

Australasian Gannet

Morus serrator

Australasian Gannets are skilled fishers. They locate their prey from great heights and dive deep, piercing the water like an arrow. Underwater their wings act as fins and they swim to catch their prey. Backward facing serrations on their beak prevent fish from escaping and are swallowed whole before the bird returns to the surface. They hit the water at up to 100km/h and and dive down to 15m to catch fish. A gannet's diet consists mainly of fish like pilchards, anchovies, barracouta and garfish.

Most items found in seabirds stomachs are items people use everyday. It is estimated that 90% of all seabirds have eaten plastic rubbish at some stage in their life and some studies have shown 60% of seabirds had plastic in their gut. The link to littering is clear.

Threats

Seabirds mistake cigarette butts for food floating on the surface of the water and can die as a result of ingesting them.

