



Wandering Albatross

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The **Wandering Albatross (Diomedea exulans)** is in the spotlight due to a recent study highlighting its vulnerability.

- Wandering Albatross is the largest flying bird with a wingspan of **3.5 metres**. It spends most of its 60-year lifespan at sea.
 - Primarily found in the **Southern Ocean** and surrounding islands, with **Marion and Prince Edward Islands** supporting half of the world's breeding population.
 - It breeds approximately every two years **on land** after reaching sexual maturity.
- It is **vulnerable as per IUCN Red list**, facing threats like bycatch from longline fishing trawlers, pollution and **climate change**.
 - Albatrosses prefer low, coastal sites for warmth and suitable habitats. Climate change may disrupt these preferences by altering **temperature, rainfall, and wind patterns**.
 - **Wind speed**, an understudied factor, is critical for nest site selection and alteration in speed could impact **nest construction and chick rearing**.

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/wandering-albatross>