List of Albatrosses
with References
Compiled by Joe Hobbs
Introduction
This is the final version of the Albatross list, no further updates will be made. Grateful thanks to Michael O'Keeffe (http://birdingimagequalitytool.blogspot.com/) for the cover images and all those who responded with constructive feedback. All images © the photographer.
Please note that this and other Reference Lists I have compiled are not exhaustive and are best employed in conjunction with other sources.
Joe Hobbs

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Final Version
Version 1.2 (March 2019).

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Relevant Publications


Laysan Albatross

*Phoebastria immutabilis* [Rothschild).

Breeding: Torishima Island (S Izu Islands, Japan region, NW Pacific), Mukojima group (Bonin / Ogasawara Islands, Japan region, NW Pacific) and Kure Atoll, Midway Island, Laysan Island, Nihoa, Ni‘ihau & Kaua‘i (NW Hawaiian Islands), Moko Manu (off NE Oahu, Hawaii Islands) and Guadalupe Island (off Baja California, W Mexico) & Revillagigedo Islands (off S Baja California, W Mexico).

Non-breeding: Seas of Japan to the Bering Sea & W coast North America in N Pacific S to 15°N. Treated by del Hoyo et al. 1992 as *Diomedea immutabilis*.


**Black-footed Albatross**

*Phoebastria nigripes* [Audubon].

Breeding: Torishima Island (S Izu Islands, Japan region, NW Pacific), Mukojima group (Bonin / Ogasawara Islands, Japan region, NW Pacific), Kita-ko-jima (S Ryukyu Islands, East China Sea) and Midway Island, Laysan Island, Lisianski Island, Pearl and Hermes Reef & French Frigate Shoals (NW Hawaiian Islands).

Non-breeding: Most of the N Pacific.

Treated by del Hoyo et al. 1992 as *Diomeida nigripes*.


**Waved Albatross Phoebastria irrorata** [Salvin].
Breeding: Españaña Island (Galapágos) & La Plata Island (off Ecuador).
Non-breeding: Seas between Galapágos and the coasts of Peru and Ecuador.
Treated by del Hoyo et al. 1992 as *Diomedea immutabilis*.
Other name: Galapágos Albatross.


Short-tailed Albatross

Phoebastria albatrus [Pallas]

Breeding: Torishima Island (S Izu Islands, Japan region, NW Pacific) Minami Kojima (Senkaku Islands, East China Sea), Yomejima (Bonin / Ogasawara Islands, Japan region, NW Pacific) and Midway Island (NW Hawaii islands).


Other name: Steller’s Albatross.

Georg Wilhelm Steller (1709–1746), German botanist, zoologist, physician and explorer, who worked in Russia and was an early explorer to Alaska.


**Wandering Albatross**

*Diomedea exulans* [Linnaeus]

Breeding: South Georgia Island (S Atlantic), Prince Edward & Marion Islands, Crozet & Kerguelen, Heard & McDonald Islands (S Indian Ocean) and possibly on Macquarie Island (Australia region).

Non-breeding: Circumpolar in the southern oceans.

Treated by del Hoyo *et al.* 1992 as polytypic with forms *exulans* & *dabbenena*.

Other name: Snowy Albatross.


**New Zealand Albatross**

*Diomedea antipodensis* [Robertson & Warham].

*Diomedea antipodensis* Breeding: Antipodes Islands, Campbell Island and Main Island & Pitt Island (Chatham Islands) (all New Zealand region).

*Diomedea gibsoni* Breeding: Auckland Islands (New Zealand region).

Non-breeding: W to Tasman Sea and E across S Pacific towards coasts of E South America. Both races considered by del Hoyo et al. 1992 to be included in *D. e. exulans*.

Other name: Antipodean Albatross (*antipodensis*), Gibson’s Albatross (*gibsoni*).

**John Douglas Gibson** (1924-1984), Australian ornithologist who became an internationally respected authority on the Albatrosses.


Amsterdam Albatross

*Diomedea amsterdami*nis [Roux, Jouventin, Mougin, Stahl & Weimerskirch].

Breeding: Plateau des Tourbières (Amsterdam Island, S Indian Ocean).

Non-breeding: Probably S Indian Ocean possibly as far E as Australia.

