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PLATE 2: PENGUINS I

A group of flightless, fish-eating seabirds of Southern Hemisphere cold-water currents (especially subantarctic and Antarctic regions). Highly specialised, with streamlined bodies, wings modified into flippers, short stubby legs, and an ability to porpoise. Penguins are unrivalled swimmers and divers among birds, but awkward on land. Sexes similar.

SPHENISCUS PENGUINS Two similar, medium-sized pied penguins with dark faces and horseshoe-shaped pectoral-bands under the throat. Mostly white underparts sometimes speckled black. Pink orbital eye-skin extends to forecrown. Sexes similar; males average larger than females.

African Penguin *Spheniscus demersus* EN

55–70cm, 22–27"



Most adults have a **single dark horseshoe-shaped pectoral-band** extending down belly to flanks. White eyebrows curl around black face forming **broad white pattern on throat and upper breast**, often variably spotted black below. Some (5–10 per cent) have a shadow (or sometimes complete) double pectoral-band. Adult Magellanic Penguin always has more complete bold double double pectoral-band, diagnostic pale pink line at base of lower mandible, and paler underside to flippers. Juvenile brownish-blue with pale belly. At first moult, immature's pied facial pattern and pink orbital skin become evident. Monotypic. **SH** Endemic. Breeds year-round at c.30 sites between N Nam and Algoa Bay, SAf where it is regular, but decreasing in number; vagrant to coasts further north. **Voice** At colonies, a raucous donkey-like braying, with head held upwards at colonies, both day and night. [Alt. Jackass Penguin]

Magellanic Penguin *Spheniscus magellanicus*

70–76cm, 27–30"



Slightly larger than African Penguin with **pale pink stripe from base of lower mandible to below eye**. Adult has broad black upper pectoral-band across throat linked to nape at shoulders and narrow black pectoral-band extending to flanks, forming characteristic double pectoral-band. Some African Penguins show similar pattern, but never as bold. Juvenile brownish-blue with pale belly, similar to juvenile African Penguin, but often with more pronounced whitish throat, face and supercilium, and immature soon develops pale pink stripe below lower mandible; paler undersides to flippers. Monotypic. **SH** Extremely rare vagrant to SAf, Tristan archipelago and Marion Island. **Voice** Donkey-like braying as African Penguin.

LITTLE PENGUIN A single Australasian species and the world's smallest penguin, lacking a distinctive head pattern.

Little Penguin *Eudyptula minor*

40–45cm, 16–18"

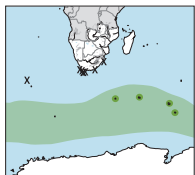


World's smallest penguin: very short tail and **flippers with distinctive pale trailing edges**. Adult upperparts **gunmetal indigo-grey**, grading to white on underparts. In water, dark upperparts can appear blackish. Overall small size, short narrow grey-black bill, **creamy eyes and grey-pink feet** differentiate it from young African Penguin. Immature bluer above than adult. In water, swims low with body almost submerged and head tilted upwards. Race in GSA uncertain, probably *novaehollandiae*. **SH** Very rare vagrant to Nam; possibly ship-assisted. **Voice** Puppy-like yap at sea, growls and mews on land.

KING PENGUIN Enormous spectacular penguin of subantarctic islands with peach-orange wash on head and breast. Sexes similar.

King Penguin *Aptenodytes patagonicus*

85–95cm, 33–37"



Large penguin with silver-flecked dark upperparts and white underparts. Adult head jet-black with **semi-enclosed orange comma on side of nape** extending as narrow **peachy-orange wash across upper breast**. Black bill with orange-salmon wedge at base of lower mandible. Similar Emperor Penguin (Appendix Plate 1) much larger, with shorter bill, less intense lemon-gold neck patch and narrower wedge at base of lower mandible. Immature smaller than adult, with browner head and paler yellow-cream nape patch. Chick chocolate-brown and fluffy. Race *halli* in GSA but nominate possibly also occurs. **SH** Abundant colonial breeder with c.300,000 on Crozet, c.260,000 on Kerguelen and c.228,000 on Prince Edward Islands. Highly pelagic, capable of ranging 1,000km from breeding islands when foraging. Rare vagrant to continental SAf, including several ship-assisted birds. **Voice** Soft dove-like *coo* and a rasping series of trumpeting calls.

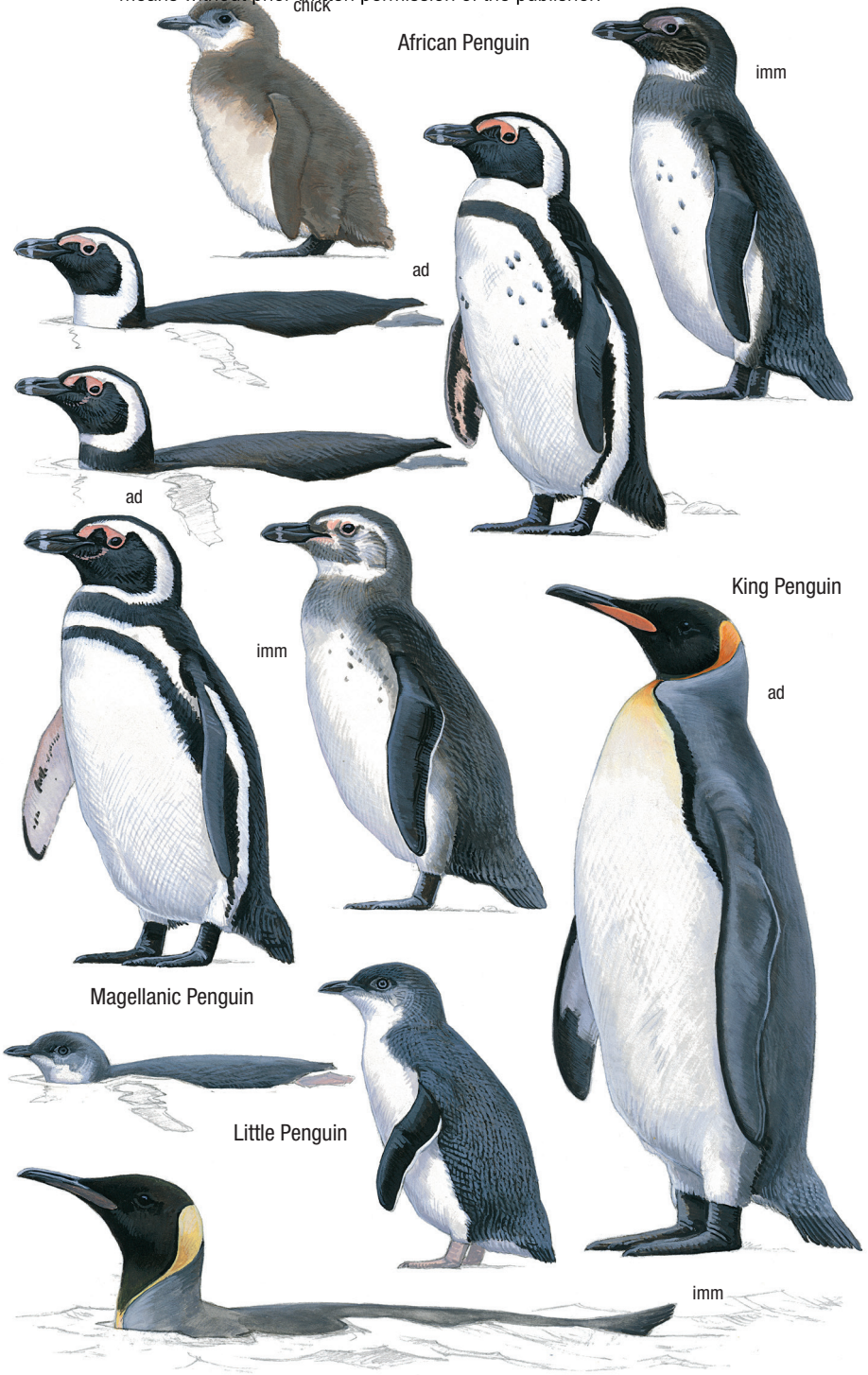
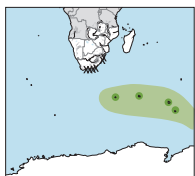


PLATE 3: PENGUINS II

CRESTED PENGUINS Yellow or orange head plumes form spectacular crests. Best identified by colour, length and shape of supercilium and crest, bill shape, colour of gape, and extent of black on flipper undersides. Hybrids occur. Males slightly larger than females with chunkier bills. Take five years to reach maturity, with most African mainland records being moulting immatures.

Eastern Rockhopper Penguin *Eudyptes filholi* VU

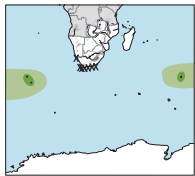
45–55cm, 18–22"



Smallest 'crested' penguin; slaty-black above and white below. Underside of flippers *mostly white, with narrow dark leading edge and small black tip*. Adult has yellow ornamental head plumes starting as a narrow supercilium, launching behind the bill (which often has a *fleshy pink base*), before flaring behind the eyes into a shaggy crest. *Plumes fewer and shorter* than on Northern Rockhopper Penguin, with less full-bodied crest. Reddish-brown bill smaller, less grooved, and has smaller patch of fleshy skin at base than Macaroni Penguin. Immature browner and duller than adult, with reduced yellow supercilium. Immature rockhopper penguins are almost identical, but have distinctive flipper patterns of adults. Monotypic. **SH** Breeds at Prince Edward, Marion, Crozet and Kerguelen (c.300,000 pairs). Occasional vagrant to African coast, mostly moulting immatures, usually Jan–Apr. **Voice** Rapidly repeated, noisy grating *kerr-ik* and other guttural sounds, higher-pitched than Northern Rockhopper. **Note** Some authorities consider Eastern, Northern and extralimital Southern Rockhopper Penguins *E. chrysocome* conspecific.

Northern Rockhopper Penguin *Eudyptes moseleyi* EN

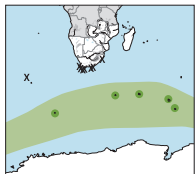
48–58cm, 19–23"



Similar to Eastern Rockhopper Penguin but slightly larger, with longer bill *lacking fleshy skin at base*, and longer flippers that have *more extensive black on underside, especially at leading edge and tip*. Adult has *more abundant, denser and longer ornamental head plumes* than Eastern Rockhopper, forming *luxuriant crest* drooping as *tasselled mop onto shoulders*. Reddish-brown bill smaller and less grooved than Macaroni Penguin. Immature rockhopper penguins are almost identical, but have distinctive flipper patterns of adults. Monotypic. **SH** Common breeder on Tristan da Cunha and Gough (c.230,000 pairs); uncommon on Amsterdam and St. Paul (c.18,000 pairs). Regular vagrant to SAF coast, mostly moulting immatures, usually Jan–Apr. **Voice** Deep raucous repeated *kerr-aak* is lower-pitched than Eastern Rockhopper. **Note** Some authorities consider Eastern, Northern and extralimital Southern Rockhopper Penguins *E. chrysocome* conspecific. [Alt. Moseley's Rockhopper Penguin]

Macaroni Penguin *Eudyptes chrysolophus* VU

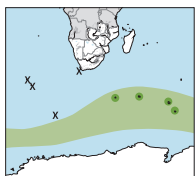
68–75cm, 27–30"



Large 'crested' penguin with basic plumage similar to rockhopper penguins. Adult has *heavy, thick, deeply grooved orange-brown bill with broad pink-fleshy skin at gape, long but sparse golden-orange plumes meet on forecrown* (unlike rockhoppers) and *spread backwards in a messy dishevelled 'hairstyle'*. Underside of flippers vary, but always has large black basal patch near junction with body. Rare white-faced morph occurs. Immature has smaller dull red-brown bill, duller and dirtier face than adult, and poorly developed crest. Similar immature rockhoppers are smaller, lacking extensive pinkish triangular skin at gape. Monotypic. **SH** Abundant breeder on Kerguelen and Crozet; fairly common on Marion, Prince Edward and Bouvetøya. Vagrant to coastal SAF and Tristan, mostly moulting immatures, usually Feb–Apr. **Voice** Loud braying and trumpeting at colonies, and short bark. **Note** Royal Penguin *E. schlegelii* is vagrant to Crozet and Kerguelen, and now often considered to be white-faced morph of Macaroni.

