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News: Wandering Albatross

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

Wandering Albatross

- 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.
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