Other name: Amsterdam Island Albatross.


Tristan Albatross

*Diomedea dabbenena* [Mathews].
Breeding: Inaccessible Island & Gough Island (Tristan da Cunha group, S Atlantic).
Non-breeding: S Atlantic and possibly SW Indian Ocean.
Treated by del Hoyo *et al.* 1992 as a race of Wandering Albatross.

Roberto Dabbene (1864-1938), Argentinian ornithologist.


Royal Albatrosses

**Southern Royal Albatross**

*Diomedea epomophora* [Lesson].
Breeding: Campbell Island (New Zealand region) and Aukland Island, Adams Island & Enderby Island (Aukland Islands, New Zealand region). Birds on Enderby Island include some Southern Royal x Northern Royal hybrids.
Non-breeding: Circumpolar in the southern oceans especially W & E coasts of South America. Treated by del Hoyo *et al.* 1992 as polytypic with forms *epomophora* & *sanfordi*.

**Northern Royal Albatross**

*Diomedea sanfordi* [Murphy].
Breeding: Forty-fours Island, Big Sister Island & Little Sister Island (Chatham Islands, New Zealand region), Enderby Island (Aukland Islands, New Zealand region) & Taiaroa Head (Otago peninsula, South Island, New Zealand). Birds on Enderby Island include some Northern Royal x Southern Royal hybrids.
Non-breeding: Circumpolar in the southern oceans especially Indian Ocean and seas off South Africa & Australia. Treated by del Hoyo *et al.* 1992 as a race of *D.e. epomophora*.

Dr. Leonard Cutler Sanford (1868-1950), American zoologist who was one of the organizers of the Whitney-Sanford South Pacific expeditions.


Sooty Albatross

Phoebetria fusca [Hilsenberg].

Breeding: Tristan da Cunha group & Gough Island (S Atlantic), Prince Edward and Marion Islands, Crozet, Kerguelen, Amsterdam Island & St. Paul Island (S Indian Ocean).

Non-breeding: S Atlantic & S Indian Oceans N to about 30°S.

Other names: Dark-mantled Sooty Albatross, Dark-mantled Albatross.


**Light-mantled Albatross**

*Phoebetria palpebrata* [J.R. Forster].

Breeding: South Georgia Island (S Atlantic), Prince Edward and Marion Islands, Crozet, Kerguelen, Heard & McDonald Islands (S Indian Ocean) and Macquarie Island (Australia region), Auckland Island, Antipodes Islands & Campbell Island (New Zealand region).

Non-breeding: Southern oceans N to about 35°S.

Other name: Light-mantled Sooty Albatross, Grey-mantled Albatross.


Parker, G.C. et al. 2017. Trial of three methods to obtain population estimates of light-mantled sooty albatross *Phoebetria palpebrata* at Campbell and Auckland islands, New Zealand. ACAP.


Black-browed Albatross

*Thalassarche melanophris* [Temminck].

Breeding: Falkland Islands, South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands (S Atlantic), Crozet, Kerguelen, Heard and McDonald Islands (S Indian Ocean), Macquarie Island & Bishop & Clerk Islets (Australia region), Antipodes Islands, Campbell Island & Snares Islands (New Zealand region) and Isla De Almagro, Isla Evangelistas & Islas Diego Ramírez (Chile region, off Cape Horn).

Non-breeding: N from breeding areas towards continental shelf waters in the southern oceans with a history of vagrancy to N Atlantic waters.

Treated by del Hoyo *et al.* 1992 as polytypic *Diomedea melanophris* with forms *melanophris* & *impavida*.

Other name: Black-browed Mollymawk.


Campbell Albatross

Thalassarche impavida [Mathews].

Breeding: Campbell Island & Jeanette Marie Island (Campbell Islands, New Zealand region).

Non-breeding: S Pacific, Tasman Sea & Ross Sea.

Treated by del Hoyo et al. 1992 as a race of Black-browed Albatross.

Other name: Campbell Mollymawk.


Shy Albatross

Thalassarche cauta [Gould].

[T.c. cauta] Breeding: Albatross Island (Hunter Island group, Bass Strait, Australia), Pedra Blanca & Mewstone (Pedra Blanca group, off S Tasmania).