Gentoo Penguin *Pygoscelis papua*

75–90cm, 30–35"



Third largest penguin with long pointed tail. Distinctive head pattern shows *white triangular patches of feathers over eyes appearing 'spray-painted' and meeting in a narrow band (sometimes broken) over crown*. Feet orange, bill orange-red with black culmen. Immature smaller, duller and browner with more restricted white ear patches and grey-brown throat. Birds in GSA are the nominate race. **SH** Fairly common breeder on Marion, Prince Edward, Crozet, Kerguelen, and extraliminally on the Antarctic Peninsula. Extremely rare vagrant to coastal SAF, Tristan, Gough and Bouvetøya. **Voice** Loud cawing *ee-aw, ee-aw*.



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Northern
Rockhopper Penguin



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Eastern
Rockhopper



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Macaroni Penguin



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Gentoo Penguin

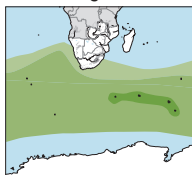
PLATE 4: WANDERING ALBATROSSES

GREAT ALBATROSSES Large size, white backs and pinkish bills separate great albatrosses from mollymawks. The three species on this plate were formerly considered conspecific. Males larger than females.

WANDERING ALBATROSSES 'Wanderers' are larger than 'Royals' (Plate 5), with feathering not extending as far down base of lower mandible, and steeper foreheads. 'Royals' lack distinctive pink sides to neck that develop on most mature Wandering and Tristan Albatrosses, but do have a black cutting edge to upper mandible absent in most 'Wanderers'. Although Amsterdam Albatross has a dark cutting edge, its darker juvenile-like plumage distinguishes it from 'Royals'. Dark-plumaged immature 'Wanderers' have a characteristic 'monkey suit' that whitens progressively with age, although the terminal point of whitening varies with species and sex, from dark (Amsterdam) to whitish (Wandering), eliminating confusion with 'Royals', dark albatrosses and giant petrels (Plate 8). During this progression overlapping plumage features make them one of the most confusing groups of birds to identify.

Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans* **VU**

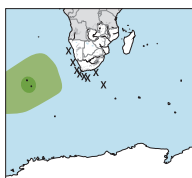
110–135cm, 43–53"; WS 250–350cm, 98–138"



Massive. Larger with a bulkier bill than Tristan and Amsterdam Albatrosses. As they age, adults (especially males) become progressively whiter *culminating in a characteristic snowy-white plumage*. Mature adult male often has almost *all-white back and forewings from shoulder to carpal joint*; trailing edge to wing dark, with distal ends strongly marked black. Female seldom as white as male, and often has slightly darker crown. Adult has mostly white tail with black edges and tip except in oldest males (all white). When wing pattern of adult male is as dark as similar mature male Tristan Albatross, tail of Wandering is often comparatively darker. Many breeding adults (>75 per cent) have pink-stained rear ear-coverts. Plumage of juvenile and immature inseparable from Tristan Albatross, but moult from dark juvenile to whiter adult progresses faster than in Tristan Albatross. Monotypic. **SH** Common breeder on Prince Edward Islands (c.3,500 pairs), Crozet (c.2,000 pairs) and Kerguelen (c.1,100 pairs). Uncommon pelagic in African coastal waters occurring year-round, but mostly Jul–Oct. **Voice** Alarming croaks and whines, and bill snapping. [Alt. Snowy Albatross]

Tristan Albatross *Diomedea dabbenena* **CR**

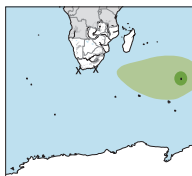
100–110cm, 39–43"; WS 250–320cm, 98–126"



Slightly smaller than Wandering Albatross with *shorter weaker bill*. No plumage features consistently distinctive, but some are more frequent on Tristan: mature adult tends to have delayed and reduced 'whitening' with darker vermiculations. Specifically, older mature males have distinctive combination of *ivory wash on head and nape, dark upperwings with white often restricted to small 'elbow' patches, and a whitish tail (some rectrices may have dark edges or tips) often resembling a piano keyboard*. Mature male Wandering has comparatively whiter wings (especially base of forewings) and darker tail (compared to wing pattern). Few breeding adults (<25 per cent) have pink-stained rear ear-coverts. Plumage of female, immature and juvenile inseparable from Wandering Albatross, although delayed maturation results in slower moult from dark juvenile to whiter adult. Monotypic. **SH** Uncommon breeding endemic on Gough (c.1,700 pairs), rare Inaccessible (few pairs); extinct Tristan. Abundance in African coastal pelagic waters uncertain due to identification difficulties, but satellite tracking shows it occurs rarely off SAF west coast. **Voice** Similar to Wandering Albatross.

Amsterdam Albatross *Diomedea amsterdamensis* **EN**

100–110cm, 40–43"; WS 250–320cm, 98–126"



Smaller than Wandering Albatross and always dirty dusky, retaining juvenile-like plumage into adulthood. Easily confused with young Wandering and Tristan Albatrosses, but bill *horn-pink with dusky tip and dark brown cutting edge to upper mandible* noticeable at close range. Note Royal albatrosses (and a few Tristan) also show dark cutting edge to upper mandible. Older adults whiten on belly, mantle and back, but always retain dirty hood; tail always black. Juvenile and immature have bill like adult. Monotypic. **SH** Breeds only on Amsterdam Island where total population c.170 individuals. One sight record from SW SAF and one satellite-tracked bird has entered SAF waters.

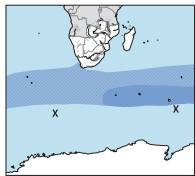
Wandering Albatross



PLATE 5: ROYAL AND LAYSAN ALBATROSSES

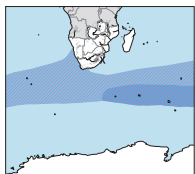
ROYAL ALBATROSSES *Royals* are smaller than *Wanderers* (Plate 4). Characterised by neater plumage, feathers extending further down base of lower mandible, shallower forehead, and almost always having a white tail (although juveniles can have black tail tips). All ages have strongly contrasting black-and-white plumage lacking dirty smudgy marks and grey-brown vermiculations on head and neck more associated with *Wanderers*. Black cutting edge to upper mandible and lack of distinctive pink neck-sides differentiate them from some mature *Wanderers*. *Royals* lack dark body 'monkey suit' juvenile and immature plumage present in *Wanderers*.

Southern Royal Albatross *Diomedea epomophora* **VU** 107–122cm, 42–48"; WS 290–350cm, 114–138"



Slightly larger and broader-winged than Northern Royal Albatross. Adult has unmarked white head and body and strong **white underwing and upperwing-coverts from shoulder to carpal joint** transitioning via frosty gradation to a broad black trailing edge to wing, and a white tail. White forewings differentiate adult Southern Royal from adult Northern Royal. Adult Wandering Albatross larger, lacks black cutting edge to upper mandible, frequently has dark smudges on head and body, and a dark-tipped tail. Immature has mostly dark upperwings and strongly resembles Northern Royal, but has white leading edge between shoulder and wrist, and white flecks on upperwing-coverts; tail may have black tips. With age, upper forewing becomes progressively whiter from leading edge, extending backwards towards central wing, while immature Wandering Albatross forewings whiten in a blocky fashion, breaking from the centre and spreading forwards. Monotypic. **SH** Breeds in subantarctic New Zealand. Regular but rare in open ocean pelagic waters of GSA, occurring year-round but more frequently Jul–Oct. **Voice** Mostly silent, but squawking, shrill yells and bill-clapping occurs while competing for food.

Northern Royal Albatross *Diomedea sanfordi* **EN** 100–120cm, 39–47"; WS 270–340cm, 106–134"



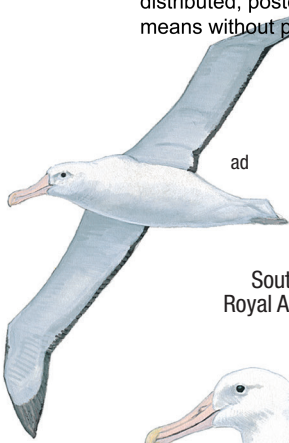
Slightly smaller and narrower-winged than Southern Royal Albatross. Upperwings always **all-black at all stages, with sharp transition to white back**. Underwings have distinctive **black smudged carpal patches** on underside of primary bases (absent in some juveniles and immatures). Adult has white head, mantle, body and tail. Immature similar to adult (including dark wings) with smudgy blotches spreading from shoulders onto mantle and rump, and a black-tipped white tail. Immature **lacks white leading edge between shoulder and wrist** of immature Southern Royal, and has more extensive mottling. Monotypic. **SH** Breeds in subantarctic New Zealand. Regular but rare in open ocean pelagic waters in GSA, occurring year-round but more frequently May–Sep. More common than Southern Royal Albatross at African continental shelf. **Voice** Mostly silent, but squawking, shrill yells and bill-clapping occurs while competing for food.

LAYSAN ALBATROSS *Phoebastria* is a genus of North Pacific albatrosses with a predominantly tropical distribution. *Laysan* breeds mostly in Hawaii; a rare vagrant to GSA.

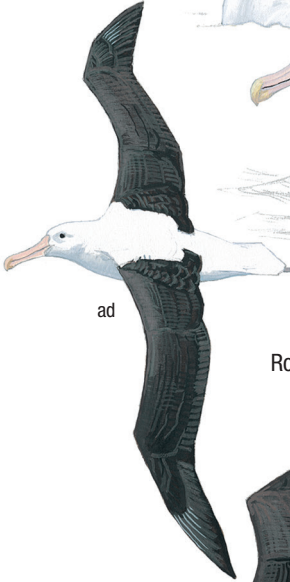
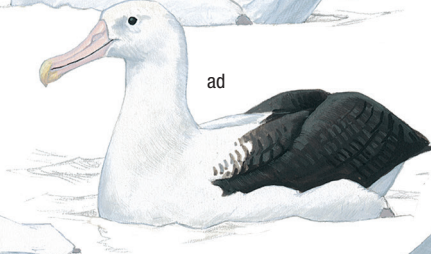
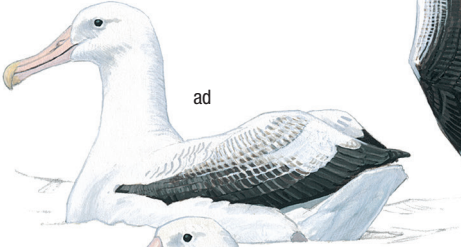
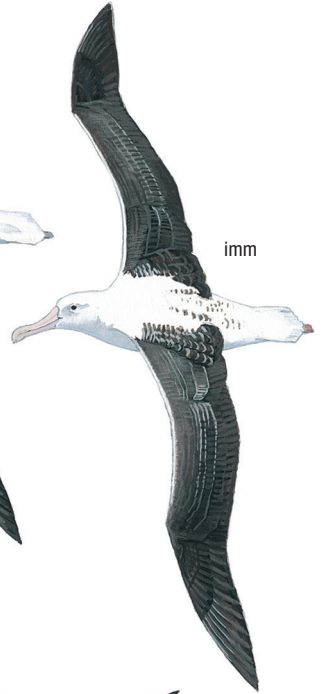
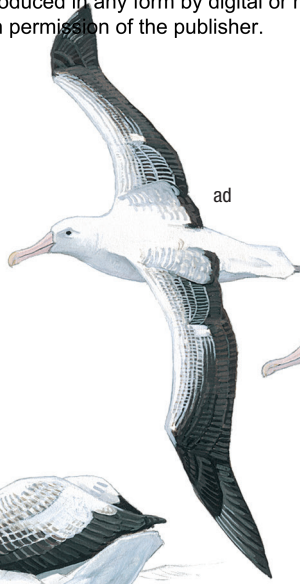
Laysan Albatross *Phoebastria immutabilis* **NT** 79–81cm, 31"; WS 200cm, 79"



