

What are Pelagic Birds?

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About Pelagic Birds:

- These are **seabirds that live on open seas and oceans rather than inland** or around more restricted waters such as lakes and rivers.
- They can be **found thousands of miles offshore** but can **get blown onto land during high winds** and storms.
- The **only other time they come inland is to breed**.
- The most familiar **types of pelagic birds include albatrosses, frigatebirds, fulmars**, petrels, shearwaters, and tropicbirds.

Features:

- They **feed on planktonic crustaceans, squid** and hunt fish far from the land.
- Generally, they have **dense, waterproof feathers** and **layers of fat to keep them warm**.

- They have **exceptionally long and thin wings** that allow them **to fly effortlessly for long periods** without rest.
 - Many pelagic birds **have special salt glands**. This allows them to drink seawater and **discard extra salt** accidentally ingested with their oceanic prey.
 - Some **have webbed or partially webbed feet for swimming**, plucking fish from the shallows, or executing precise, plunging dives.
 - In general, **seabirds live longer than other wild birds**; most have an average lifespan of 50 years.
 - Almost all seabirds **live in colonies, migrate annually, and mate for life**.
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Q) What is meant by Pelagic?

Anything pelagic has something to do with the ocean, especially the open area far from the shore. Pelagic birds and fish — like tuna, jellyfish, and the Atlantic puffin — live in the open ocean.

Source: [Birders catch rare glimpse of seabirds in onshore regions of Gujarat](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/what-are-pelagic-birds/>

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