



Step into the Aviarium and explore the wonderful world of birds!

- A comprehensive overview of the world of birds. Chapters include: birds of prey, flightless birds, seabirds, water birds, tropical birds and garden birds
- Beautifully illustrated by nature artist Teagan White, illustrator of the best-selling *Oceanarium*
- Written by renowned British birder Dominic Couzens, author and journalist specialising in avian and natural history subjects. He contributes regularly to *Bird Watching* and *BBC Wildlife* magazines
- The Welcome to the Museum series has sold over 2 million copies worldwide



Seabirds are highly adapted to the marine environment, but because they have to lay eggs and incubate them, they must at some point go to dry land to breed. This presents problems, because land doesn't suit them. They have webbed feet, which makes perching awkward; their legs are often set far back on the body for back-propulsion in water, and that may make walking difficult. Many have long wings, making the mechanics of approaching land tricky.

Seabirds' dependence on land means that they are exceptionally vulnerable to ground predators, usually mammals such as rats, and that often limits them to breeding in places that either lack predators, such as islands, or sites that are hazardous to predators, such as tall cliffs and precipices. The limited availability of such sites means that the visitors all have to pack together, and virtually all seabirds are colonial.

Not every cliff or island will do. The location must be close to the sea, and it must be within reasonable reach of productive fishing areas. Many seabirds will commute up to about 50 km, sometimes much further, but if food is too far away, feeding young may be impossible.

With so much crowding, it isn't surprising that different birds occupy different parts of islands or cliffs. Some live on boulders close to the sea, while others pack on to narrow ledges on tall cliffs. Crevices, holes or burrows are sought after refuges for many species, while others, especially bigger birds, need flat, wide ledges – these may need to be windy to help them take off. Sea caves may be ideal, as may be grassland above cliffs, or very low, sandy islands. One of the great delights of this habitat is seeing many types of seabirds, each contributing to the noise, smell and general melee.

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The best known members of this family are celebrated for their dramatic jumps due to water to snatch fly from the surface, but together as a whole have a wide range of habitats and feeding strategies. The inhabitants of Australia, for example, catch large range of small animals in the bush, often fly from water, and many other species in a variety of habitats.



<p>2- Red-legged Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> Length 17cm The largest of the world's gulls, this small (20,000 pair) breeds on Gower Island in the Hebrides on Orkney Islands.</p>	<p>bird and remains at the place that breeds up to its colonies, once the season of breeding</p>	<p>puffs, with its incubated large eggs, allows the bird to maintain life at a time to belong to the young. These are the last of the clutch by the young to leave.</p>
<p>3- Gannet <i>Larus gannus</i> Length 117cm</p>	<p>2- Crested auklet Length 12-20cm In the North Atlantic, the North Pacific and the North Indian Ocean, it breeds in large colonies on cliffs.</p>	<p>3- Southern rockhopper penguin <i>Eudyptes chelstoni</i> Length 31cm Being flightless, penguins can only move by waddling on their feet.</p>
<p>4- Gannet <i>Larus gannus</i> Length 117cm</p>	<p>Remains in large colonies on cliffs. It breeds in large colonies on cliffs. It breeds in large colonies on cliffs. It breeds in large colonies on cliffs.</p>	<p>From the ocean, these birds progress up slopes via footed legs. The southern rockhopper has long, although usually only one toe.</p>
<p>5- Gannet <i>Larus gannus</i> Length 117cm</p>	<p>4- Atlantic puffin <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> Length 25-30cm It breeds in large colonies on cliffs.</p>	<p></p>

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