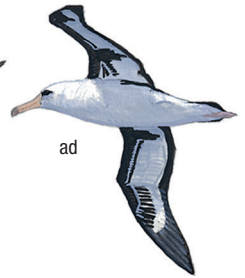
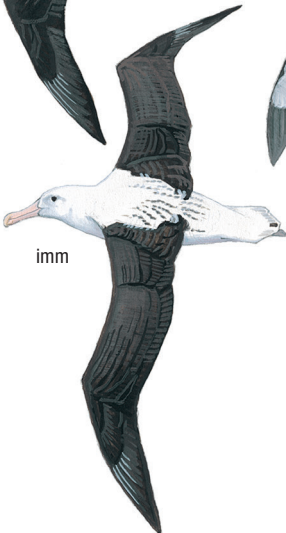
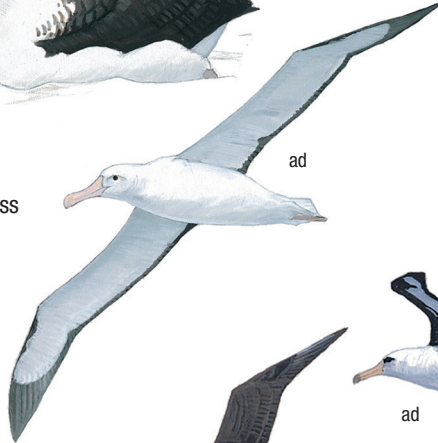
Small, slight albatross with **pinkish grey-tipped bill** and very short tail; **feet often project beyond tail in flight**. Adult resembles mollymawks (Plates 6 and 7) with slate-grey upperwings, paler back, and a dark tail contrasting with pale head, rump and underparts; **extensive dark upper rump patch** unique. Dark eye smudge shared with Black-browed Albatross (Plate 6), but Laysan has **dusky cheek**. Underwing white with variable black margins showing either small or large amounts of dark smudging on underwing-coverts, especially at carpal and elbow joints. Immature similar to adult, with grey bill and more extensive dark upper rump. Monotypic. **SH** Breeds in Northern Hemisphere. Extremely rare vagrant to open ocean pelagic waters in GSA. **Voice** Mostly silent, groaning and gurgling at sea.



Southern
Royal Albatross



Northern
Royal Albatross



Laysan Albatross

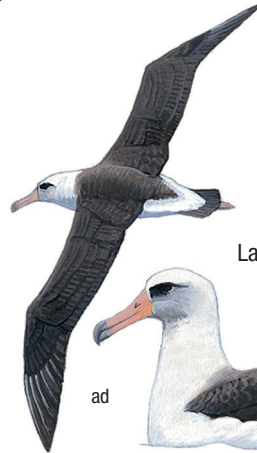
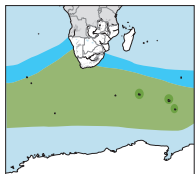


PLATE 6: MOLLYMAWKS

MOLLYMAWKS Dark-backed pelagic albatrosses, smaller than great albatrosses (Plates 4 and 5). Bill, head and underwing patterns aid identification. Sexes similar, but females slightly smaller.

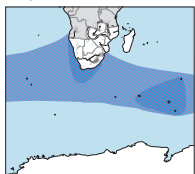
Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris* 80–94cm, 32–37"; WS 210–250cm, 83–98"



Medium-sized mollymawk with dark slaty back, tail and upperwings (uniformly darker than Shy albatrosses). Adult has very dark underwings, with broad dark margins and wingtips framing a narrow white centre, white head and rump; stylish black eye-shadow patch extends behind eye. Bill **yellow-orange with red-pink tip**. Similar Laysan Albatross (Plate 5) has dusky cheeks, dark rump, and distinctive underwing pattern especially at carpal and 'elbow' joints. Immature similar to immature Shy albatrosses with smudgy grey collar and pale grey bill with dark tip; underwings almost all dark. Juvenile has more slender neck, and paler bill and face, than very similar juvenile Grey-headed Albatross (Plate 7). Monotypic. **SH** Breeds (Sep–Apr) on Crozet and Kerguelen (c.4,100 pairs), rarely Marion; common visitor (Apr–Sep) to African coastal pelagic waters, particularly Benguela Current, where it commonly attends ships, but also reaches SMOz; immatures remain year-round. Flight taut, more direct than other albatrosses. **Voice** Calls when squabbling over food, a goose-like honking.

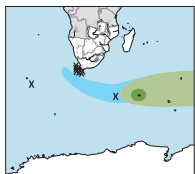
SHY ALBATROSSES Three species of large, heavily built mollymawks with similar white bodies, blackish wings often with a paler slate-grey mantle (occasionally almost white) and a black tail. Underwings whitest of all mollymawks, with very narrow black margins, and characteristic 'thumb-mark' on leading edge of underwing at shoulder. Head, nape and bill coloration, and distal underwing pattern, aid identification. Juvenile Shy albatrosses all identical with head, neck and throat often off-grey, imparting a hooded appearance. Vocally, all have similar low guttural and nasal calls.

Shy Albatross *Thalassarche cauta* NT 90–100cm, 35–39"; WS 210–260cm, 83–101"



Adult has distinctly **whitish head, neck, nape and upper back, pale grey cheeks** and short dark eyebrow imparting white-capped appearance. Distal tips of underwings have **large amount of white on bases of primaries**, resulting in **small black wingtips**. Two races occur that may be distinct species; both have mostly **grey-green** bills: some nominate (**Shy Albatross**) have yellowish culminicorn base; and some larger **steadi** (**White-capped Albatross**) have duller blue-grey-horn culminicorn base. Both races have **upper and lower mandibles distinctively tipped yellow** (dark-tipped lower mandible in adult Salvin's and Chatham Albatrosses). Immature has grey dark-tipped bill with tip of upper mandible becoming yellow with age, while tip of lower mandible remains dark until adult. Underwing similar to adult; differs from others in this group by paler head and often a grey collar. **SH** Common visitor (especially immatures) to temperate waters in GSA, particularly Benguela Current, but also reaches SMOz; more frequent Apr–Oct. Ranges closer to mainland than other albatross and often seen from shore. Race **steadi** much more common than nominate.

Salvin's Albatross *Thalassarche salvini* VU 90–100cm, 35–39"; WS 230–250cm, 89–98"



Adult similar to Shy Albatross, but has pale grey head, cheeks and throat forming distinctive pale grey hood. Upper back and nape silvery, emphasising paler crown. Could be confused with immature Shy Albatross, but unique **olive-brown bill with butter-coloured culmen**, and **dark tip to lower (sometimes also dark smudge on upper) mandible**, diagnostic. Black underwing tip is intermediate between Shy and Chatham Albatrosses, with most visible primaries appearing black. Immature similar to Shy Albatross, but hood darker and bill more pink-yellow (not grey); wing pattern as adult. Monotypic. **SH** Few pairs breed on Crozet; elsewhere vagrant to GSA pelagic waters.

Chatham Albatross *Thalassarche eremita* VU 90–100cm, 35–39"; WS 220–250cm, 87–96"



Adult similar to Salvin's Albatross, but has dark sooty-grey head, nape, cheeks and throat forming distinctive dark hood. White crescent behind eye contrasts with dark face. Unique **entirely bright yellow bill with dark tip to lower (sometimes also dark smudge on upper) mandible** diagnostic. Black underwing tip darkest of group, with all visible primaries appearing black; darker than Shy and Salvin's Albatrosses. Immature has incredibly dark head (darker than adult) lacking white. Bill dark-tipped, but pale green-yellow, never as dull grey-green as Shy or Salvin's immatures. Wing pattern as adult. Monotypic. **SH** Vagrant to GSA pelagic waters.

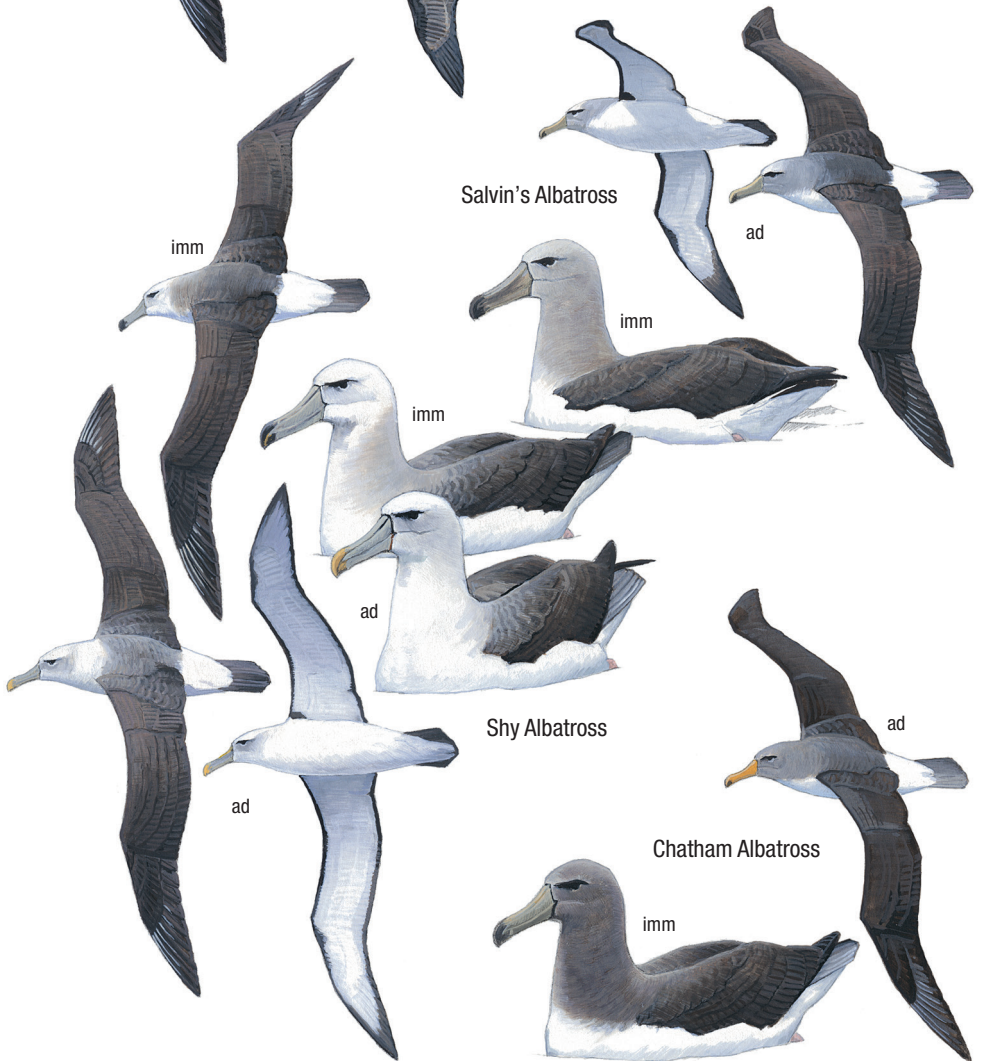
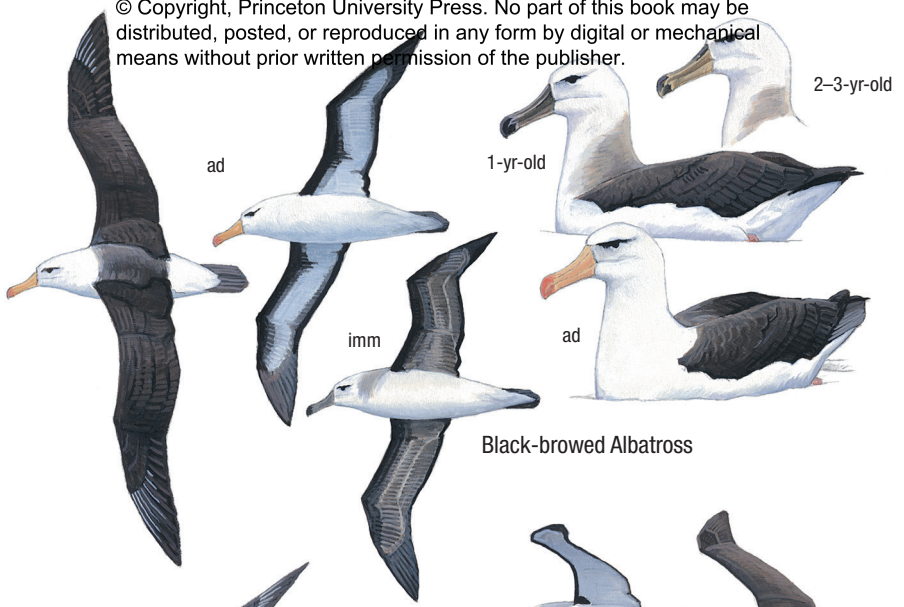
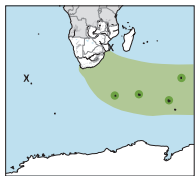