Non-breeding: Throughout the southern oceans.

Treated by del Hoyo et al. 1992 as Diomedea cauta with forms cauta, salvini & eremita.

Other names: Tasmanian Albatross (cauta), White-capped Albatross/Mollymawk (steadi).

Form steadi possibly best treated as a full species.


Chatham Albatross
Thalassarche eremita [Murphy].
Breeding: The Pyramid Rock (S of Pitt Island, Chatham Islands, New Zealand region).
Non-breeding: E to waters off the coasts of Chile in S Pacific.
Treated by del Hoyo et al. 1992 as a race of Shy Albatross.
Other name: Chatham Island Albatross.


Salvin’s Albatross
Thalassarche salvini [Rothschild].
Breeding: Bounty Islands & Snares Islands (New Zealand region), Crozet & Kerguelen (S Indian Ocean).
Non-breeding: Throughout the southern oceans with concentrations in waters off C Chile.
Treated by del Hoyo et al. 1992 as a race of Shy Albatross.
Other name: Grey-backed Albatross.
Osbert Salvin FRS (1835-1898), English naturalist and collector who was Curator of Ornithology at Cambridge University from 1874 to 1882.

Grey-headed Albatross

*Thalassarche chrysostoma* [J.R. Forster].

Breeding: South Georgia (S Atlantic), Prince Edward and Marion Islands, Crozet & Kerguelen (S Indian Ocean), Macquarie Island (Australia region), Campbell Island (New Zealand region) and Isla Diego Ramirez & Islas Ildefonso (Chile region, off Cape Horn).

Non-breeding: Throughout the southern oceans N to about 45°S. Treated by del Hoyo *et al.* 1992 as *Diomedea chrysostoma*.

Other name: Gray-headed Albatross.


**Miskelly, C.M. *et al.* 2006.** Additions to the Chatham Islands’ bird list, with further records of vagrant and colonising bird species. *Notornis* 53: 215-230 (218).


Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross

*Thalassarche chlororhynchos* [Gmelin].

Breeding: Tristan da Cunha group & Gough Island (S Atlantic).

Non-breeding: S Atlantic N to about 45°S and some vagrancy to N Atlantic.

Treated by del Hoyo et al. 1992 as the polytypic Yellow-nosed Albatross with forms *chlororhynchos* & *carteri*.

1st WP Record: [adult] 13th April 1994. At sea, 30km NW of Halten, Sør-Trøndelag, Norway (Harrop 1994).


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Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross

*Thalassarche carteri* [Rothschild].

Breeding: Prince Edward Islands, Crozet, Kerguelen, Amsterdam Island & St. Paul Islands (S Indian Ocean).

Non-breeding: S Indian Ocean E to waters off Australia & New Zealand.

Treated by del Hoyo *et al.* 1992 as a race of Yellow-nosed Albatross.

Other name: Carter’s Albatross.

**Thomas Carter** (1863-1931), English ornithologist and collector who farmed and explored in Australia. He has numerous species and subspecies named in his honour.


**Buller's Albatross**

*Thalassarche bulleri* [Rothschild].

[T.b. bulleri] Breeding: Snares Islands, Solander Island (New Zealand region) & islands surrounding Stewart Island (off South Island, New Zealand).

Non-breeding: Largely sedentary.

[T.b. platei] Breeding: The Sisters & The Forty-Fours (Chatham Islands, New Zealand region) and Three Kings Island (off North Island, New Zealand).

Non-breeding: S Pacific E to South America.

Although the form *platei* is considered valid by del Hoyo *et al.* 1992, Onley & Scofield 2007 point out that it is a junior synonym of *bulleri*, leaving the northern form currently unnamed and is used here for convinience only.

Other names: Southern Buller's Albatross (*bulleri*), Northern Buller's Petrel (*platei*).

Sir Walter Lawry Buller (1838-1906), New Zealand ornithologist and lawyer who also spent time as a Government minister between 1896 and 1899.


Spear, L.B. *et al.* 2003. Distribution, abundance and behaviour of Buller’s, Chatham Island and Salvin’s Albatrosses off Chile and Peru. Ibis 145(2): 253-269.

