



Light-Mantled Albatross

Why in News?

Recently Light-mantled Albatross, a species native to the [Antarctic seas](#), was recorded in Tamil Nadu.

What are the Findings?

- The location where the Albatross was spotted **is part of the Palk Bay and near the [Gulf of Mannar](#)**, an 'Important Bird Area' on India's southeast coast.
- This record from the [Palk Bay](#) side of Rameswaram island is significant, and it throws up **new challenges to researchers once these Antarctic birds migrate to Asia.**
- This finding also **directs researchers to look for bird migration away from the well-known and established routes and sites.**
- As the nearest recorded site of the bird is around 5,000 km away from Rameswaram, **a change in atmospheric pressure may be among the reasons** for the Albatross to land on an Indian shore.

What is a Light-mantled Albatross?

- **Scientific Name:** *Phoebastria palpebrata*
- **About:**
 - Also, known as the **grey-mantled albatross** or the light-mantled sooty albatross.
 - Light-mantled albatrosses spend most of their lives in flight. A juvenile may **spend many years at sea before returning to breed.**
 - The Light-mantled Albatross, with broad pelagic habits, maintains a **circumpolar distribution in the Southern Ocean.**



- **Appearance:**
 - Ash coloured with darker areas around the head and lighter areas across the back and wingtips.
 - Distinctive white stripe immediately above the eye.
- **Population:**
 - A worldwide population of 21,600 breeding pairs, according to an estimate in 1998.
- **Protection:**
 - [IUCN Red List](#): Near Threatened

[Source: TH](#)

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