PLATE 7: MOLLYMAWKS II

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YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSSES *Smaller than other mollymawks (Plate 6), these elegant albatrosses are dark-backed with pale rumps and black tails. Bills are comparatively slender, with black sides and bright yellow-to-orange culmens and tips. Overall size, head shape and colour, extent and shape of yellow-orange stripes on mandibles, and underlying pattern aid identification. Sexes similar; females slightly smaller. Vocally all have similar wailing and croaking calls.*

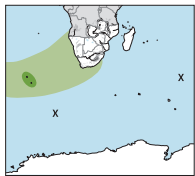
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche carteri* EN 75–80cm, 30–31"; WS 200–220cm, 79–87"



Adult has mostly **white head (with pale greyish cheeks)** and a **small dark triangular patch in front of eye**; upper mandible has bright yellow stripe which often tapers as **sharp 'arrow-shaped' point near bill base** (visible only at close range), bill tip rosy-orange, lower mandible all dark. Underwings have broad leading edge, narrower trailing edge, and dark wingtips. Very similar Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross has more restricted pale forecrown, stronger grey wash to face, head and nape imparting a more 'capped' appearance and most have upper-mandible stripes that taper in a broader rounded shape near the bill base. Differs from Buller's and Grey-headed by paler grey head and lacking yellow on lower mandible. Juvenile and immature have black bills, normally paler on head than immature Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross with reduced black smudge before eye, but some pale-headed individuals of both species are inseparable. Monotypic. **SH** Common breeding endemic on Amsterdam (c.28,000 pairs), Prince Edward (c.6,000 pairs) and Crozet (c.7,000 pairs); uncommon Kerguelen and St Paul. Regular visitor to African coastal pelagic waters, especially east coast (May–Sep), reaching offshore SMoz. **Note** Formerly considered conspecific with Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross.

Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos* EN

72–78cm, 28–31"; WS 180–210cm, 71–83"



Adult very similar to adult Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross but has slightly **darker grey face, head and nape**, giving appearance of a paler crown. Yellow-orange culmen stripe often **tapers at bill-base in rounded point** (not sharp arrow shape); **dark triangular loreal spot larger** than Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross. Differs from Buller's and Grey-headed by paler grey head and lacking yellow on lower mandible. Juvenile and immature have black bills, usually darker heads than immature Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross and extensive black smudge before eye, but some pale-headed individuals of both species inseparable. Monotypic. **SH** Common breeding endemic on Tristan da Cunha archipelago and Gough (c.14,000 pairs). In African coastal pelagic waters common between Nam and ESAf (Jun–Sep), uncommon further east. **Note** Formerly considered conspecific with Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross.

Buller's Albatross *Thalassarche bulleri* NT

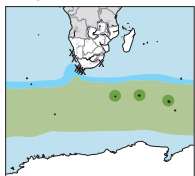
76–81cm, 30–32"; WS c.200cm, 79"



Similar to Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross but slightly larger, with a much darker face and nape, creating a hood. Pale forecrown (extending over eyes) gives distinctive pale **'capped' appearance**. Dark loreal patch gives distinctive sunken-eyed look. Bright **yellow-orange stripes along entire outer edges of both mandibles**. Underwing very white with narrow neat well-defined dark margins, unlike Grey-headed, which has broader ragged dark margins, especially at leading edge near 'elbow'. Immature has grey hood, pale cap and dirty brown collar similar to immature Grey-headed, but whiter underwing and dark loreal patch. Juvenile is dark-billed and similar to Shy Albatross, but smaller with broader underwing margins. Two races may occur: nominate has **paler head and whiter cap**; *platei* has **darker head and silvery cap**; both breed off New Zealand. **SH** Very rare vagrant to open ocean pelagic waters.

Grey-headed Albatross *Thalassarche chrysostoma* EN

75–88cm, 30–35"; WS c.200cm, 79"



Adult similar to Buller's Albatross, but with darker **all sooty-grey hood**, lacking paler cap. Bill similar to Buller's Albatross but with **pinkish tip** to upper mandible, and yellow on lower mandible **not reaching tip**. Underwing has **ragged broad black leading edge** and narrow black trailing edge, differentiating it from other 'yellow-nosed' albatrosses. Immature has grey-brown bill and grey-hood (often with paler cheeks or crown); underwing all dark and very similar to immature Black-browed Albatross (Plate 6), but shorter pointed wingtips, more bullish neck, and rounder head help identify. Monotypic. **SH** Common breeder on Prince Edwards (c.7,700 pairs), Crozet (c.6,000 pairs) and Kerguelen (c.7,900 pairs). Rare visitor to African open ocean pelagic waters, mostly juveniles and immatures in Jun–Aug.

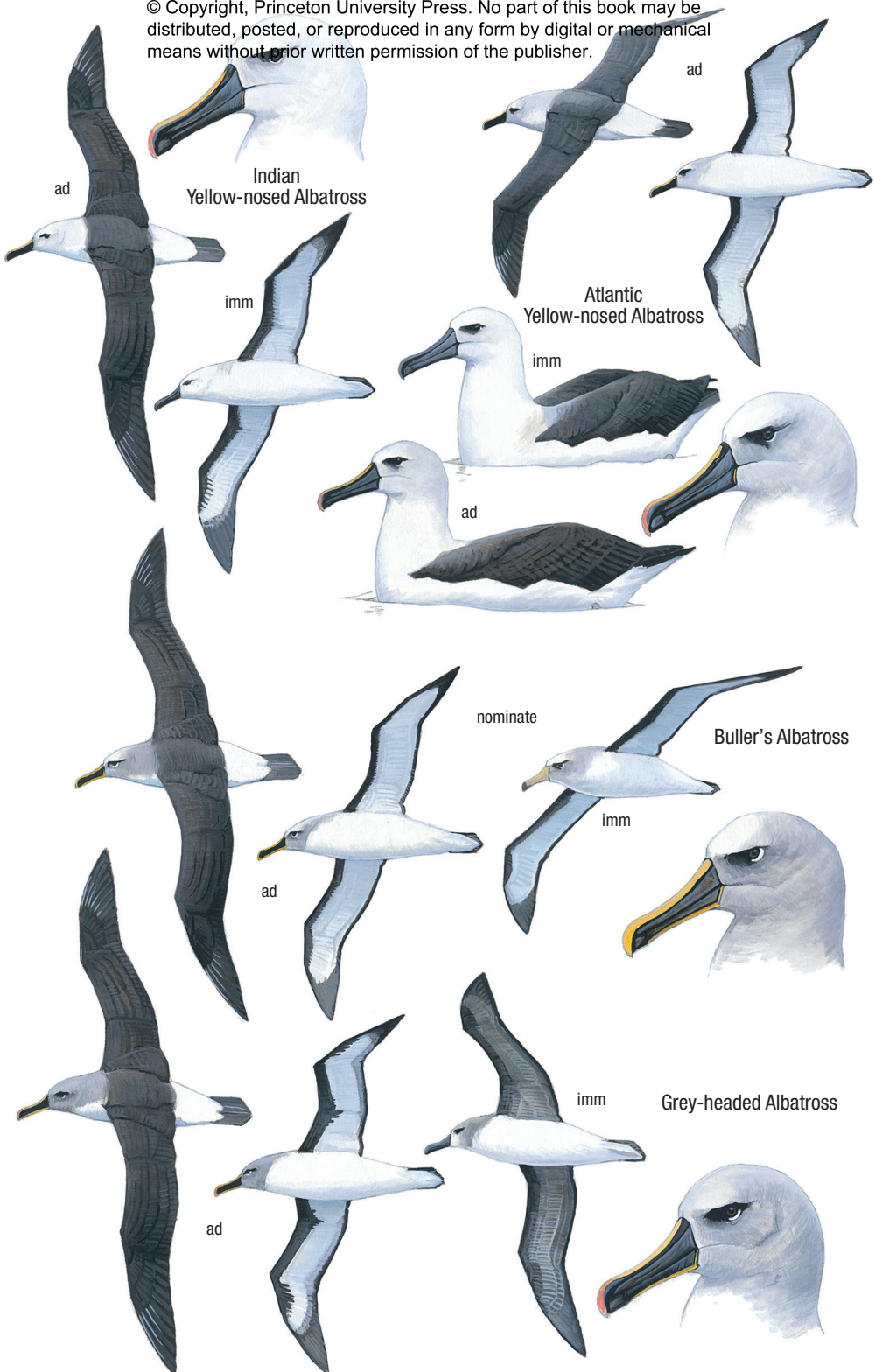
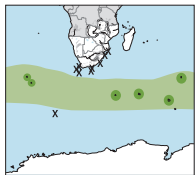


PLATE 8: DARK ALBATROSSES AND GIANT PETRELS.

DARK ALBATROSSES Sleek, elegant all-dark sooty-brown albatrosses with pointed wings, wedge-shaped tails, and white crescents above and behind their eyes. Fluent graceful flight, smoother and often higher over the water than other albatrosses. Males larger than females.

Sooty Albatross *Phoebastria fusca* EN

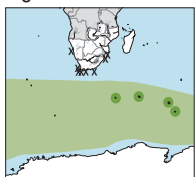
84–89cm, 33–35"; WS 200cm, 79"



Adult has **uniformly dark back, rump and upperwings**. Worn birds may show mottled nape, mantle and back inviting confusion with Light-mantled Albatross but, even when worn, **rump and upperwing remain dark and concolorous**. At close range shows diagnostic **yellow or orange stripe** on lower mandible; **partial eye-ring more extensive (270°)** but narrower than Light-mantled. Juvenile and immature have dark bill, dingier eye-ring, and sometimes paler buff-mottled scaly collar and mantle; darker than immature Light-mantled, and **mottling does not reach rump**. Monotypic. **SH** Common endemic breeder on Gough (c.5,000 pairs), Tristan da Cunha (c.3,000 pairs), Prince Edward (c.1,450 pairs), Marion (c.1,700 pairs), Crozet (c.2,000 pairs), Kerguelen and Amsterdam (c.470 pairs). At sea, rare north of 38°S; scarce vagrant to African shelf pelagic waters, mainly Jun–Oct; has reached SMOz and Bouvetøya. Solitary deep-water specialist, avoiding congregations at trawlers. **Voice** At breeding colony utters distinctive *peeo* sky-call. Silent at sea. [Alt. Dark-mantled Sooty Albatross]

Light-mantled Albatross *Phoebastria palpebrata* NT

78–93cm, 31–37"; WS 180–230cm, 71–91"

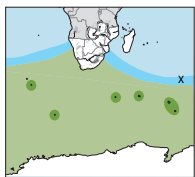


Adult has **ashy mantle and pearly-grey back and rump** contrasting with 'Siamese-cat-like' **darker smoky-brown head, tail and upperwings**. At close range adult shows diagnostic **cobalt-blue stripe** on lower mandible; **partial eye-ring less extensive (210°)** but broader than Sooty Albatross. In flight, when seen head-on, dark head and paler body gives 'bullseye' appearance. Immature has darker bill and dingier eye-ring. Differs from similar immature Sooty Albatross by paler and colder overall body colour, and **patchy mottling extends to lower back and rump**. Juvenile often very pale. Monotypic. **SH** Breeds commonly on Kerguelen (c.4,000 pairs) and Crozet (c.2,000 pairs), and uncommonly on Marion (c.350 pairs) and Prince Edward (c.130 pairs). At sea, rare north of 40°S; scarce vagrant to African shelf pelagic waters reaching SMOz, mainly May–Sep. **Voice** At breeding colonies utters distinctive *nhaaaah-eeeeer* sky-call. Silent at sea. [Alt. Light-mantled Sooty Albatross]

GIANT PETRELS These massive fulmarine petrels are bulky and robust in flight with broader and shorter wings and more flapping than similar-sized albatrosses. They are proportionately large-headed with bull necks, humped backs, short blunt tails and chunky straw-coloured bills. Head and bill-tip coloration aids identification. Prime scavengers on land at seal and penguin colonies. Males average c.20 per cent heavier than females.

