WHAT ARE SEABIRDS? Birds adapted to life at sea

WEBBED FEET – Not all birds with webbed feet are seabirds, but all seabirds have webbed feet. They come in handy when swimming, diving, and chasing fish!

DULL COLORED PLUMAGE – Grey and black pigments (melanins) provide structural support to feathers, making them more resistant to sun, surf, wind and salt.

COUNTERSHADING – Seabirds, along with most other animals that live at sea, are dark on top and light underneath, providing camouflage from aerial and underwater predators.

TUBE NOSE – Many seabirds in Hawaii have nostrils enclosed in tubes, which allows them to smell their food from miles away across the ocean!

The following birds are NOT seabirds. If you find one of these birds or another non-seabird, please call the DOFAW Wildlife Office at 808-984-8100 Monday-Friday from 8:00am to 4:30pm

- Cattle Egret
- Black Crowned Night Heron
- Pacific Golden Plover