

Chatham Island Albatross *Thalassarche eremita* Species Code.: 051 Band: M/O



Status:

Elevated in 2003 from subspecies of the Shy Albatross *T. cauta eremita*. Breeds only on Chatham Is., NZ.

Morphometrics:

	Males	Females
Wing:	550 – 586 mm	537 – 572 mm
Tail:	221 – 248 mm	214 – 234 mm
Bill (tip to skull):	116 – 130 mm	113 – 124 mm
Tarsus:	84 – 96 mm	81 – 90 mm
Middle Toe:	120, 139 mm (2)	No records
Weight:	3.600 – 4.700 kg	3.100 – 3.900 kg

Ageing:

Juveniles have a darker head than adults and a fully black bill, but adults have a primarily bright yellow bill (see illustrations)
 Immature plumages show a gradual lightening of the crown, hindneck and foreneck through successive moults;
 Full adult plumage is attained in either the fourth or fifth year at sea;
 Age at first breeding unknown.

Sexing:

Methods used for sexing in the field are not documented, but measurements above suggest that males may be larger than females;
 Incubation by both sexes in alternate shifts

Similar species:

Tasmanian (Shy) Albatross *T. cauta* and New Zealand White-capped Albatross *T. steadi* have a light grey head with a whitish crown (see separate field data sheets);
 Salvin's Albatross *Thalassarche salvini* has a lighter grey head and adults have a pale yellow bill with a black tip to the lower mandible and the bill is slightly longer than *T. eremita* (see separate field data sheet).