Southern Giant Petrel *Macronectes giganteus*

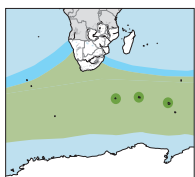
80–100cm, 31–39"; WS 150–210cm, 59–83"



Lime-green bill tip is diagnostic but difficult to detect in young birds. Two distinct colour morphs occur; common adult dark morph is variably blotchy, mottled or two-toned, grey or chocolate-brown with contrasting whitish throat, head and upper breast; bill may look all pale. Juvenile blackish-brown, becoming more grey-brown and whitening with age. Both adult and juvenile of rare white morph are **white daubed with black blotches, and have a pale bill**. Immature plumage of both species of giant petrels almost identical. Monotypic. **SH** Common breeder on Gough, Prince Edwards, Crozet, Kerguelen and Bouvetøya, and Antarctica. Common year-round visitor to African coastal waters from NNam to SMOz, more abundant May–Sep. Open ocean, occasionally close inshore; attends fishing boats, squabbling for scraps. **Voice** Growls, grunts and whines, lower-pitched than Northern Giant Petrel.

Northern Giant Petrel *Macronectes halli*

85–100cm, 33–39"; WS 150–210cm, 59–83"



Adult typically has darker head than similar Southern Giant Petrel, with snowy speckling mostly restricted around bill base and eye; at close range shows diagnostic **reddish bill tip**. Immature plumage of both giant petrels almost identical, but **bill-tip colour** diagnostic as birds age. No white morph. Monotypic. **SH** Fairly common breeder on Prince Edwards (c.950 pairs), Crozet (c.1,300 pairs) and Kerguelen (c.1,600 pairs); rare Amsterdam (c.5 pairs). Common year-round visitor to African coastal waters from NNam to ESAf, perhaps SMOz; abundant Jun–Aug. Open ocean, occasionally close inshore; attends trawlers and other boats, squabbling for scraps. **Voice** Growls, grunts and whines, higher-pitched than Southern Giant Petrel.

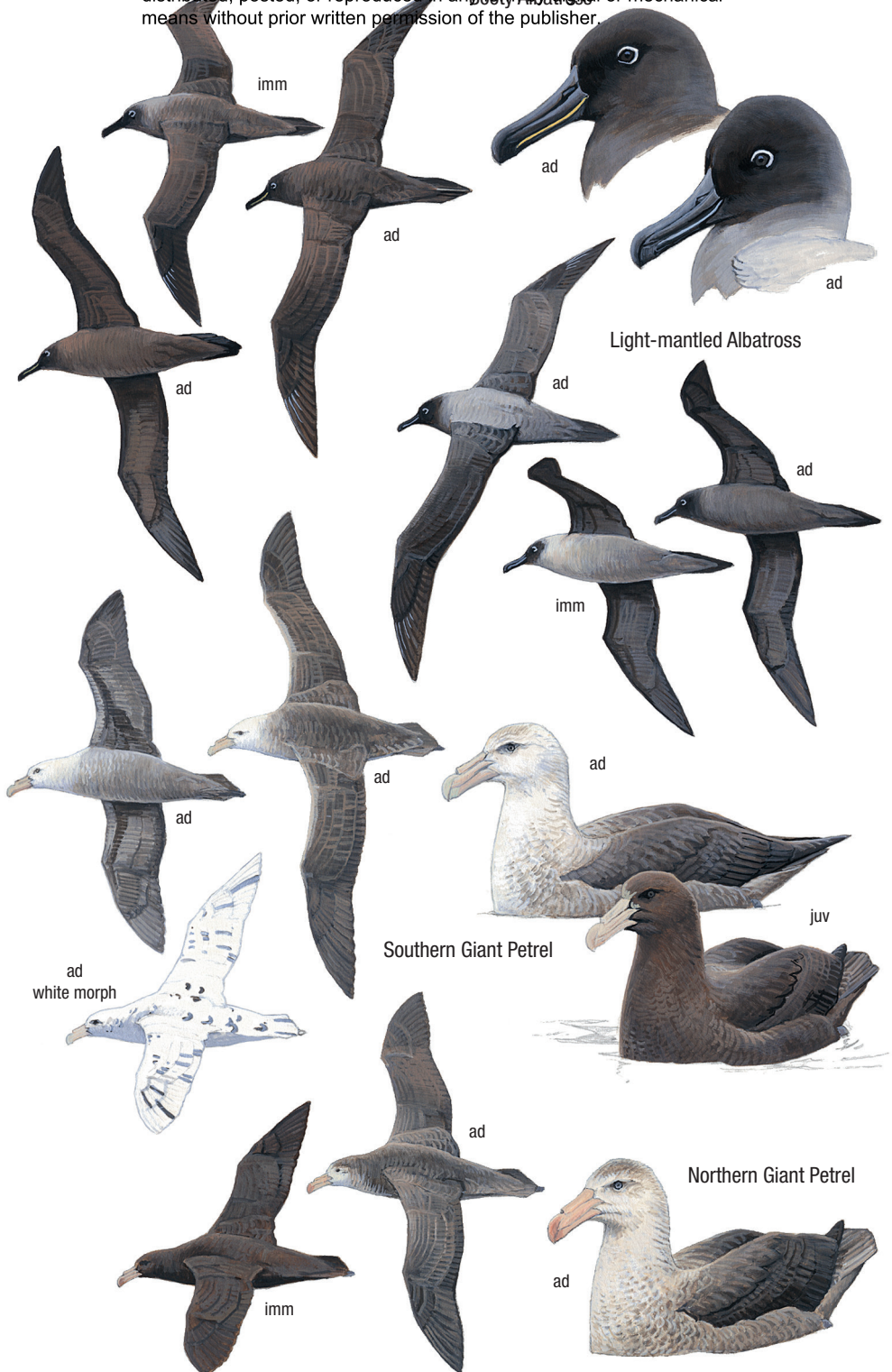
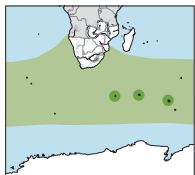


PLATE 9: DARK PETRELS

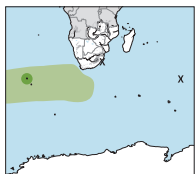
DARK PETRELS A group of similarly dark-plumaged petrels separated by size, underwing patterns and bill (shape and colour). Sexes and immature plumage alike in all species.

White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis* **VU** 50–58cm, 20–23"; WS 132–147cm, 52–58"



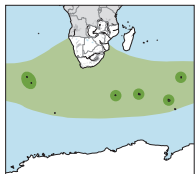
Large, powerful, *uniform blackish-brown petrel with a long chunky ivory-yellow bill*. Size intermediate between giant petrels and smaller dark petrels, with bulbous head and short neck, wings comparatively broad, tail short and wedge-shaped, with feet projecting slightly. At close range shows pale chin patch (not always present) and creamy bill with *pale tip to upper mandible* and black skin between bill plates and nostrils. Leucistic individuals with white patches on head may be confused with Spectacled Petrel, but forehead always dark and white usually distributed irregularly, often on body, tail and wings. Flight steady and deliberate with shallow wingbeats often interspersed by long glides; wings arced and often pushed forward. In strong winds, sweeps up and down powerfully in graceful dynamic soaring, like large gadfly (Plate 11), on strongly bowed wings. Monotypic. **SH** Abundant subantarctic breeding seabird with tens to hundreds of thousands of pairs on Kerguelen, Crozet, Marion and Prince Edward. Abundant year-round in African coastal pelagic waters from NNam to CMoz, and frequently seen from land or following ships. **Voice** Long high-pitched rattle call at burrows. Squabbles noisily over food at sea.

Spectacled Petrel *Procellaria conspicillata* **VU** 50–58cm, 20–23"; WS 132–147cm, 52–58"



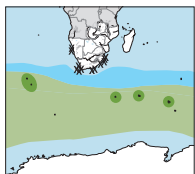
Similar to White-chinned Petrel, but has variable *white crescent-shaped goggles* that usually *extend from forehead around base of bill and eyes and terminate on ear-coverts*. These variable markings can be highly reduced or indistinct, inviting confusion with leucistic White-chinned Petrel, but whitish bill often dark-tipped. Flight as White-chinned Petrel. Monotypic. **SH** Breeding endemic to Inaccessible Island (c.30,000 pairs). Rare but regular year-round visitor to WSAf coastal pelagic shelf waters; vagrant further east. **Voice** Shorter and lower-pitched rattle than White-chinned Petrel; groaning calls.

Great-winged Petrel *Pterodroma macroptera* 38–43cm, 15–17"; WS 97–100cm, 38–39"



Medium-sized sooty grey-brown, heavy-bodied petrel with large head, bull neck and long, narrow, pointed wings; *dark bill is short and deep*. Smaller and less powerful in flight than either pale-billed *Procellaria* species. Variable, grizzled *grey-white mask restricted to bill base and chin*; sometimes residual or absent. Pale-margined upperwing-coverts give scaly appearance. Underwing often appears all dark, but flight feathers are paler than coverts; contrast never as strong as daintier glossy grey Kerguelen and dark-morph Trindade Petrels (Plate 11). Flight fast and graceful, wings strongly flexed at wrists, and heavy head and bill angled downward, giving it a characteristic jizz. Monotypic. **SH** Abundant breeder (Mar–Oct) on Gough, Prince Edwards, Crozet and Kerguelen; uncommon on St Paul and Tristan group. Common off African coast, preferring pelagic waters deeper than 2,000m, widespread at shelf-edge reaching NNam and CMoz, especially Oct–Apr. **Voice** High-pitched *ki-ki-ki* whistles and moans. Often silent at sea. **Note** Formerly considered conspecific with Grey-faced Petrel *P. gouldi*, which is claimed (but unconfirmed) from ESAf waters.

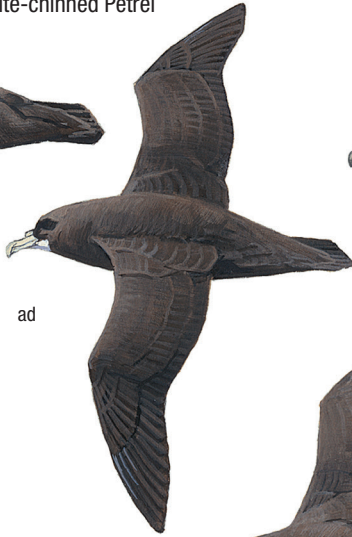
Kerguelen Petrel *Aphrodroma brevirostris* 33–36cm, 13–14"; WS 80–82cm, 31–32"



A small thickset petrel with short stubby bill, bulky head and neck, and narrow wings. Upperparts uniform glossy slate-grey, although head often appears darker; slightly paler below, uniform with *silver-grey leading edge to wings* (shoulder to wrist) and *greyish flight feathers on underwing that often 'flash' silver* when bird banks sharply. Similar robust-billed Great-winged Petrel larger, browner and longer-winged, without contrasting pattern in underwings. Rare dark-morph Soft-plumaged Petrel (Plate 11) lacks silver wing flashes and has shadow 'M' pattern on back. Solitary, strong flier, with distinctive jizz, raking glides skimming waves rapidly transformed into large looping arcs high over surface (up to 50m, apparently hanging 'kestrel-like'), with occasional short sharp wingbeats. Monotypic. **SH** Breeding near-endemic; abundant on Gough and Kerguelen, common on Inaccessible, Crozet and Prince Edwards. Very rare north of 45°S, preferring deeper waters, but irruptions have occurred; avoids ships. **Voice** High-pitched grating continuous *che-che-che* call at burrows. Silent at sea. **Note** Sometimes placed in either *Lugensa* or *Pterodroma*.



