

FRIGATE BIRDS



Conservation Status:

Two species listed as

**Vulnerable or
endangered**



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Scientific Classification

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Pelecaniformes

Family: Fregatidae

Genus: *Fregata*

Species: various

FAST FACTS

Weight: average 3 pounds

Wingspan: up to 7 feet

Incubation: up to 61 days

Number of Young: as few as 1

Range: Found in tropical waters around most of the world

Diet: Fish, squid, jellyfish and occasionally young seabirds

DID YOU KNOW?

- Frigate birds are the only seabirds where the male and female look noticeably different.
- Frigate birds are also known as Man-o'-war birds due to their aggressive behaviors toward other birds. Frigates poke and bite at other birds, which sometimes causes them to drop or disgorge any food they have recently caught or eaten. The frigate bird then consumes the meal.

Ecology & Conservation

The Christmas Island frigate bird (*Fregata andrewsi*) is listed as critically endangered because approximately 25% of their breeding area was cleared for phosphate mining before 1946.

Many breeding colonies were deserted due to dust fall-out from the mine. Other threats to these birds include over-fishing, marine pollution and housing and resort development.

ALBATROSS



Conservation Status:
Depending on the species
Albatrosses are listed as
**Vulnerable or
endangered**

Scientific Classification

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Procellariiformes

Family: Diomedidae

Genus: various

Species: various

FAST FACTS

Weight: up to 22 pounds

Wingspan: up to 11 feet

Incubation: 70-80 days, longer for larger albatrosses

Number of Young: 1

Range: Southern oceans and the North Pacific

Diet: Carnivore, feeding mainly on squid and fish

DID YOU KNOW?

- Albatrosses drink salt water and excrete the excess salt through glands above their eyes.
- Some albatross species have been known to have life spans of 50 years of age in the wild!
- Albatross are rarely seen on land and gather only to breed.

Ecology & Conservation

Every year, thousands of albatross are killed by drift nets, marine pollution and introduced predators. Some albatross species were hunted for feathers that were used in the manufacture of women's hats.



BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY



Conservation Status:

not listed as threatened or endangered

Scientific Classification

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Pelecaniformes

Family: Sulidae

Genus: *Sula*

Species: *neboxii*



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FAST FACTS

Weight: 3 pounds

Wingspan: up to 5 feet

Incubation: 40-45 days

Number of Young: 1 to 3

Range: Western coasts of Central and South America

Diet: Carnivore, mainly eating fish

DID YOU KNOW?

- Male blue-footed boobies are proud of their blue feet. During mating rituals they show off their feet to females with a high-stepping strut and dance. The bluer the feet, the better.
- These birds take their name from the Spanish word “bobo” which means “stupid”. It is thought that early European colonists viewed these birds as clumsy and awkward when they saw them on land.

Ecology & Conservation

Overall, it is believed that blue-footed booby populations are steady, with global populations estimated to be 100,000 to 500,000 individuals.