on islands of the Indian and Atlantic Oceans. It is said that it remains all its life on the high seas and only goes to land to hatch its eggs.

Wandering albatross (*Diomedea exulans*)



Large oceanic bird with large wingspan...

WANDERING ALBATROSS
(*Diomedea exulans*)



OCEANIC BIRDS

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Identified scientifically as the species: *Fregata magnificens* and known with the common name **Rabihorcado magnífico** in Spanish, **Magnificent frigatebird** in English and **Frégate superbe** in French.

It is a large bird with a very stylized body, whose body length reaches from 95 to 110 cm, with a wingspan of 2.2 to 2.4 meters. It has a long beak or ranfoteca and its plumage is black, although in the case of females, it has white areas in the lower part of its body. The males are distinguished by having a gular skin of bright red color that inflates in the mating season, to attract females.

It inhabits tropical and subtropical seas. It has a plumage that does not repel water, which forces it not to touch the sea, because when it gets wet, its feathers become heavy, which may prevent it from flying. For this reason, it feeds mainly the fish that jump on the surface or either takes food from other birds.

It nests on the coasts or on islands, together with seabirds of other species, laying only one egg. It can be seen in tropical Atlantic islands and also in the American Pacific, from California to the Galapagos Islands (Ecuador).

Magnificent frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*)



*Oceanic bird with a stylized body
capture its prey in flight...*

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD

(Fregata magnificens)



OCEANIC BIRDS

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Identified scientifically as the species: *Calonectris diomedea* and known by the common name **Pardela cenicienta** in Spanish, **Cory's shearwater** in English and **Puffin cendrée** in French.

It is the largest of the shearwaters in Europe, with a wingspan of 1.25 meters and 56 cm in length. It presents an opaque coloration, with grayish brown colors in the upper part of the body and the wings. Below the body, its plumage is white in its entirety, except at the end of the wings, which are dark in color. On the high seas it is silent, but very noisy in the breeding colonies.

It is a pelagic species that lives in the open sea and feeds on small pelagic fish, crustaceans and cephalopods. It is capable of submerging and swimming underwater a few meters to obtain its food. It nests in small islands and coastal cliffs, often inside caves where the nest is located inside natural tunnels.

It can be observed over waters of the Atlantic Ocean, the Pacific and the Mediterranean Sea, making migrations to the coast of South America and the coasts of South Africa.

Cory's shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*)



*Bird able to suberge
in search of its food...*

CORY'S SHEARWATER
(*Calonectris diomedea*)



OCEANIC BIRDS

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Scientifically identified as the species:

Fulmarus glacialoides and known by the common name **Petrel plateado** in Spanish, **Southern fulmar** in English.

It is a chunky seabird with large wings. It has a wingspan of 1.18 meters and measures up to 48 cm in length. The upper part of its body and its wings are pearl gray. In the dorsal part of the wing there is a notorious white patch and the tip of the wing is black. On the edge of its wings, it has a thin dark band. His head and lower part of his body are white. It feeds a great variety of prey, such as: crustaceans, fish and cuttlefish, among others. It is an oceanic pelagic bird that is also possible to be observed near the coast.

It has a wide distribution in the world. It is distributed in the seas of the southern hemisphere. Through the Pacific Ocean to Ecuador, through the Atlantic Ocean to Brazil, Antarctica, South of South America, South Africa, South Australia and New Zealand. It nests in the Antarctic and oceanic islands of the South Atlantic. It also nests on the coasts of Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Chile and Peru.

Southern fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialoides*)



A stocky ocean bird with a wide distribution...

SOUTHERN FULMAR
(*Fulmarus glacialis*)



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CREDITS / REFERENCES

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Photographs

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OCEANIC BIRDS

Born to glide...

*Their large wings and aerodynamic
structures allow them to glide
great distances at high speed,
giving quick turns of direction...*

*Their elegance, agility and
the great skills of their
flights over the
heights over high seas
are wonderful...*

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