White-chinned Petrel



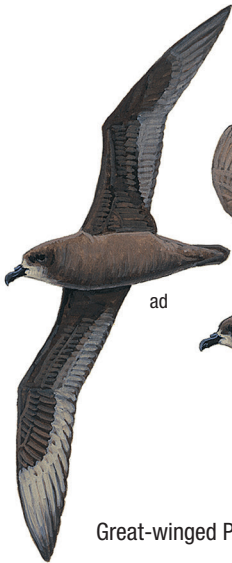
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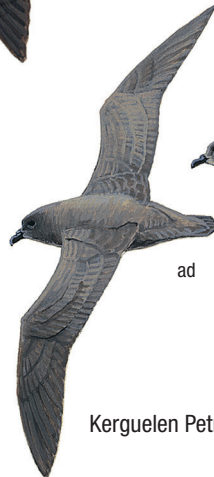


Spectacled Petrel



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Great-winged Petrel



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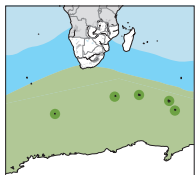
Kerguelen Petrel

PLATE 10: DISTINCTIVE PETRELS

SHEARWATERS AND PETRELS A varied group of black, grey and white seabirds. At close range most are easily identified, but can be difficult at distance. With experience, some can be identified by flight characteristics. Sexes and immatures alike.

Cape Petrel *Daption capense*

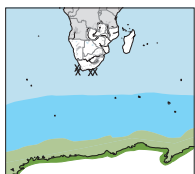
35–40cm, 14–16"; WS 81–91cm, 32–36"



Distinctive compact pigeon-like pied petrel, with retracted rounded head and podgy body. Upperparts **chequered black and white, with bold white upperwing patches**. Below, mostly white with black wing margins and broad dark terminal tail-band. Rare leucistic birds occur. Juvenile has greyer wash. Distinctive flight, highly manoeuvrable, low over water with rapid wingbeats on stiff wings interspersed with gliding. Two races may occur: nominate is regular; smaller *australe* (with less white on upperparts) claimed near Marion but unconfirmed. **SH** Abundant subantarctic and Antarctic breeder, with small colonies on Bouvetøya, Marion, Crozet and Kerguelen. Common in African pelagic waters from NNam to CMoz with densities greatest on west coast in May–Nov. Gregarious, congregating around shelf-break in small groups, bobs head when swimming; attracted to ships. **Voice** Honking, clicking and cackling *khee-kherre-khee* when feeding. [Alt. Pintado Petrel]

Antarctic Petrel *Thalassoica antarctica*

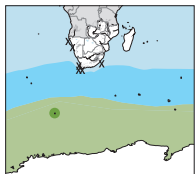
40–46 cm, 16–18"; WS 100–110, 39–43"



Large; boldly patterned brown-and-white petrel with **dark hood, back and rump, and unique white upperwing panel from wing base to inner primaries**; tail **white with narrow black tip**. Duller when worn, may show paler collar. Could be confused with Cape Petrel, but larger, lacks spots and chequering on upperparts, wings and rump. Monotypic. **SH** Common breeder in Antarctica. Disperses north to Antarctic Convergence in May–Sep, rare north of 50°S. Vagrant to subantarctic islands and African pelagic waters. **Voice** At colony, nagging croaking and wheezing *krhukk-hukk-hukk* calls. Silent at sea.

Southern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialisoides*

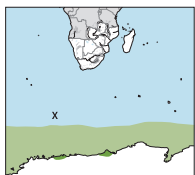
45–50cm, 18–20"; WS 114–120cm, 45–48"



Elegant gull-like petrel with bullish neck, rounded head, steep forehead and **pink bill with dark tip**; at close range **blue-grey nostrils**. Sleek dove-grey back and tail gently contrast with whitish head; upperwings mostly grey with dark trailing edge, primaries have **strong white-window splash, with sooty outer webs**. Graceful flight with a weightless impression, making shallow wingbeats interspersed by wheeling glides on broad rounded wings. Monotypic. **SH** Abundant colonial breeder (Oct–Mar) on ledges in Antarctica and Bouvetøya. Post breeding (Apr–Sep) ranges north to 40°S, where common around subantarctic islands. Prone to irruptions; rare to uncommon (depending on year) in deeper pelagic waters of coastal WSAf east to Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth), vagrant elsewhere. Attracted to ships. **Voice** Cackling and rattling calls when feeding. [Alt. Antarctic Fulmar]

Snow Petrel *Pagodroma nivea*

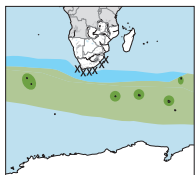
30–40cm, 11–16"; WS 75–95cm, 30–37"



Unique **all-white petrel with long narrow wings, short black bill and black eyes**, like white doves of peace. Rare leucistic Cape Petrel would average larger and shorter-winged. Sheathbills are podgier and clumsier, lacking elegant flight of petrels. Juvenile finely vermiculated grey. Distinctive erratic jerky bat-like flight with shallow wingbeats and changes of direction, but little gliding. Birds in GSA are the nominate race. **SH** Breeds in coastal and inland Antarctica and formerly on Bouvetøya, foraging over pack-ice. Rare north of 55°S. **Voice** Occasionally gives twittering call when foraging. **Note** Some authorities consider this to be two species: Lesser Snow Petrel *P. nivea*; and slightly larger and heavier-billed Greater Snow Petrel *P. major*.

Grey Petrel *Procellaria cinerea* NT

48–50cm, 19–20"; WS 115–130cm, 46–52"



Large sturdy petrel, with long narrow wings and wedge-shaped tail. Distinctive combination of **ashy grey-brown upperparts (slightly paler mantle and forewings), mostly white underparts and dark underwings with silvery sheen**. Slender **shearwater-like bill is greenish-yellow**. Similar *Calonectris* shearwaters (Plate 14) are broader-winged with mostly white underwings. Strong flier, with albatross-like glides and occasional shallow jerky wingbeats. Monotypic. **SH** Colonial breeder (Mar–Sep); fairly common on Gough, Prince Edwards, Crozet and Kerguelen; uncommon on Tristan archipelago and Amsterdam. Disperses north (Oct–Feb) to deep water at 58–32°S. Very rare visitor (Jun–Nov) to African pelagic waters. Solitary but attracted to ships and forages with cetaceans. **Voice** At breeding colonies gives moans, quacks and rattles. Silent at sea.

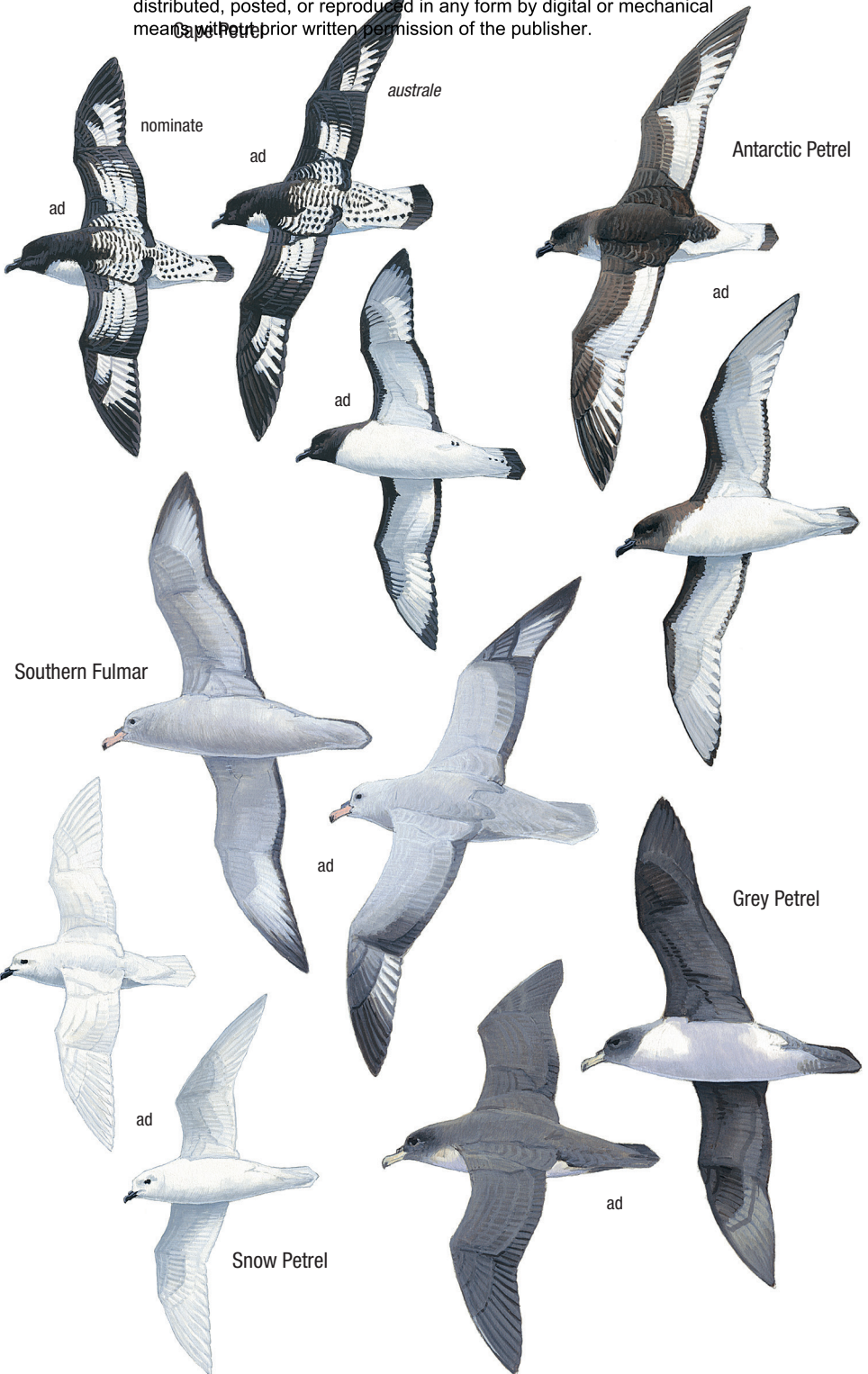
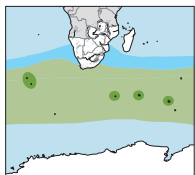


PLATE 11: GADFLY PETRELS

Medium-sized petrels with short, chunky bills, bull necks, long narrow wings and tapering wedge-shaped tails. All perform steeply-arcing flight on stiff angled wings. Complex wing and facial patterns aid identification. Compare with other potential vagrant gadfly petrels in *Vagrants Watchlist* (p. 582). Sexes and immatures alike.

Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis*

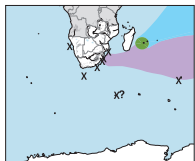
32–37cm, 13–15"; WS 83–95cm, 33–37"



Moderately small gadfly with grey-blue upperparts crossed by darker grey-brown 'M' pattern across back and wings. **Underparts mostly white with grey collar** (sometimes absent); underwings usually have pale inner forewing, marginally paler flight feathers, and dark grey coverts creating darker mid-band from wrist to armpit, but this varies and can be indistinct. Combination of **largely grey underwing and grey collar on white underparts** diagnostic in GSA. At close range shows grey forecrown, indistinct white eyebrow and dark eye-patch. Rare dark morph similar to Kerguelen Petrel (Plate 9) but lacks silver underwing flashes. Two races occur: nominate (breeds Gough and Tristan) is paler with narrower breast-band than *dubia* (breeds Marion, Crozet and Kerguelen); latter has grey (not whitish) outer tail feathers. **SH** Breeds commonly on subantarctic islands. Ranges at 50–20°S, rare further north. Uncommon visitor to African coastal pelagic waters May–Oct, preferring deeper water. **Voice** Musical moaning and squeaks when breeding. Silent at sea.

Barau's Petrel *Pterodroma baraui* EN

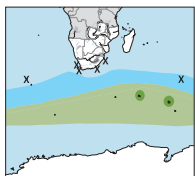
38cm, 15"; WS 96cm, 38"



Medium-sized, long-winged and long-tailed gadfly with bold black markings on white underwings; **broad dark leading edge smudge tapers from base of primaries and carpal joint across central underwing-coverts**. Upperparts mid-grey with broad dark 'M' pattern on back and wings. **White forehead, dark cap and eye-patch** characteristic in GSA. Monotypic. **SH** Breeds (Sep–Mar) on Reunion in Indian Ocean; disperses widely. Small numbers regular in deep pelagic waters off ESAf and Moz, mostly Sep–Nov; vagrant Marion and St Paul. **Voice** Silent at sea.

White-headed Petrel *Pterodroma lessonii*

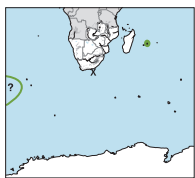
40–46cm, 16–18"; WS 105–110cm, 41–43"



Largest gadfly, chunky white-bodied and dark-winged with **white head and black bill and eye-patches**. Dark grey upperwings with indistinct 'M' pattern grading into pearly mantle and neck. Underparts white (sometimes with complete or partial diffuse pale grey collar), contrasting with ashy underwings. Smaller Soft-plumaged Petrel has darker cap, rump and uppertail, and broader collar. Monotypic. **SH** Breeds (Aug–May) commonly on Kerguelen (c.30,000 pairs) and rarely on Crozet (c.100s pairs); disperses to 65–35°S, rare further north. Rare vagrant to Tristan, St Paul and SAf pelagic waters. Solitary on open ocean. Rarely follows ships. **Voice** Shrill whistles and moans. Silent at sea.

Trindade Petrel *Pterodroma arminjoniana* VU

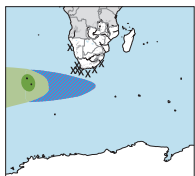
35–40cm, 14–16"; WS 88–102cm, 35–40"



Medium-large highly variable gadfly with three polychromatic 'morphs' all showing **white bases to flight feathers creating white flashes in dark underwing which extend from outer primaries to armpits, often in mottled fashion**. Dark morph deep brown, resembling dark morph jaeger. Pale morph has whitish belly, throat and forecrown, and dark lores; larger Atlantic Petrel has all-dark head. Intermediate morph is variable between dark and pale morphs. Monotypic. **SH** Rare vagrant; satellite tracking shows Round Island breeders pass through SAf pelagic waters; one off Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth) displaying some Herald Petrel traits was possibly a hybrid (see below). **Note** Taxonomy complex and confused. On Round Island (Mauritius), hybridises extensively with Kermadec (which has white, not brown, primary shafts) and Herald Petrels; <50 per cent are genetically pure Trindade Petrel. See *Vagrants Watchlist* (p. 582).

Atlantic Petrel *Pterodroma incerta* EN

42–45cm, 17–18"; WS 110–115cm, 43–45"



Large, long-winged gadfly with **dark brown head and upper breast (usually forming a hood), lower breast and belly contrastingly white; vent and undertail dark. Underwings all dark** but in strong light slightly paler primary bases look silvery. At close range shows dark eye-patch and in worn plumage a mottled pale throat. Pale morph Trindade Petrel has pale marks in underwings. Tahiti Petrel (Plate 17) has white undertail. Rare dark morph Atlantic Petrel differs from dark morph Soft-plumaged Petrel by longer wings, larger size, brown not grey plumage tone, and jizz. Flight of Atlantic Petrel more direct and less zippy than other gadflies, with frequent flapping, especially at apex of arcing glides. Monotypic. **SH** Breeding endemic. Common breeder (Mar–Jan) on Gough (c.1.7 million pairs) and rare Tristan da Cunha. Solitary away from breeding islands, ranging uncommonly at 45–35°S. Rare vagrant to African pelagic waters (Jul–Nov), mostly west coast but has reached ESAf. **Voice** Silent at sea.

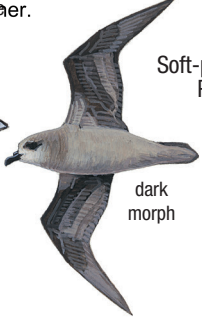
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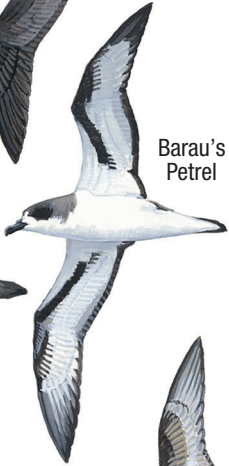
pale morph



dark morph



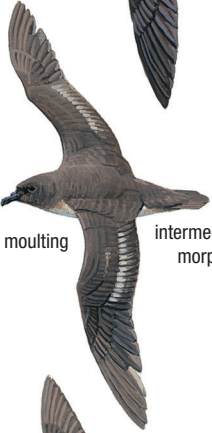
Soft-plumaged Petrel



Barau's Petrel



White-headed Petrel



moulting



intermediate morph



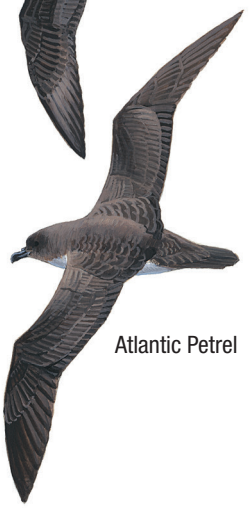
pale morph



dark morph



Trindade Petrel



Atlantic Petrel

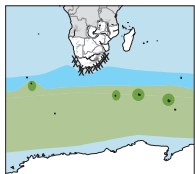
For general queries, contact info@press.princeton.edu

PLATE 12: BLUE PETREL AND PRIONS

BLUE PETREL This superficially prion-like petrel is the sole member of its genus.

Blue Petrel *Halobaena caerulea*

26–32cm, 10–13"; WS 58–71cm, 23–28"



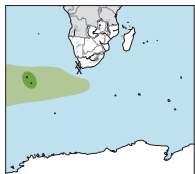
Small petrel, with a hybrid prion-like body and long wings and gadfly-like head. Blue-grey upperparts with dark 'M' pattern on wings, white underparts and pale underwings all resemble prions, **but has high white forehead, small all-dark bill, dark hood that spreads to nape and wraps onto lower neck in distinctive half-collar**, and square-cut **white-tipped tail**. Flies low over waves, with elegant and buoyant flight, more direct than prions. Monotypic. **SH** Abundant breeder (Aug–Feb) on Prince Edwards, Crozet and Kerguelen; scarce Gough. Forages near islands, disperses to open oceans 65–40°S in May–Aug. Rare vagrant to African pelagic waters, may irrupt in some years. Solitary or small groups forage with prions, increasing risk of confusion. **Voice** Pigeon-like cooing at breeding colony. Silent at sea.

PRIONS Delicate smallish blue-grey seabirds with distinctive 'M' pattern on upperwings, whitish supercilia and underparts, and long tails. Flight fluttering, with fast wingbeats and short glides. Incredibly difficult to separate with identification requiring careful examination of: (1) overall size and bulk; (2) bill size, proportions and colour, and exposure of lamellae (comb-like feeding filters on upper mandible); (3) head shape and facial pattern; (4) width of dark terminal tail-band; and (5) strength of 'M' across upperwings. Sexes and immatures alike. Features of Salvin's and Antarctic often impossible to determine except in hand, and some immatures still cannot be identified. All prions give cooing, chattering and crooning calls at breeding islands and are silent at sea. Taxonomy controversial, with some authorities considering MacGillivray's, Salvin's and Antarctic Prions conspecific or races of Broad-billed Prion.

WHALEBIRD PRIONS Larger prions with narrow tail-bands c.25 per cent of tail length, with distinct grey patches on sides of breast. Salvin's and Antarctic Prions often inseparable at sea.

Broad-billed Prion *Pachyptila vittata*

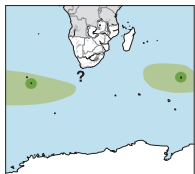
28–30cm, 11–12"; WS 62–66cm, 24–26"



Largest and most distinctive prion with **heaviest and broadest** (19–24 mm) bill, most exposed lamellae and **steep baseball-cap-shaped head (flat on top with steep forehead)**, imparting a cartoonish large-headed appearance. Bill darkest of all prions with **very dark grey upper mandible** and minimal blue restricted to lower mandible. Head pattern variable but usually darker than other prions with greyish lores and narrow supercilium mostly behind eye; broad breast patches can form pronounced collar. Smaller prions have paler crowns and upper breast, narrower bluer bills, and mostly pale (not greyish) lores. Flight slower and steadier than other prions in lighter winds, fast and powerful in strong winds. Monotypic. **SH** Abundant breeder (Aug–Jan) on Gough and Tristan da Cunha. Largely resident, but ranges north to 30°S, where rare vagrant in African pelagic waters.

MacGillivray's Prion *Pachyptila macgillivrayi* CR

25–28cm, 10–11"; WS 57–58cm, 22–23"



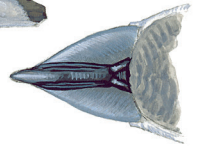
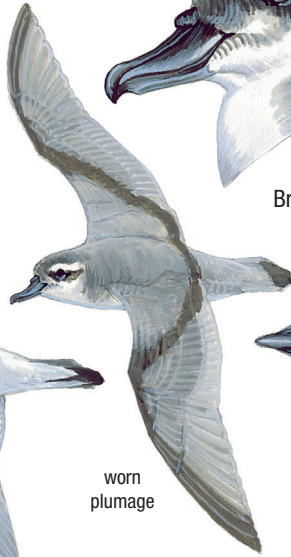
Slightly smaller than Broad-billed Prion, with shallower forehead and shorter and narrower (15–21 mm) bill, with sides and tip of upper mandible shaded blue-grey (not dark grey). Similar Broad-billed Prion has shorter caudal projection (rear end of body and tail behind wings), generally paler crown and more distinct supercilium. Very similar to Salvin's and Antarctic Prions (Plate 13), but bill averages broader (despite considerable overlap). Larger, with stouter bill, than Slender-billed and Fairy Prions; latter has much broader tail-band (35 per cent of tail length). Monotypic. **SH** Breeding endemic. Populations on St Paul (c.200 pairs) and Gough (unknown but estimated in 100,000s) breed Nov–Feb, later than Broad-billed Prions; at-sea distribution is poorly known, but tracked to deep waters south of Africa. Monotypic. **Note** Taxonomy incompletely understood. Due to morphological similarity, populations on St Paul and Gough are treated as the same taxon, but research may show them to be separate and perhaps even different species.



