

Tasmanian Albatross *Thalassarche cauta* Species Code.: 909 Band: [O]



Adult, dorsal



Adult, ventral



Juvenile, dark, ventral, fresh



Juvenile, pale, ventral, fresh



Juvenile



Adult

Status:

Formerly comprised four subspecies which were all elevated to species status in 2003 as the Tasmanian (Shy) Albatross *T. cauta*, (New Zealand) White-capped Albatross *T. steadi*, Chatham (Island) Albatross *T. eremita* and Salvin's Albatross *T. salvini*. See separate field data sheets. *T. cauta* breeds only on Tasmanian islands:

Morphometrics:

	Males	Females
Wing:	535 – 590 mm	545 – 570 mm
Tail:	211 – 230 mm	210 – 225 mm
Bill (tip to skull):	128 – 138 mm	122 – 132 mm
Tarsus:	88 – 98 mm	86 – 92 mm
Middle Toe:	134 – 144 mm	125 – 138 mm
Weight:	3.900 – 5.100 kg	3.200 – 4.400 kg

Ageing:

Juveniles occur in both dark and pale morphs as shown in the illustrations above; Juveniles of both morphs have a darker head and bill tip than adults, see illustrations; Immature plumages show a gradual whitening of the cap, 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:

New Zealand White-capped Albatross *T. steadi* is virtually identical in plumage, but is larger, particularly in wing length (see separate field data sheet); Salvin's Albatross *T. salvini* has a darker grey head (see separate field data sheet); Chatham (Island) Albatross *T. eremita* has a dark blue-grey head (see separate field data sheet).