



**SOUTHERN FULMAR**  
*Fulmarus glacialisoides*





# SOUTHERN FULMAR

*Fulmarus glacialisoides*



Order : Procellariiformes — Family : Procellariidae

## GEOGRAPHIC RANGE :

The species can be seen in the Southern Ocean but breeds on the coasts of Antarctica and outlying glaciated islands.

## HABITAT :

Southern Fulmars nest on steep rocky slopes and cliff sides, mainly on the coast and on the Antarctic continent. They are highly nomadic outside the breeding season, generally moving north to open waters south of 30°S.

## DIET :

They eat krill, fish and squid depending on available prey. They also consume carrion and discards from fishing vessels.

## BEHAVIOR :

Most food is taken by surface-seizing whilst in flocks. They also skim the surface in low flight with their beak open. They also sometimes dive at shallow depths to catch their prey. They are rather solitary birds that can form small groups outside the breeding season. Paired birds tend to stay together each season, and are monogamous. Nest sites are often used several years in a row. During courtship displays, paired birds lay side by side, touch bills, wave heads, and preen together, while calling loudly. Adults are territorial in the immediate vicinity of their nest and defend it with threatening postures, lunging forward with a wide open bill. When threatened, adults and chicks can sometimes squirt tenacious foul-smelling stomach oils at intruders (animal and human). They alternate between flapping, gliding and soaring over the waves on long stiff wings.

## REPRODUCTION :

The breeding season begins in November and egg-laying takes place during the first two weeks of December. They breed in colonies on steep rocky slopes and precipitous cliffs on sheltered ledges or in hollows, sometimes with other species of petrels. Nests are a gravel-lined scrape in which females lay a single white egg. Adults take turns incubating the egg every 3 to 9 days, during 43-50 days. Chicks are brooded and guarded for the first two to three weeks after hatching. They fledge 48 to 56 days after hatching, usually in March.

- Size : 45-50 cm
- Wingspan : 114-120 cm
- Weight : 0.7-1kg



## THREATS :

The species is categorized as "Least concern" (IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, August 2018). The population trend appears to be stable, but competition with commercial fisheries could be a long-term threat. It has an extremely large range but it can be affected by extreme weather and climate change, leading to the reduction of the sea-ice cover and the decrease of prey in some areas.

... It is also known as the **ANTARCTIC FULMAR**