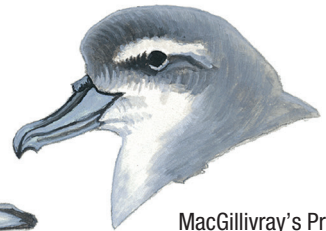
Blue Petrel



Broad-billed Prion



worn
plumage

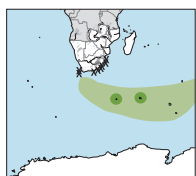


MacGillivray's Prion



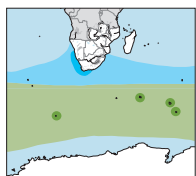
PLATE 13: PRIONS I

Salvin's Prion *Pachyptila salvini*



25–28cm, 10–11"; WS 57–58cm, 22–23"
Almost identical to MacGillivray's and Antarctic Prions with bill width (13–17 mm) intermediate between them (despite considerable overlap). In the hand may be separated from Antarctic by slightly larger head and darker, longer and broader bill with smaller nail; bowed sides form broader-based bulging bill, and lamellae remain exposed on closed mandibles. Some show short curling gape line. Typically, grey breast patches average smaller, face is paler, and supercilium broader than Antarctic, but no feature is diagnostic. Smaller than Broad-billed, with paler crown and whitish lores imparting a paler-faced appearance; supercilium bolder. Head rounder with shallower forehead and narrower paler blue-grey (not dark grey) bill. Stouter bill than Slender-billed and Fairy Prions; latter has much broader tail-band (35 per cent of tail length). Monotypic. **SH** Abundant breeder (Sep–Mar) on Prince Edwards and Crozet. Common in pelagic waters north to 38°S, vagrant to African pelagic waters (Apr–Jul).

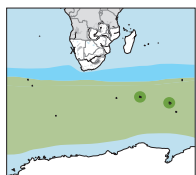
Antarctic Prion *Pachyptila desolata*



25–28cm, 10–11"; WS 58–64cm, 23–25"
Almost identical to Salvin's Prion, but bill slightly paler blue-grey, shorter and narrower (11–15 mm), despite considerable overlap. In the hand, bill edges straighter, giving a less bulging appearance, and lamellae entirely hidden on closed mandible. Gape line indistinct. Typically, grey breast patches average larger, face is darker, and supercilium narrower, especially in front of eye, than Salvin's, but no feature is diagnostic. Smaller than Broad-billed Prion, with paler crown and lores, shallower forehead and narrower paler blue-grey bill. Stouter bill than Slender-billed and Fairy Prions, more restricted supercilium and dusky face. Distal 20 per cent of tail dark-tipped and straight (not crescent-shaped) on inner edge. Birds in GSA are the nominate race. **SH** Common Southern Ocean seabird; abundant breeder (Oct–Mar) on Crozet and Kerguelen; also, Bouvetøya and extraliminally, Antarctic Peninsula (Scott Island). Commonly ranges north to 30°S especially in colder WGSa Benguela Current, uncommon ESAf and rare SMoz, mostly May–Oct. [Alt. Dove Prion]

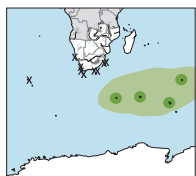
SMALL-BILLED PRIONS Although similar in size to whalebird prions, they appear smaller due to paler plumage and petite bills. They also have rounder heads, less contrasting faces and indistinct grey smudges on sides of breast.

Slender-billed Prion *Pachyptila belcheri*

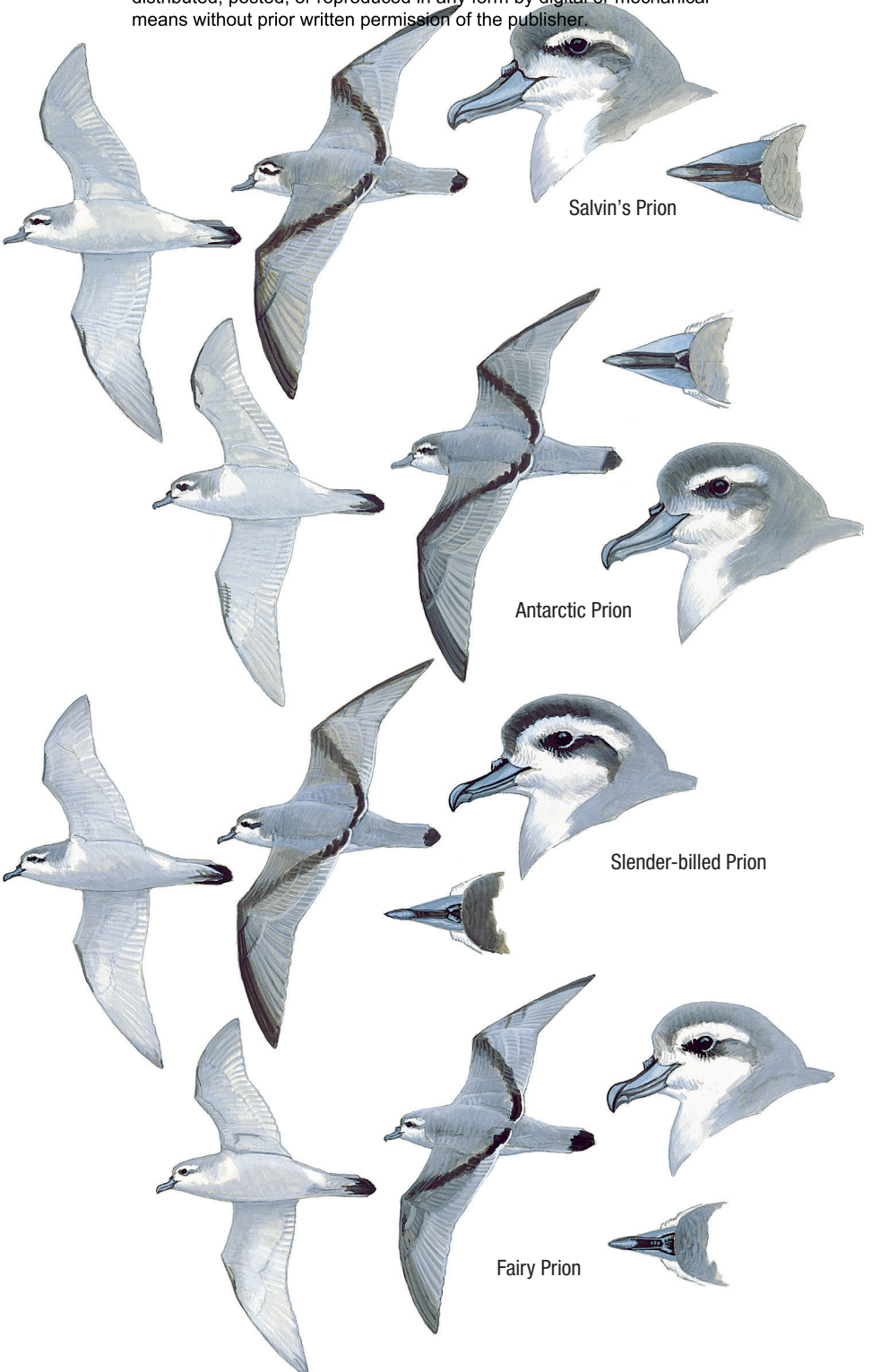


25–26cm, 10"; WS 56–60cm, 22–24"
Slimmest prion, differs by **weaker and fainter 'M' pattern** on upperwing (especially carpal bar), **narrowest black tail-band** (<20 per cent of tail length) which is crescent-shaped (not straight) on inner edge, and **narrowest (9–11 mm) and weakest bill**. In the hand, bill edges appear straight when seen from above and lamellae are entirely hidden on closed mandibles. Face pale with white lores and broad supercilium that flares behind eye; narrow dark eye-line and small smudges at sides of breast. Flight faster, daintier and more acrobatic than larger prions, with occasional storm-petrel-like lateral rocking and erratic jerky changes of direction. Monotypic. **SH** Abundant breeder (Aug–March) on Kerguelen and rare on Crozet. Common in deeper waters north to 35°S. Rare visitor to SAf coastal shelf pelagic waters, between Saldanha and Durban, but probably overlooked. Most dispersive prion, being more frequent in some years. [Alt. Thin-billed Prion]

Fairy Prion *Pachyptila turtur*



23–28cm, 9–11"; WS 56–60cm, 22–24"
The smallest and most petite prion in GSA, with a washed-out crown and eye-stripe, and short thin supercilium, giving a low-contrast **open-faced appearance**, dark bold 'M' pattern on upperwings and characteristic **broadly dark-tipped (distal 35 per cent) tail**. Greyish breast-sides poorly developed, much less so than other prions. Dumpy pale blue bill with extremely strong hooked tip, shorter and broader than Slender-billed Prion. Straight-edged bill lacks exposed lamellae. Flight action low over water on stiff shallow-beating wings, pausing to foot-patter like storm-petrels, but may tilt and turn, banking in stronger winds. Monotypic. **SH** Common breeder (Sep–Jan) on Prince Edwards, Crozet, Kerguelen and St Paul. Vagrant to African coastal pelagic waters and Tristan.



Salvin's Prion

Antarctic Prion

Slender-billed Prion

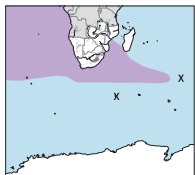
Fairy Prion

PLATE 14: SHEARWATERS

SHEARWATERS Small to medium-sized pelagic seabirds with long, narrow wings held stiff to fly low over water, almost slicing wave tops, giving these birds their name. Sexes and immature plumages alike in all species. Mostly silent at sea.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris borealis*

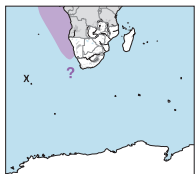
48–56cm, 19–22"; WS 113–124cm, 44–49"



Large bulky shearwater with grey-brown upperparts, pale underparts, dark-tipped yellow bill, and pale narrow horseshoe pattern at base of tail. At close range from very similar Scopoli's Shearwater by larger size, darker browner head, more robust bill, **darker underwing tips** (lacks white primary bases), and usually two dark spots on outermost primary-coverts (difficult to see). Great Shearwater has dark cap and bill. Flight powerful, sluggish and direct, 4–6 deep wingbeats followed by long lazy glide with less shearing than other shearwaters; in stronger wind soars dynamically like small albatross, wheeling fairly high on broad arcs. Wings often bowed from carpal joint to tip. Monotypic. **SH** Palearctic breeder on islands in NE Atlantic (May–Oct); migrates to GSA (Nov–May) where common in pelagic waters on west coast, uncommon on east coast, and vagrant to Prince Edwards, St Paul and Amsterdam. Attends trawlers and occasionally forages with whales and dolphins. **Voice** Nasal bleating. **Note** Formerly considered conspecific with Scopoli's Shearwater.

Scopoli's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

44–49cm, 17–19"; WS 117–135cm, 46–53"



At close range from very similar Cory's Shearwater by smaller size, paler browner head, less robust bill, usually **paler underwing tips** (white primary bases often project into darker wingtip, most consistently on pp9–10), and single dark spot on outermost primary-coverts (difficult to see). Great Shearwater has dark cap and bill. Flight like Cory's Shearwater. Monotypic. **SH** Palearctic breeder on Mediterranean islands (Apr–Oct); migrates to open Atlantic Ocean (Nov–May) where satellite tracking shows it is rare in pelagic waters off WNam. Presence elsewhere complicated by identification issues. **Note** Formerly considered conspecific with Cory's Shearwater.

Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas* NT

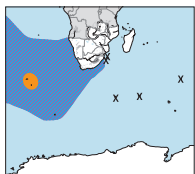
45–52cm, 18–20"; WS 103–113cm, 41–45"



Large grey-brown and white gull-like shearwater with a small head, long neck and long slender pale flesh-grey bill. **White lores and forecrown gives pale open-faced look with streaks on crown and cheeks.** At close range, pale fringes give upperparts scaly appearance. Dark primary-coverts form **dirty smudge on palm of underwing.** Cory's and Scopoli's Shearwaters have darker heads, bulkier yellowish bills and different underwing patterns. Flight buoyant on broad bowed wings with wrists angled well forward; long languid glides between deep relaxed wingbeats; in strong winds, soars impressively, similar jizz to Wedge-tailed Shearwater (Plate 15). Monotypic. **SH** Rare vagrant to GSA pelagic waters. Readily associates with other seabirds.

Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis*

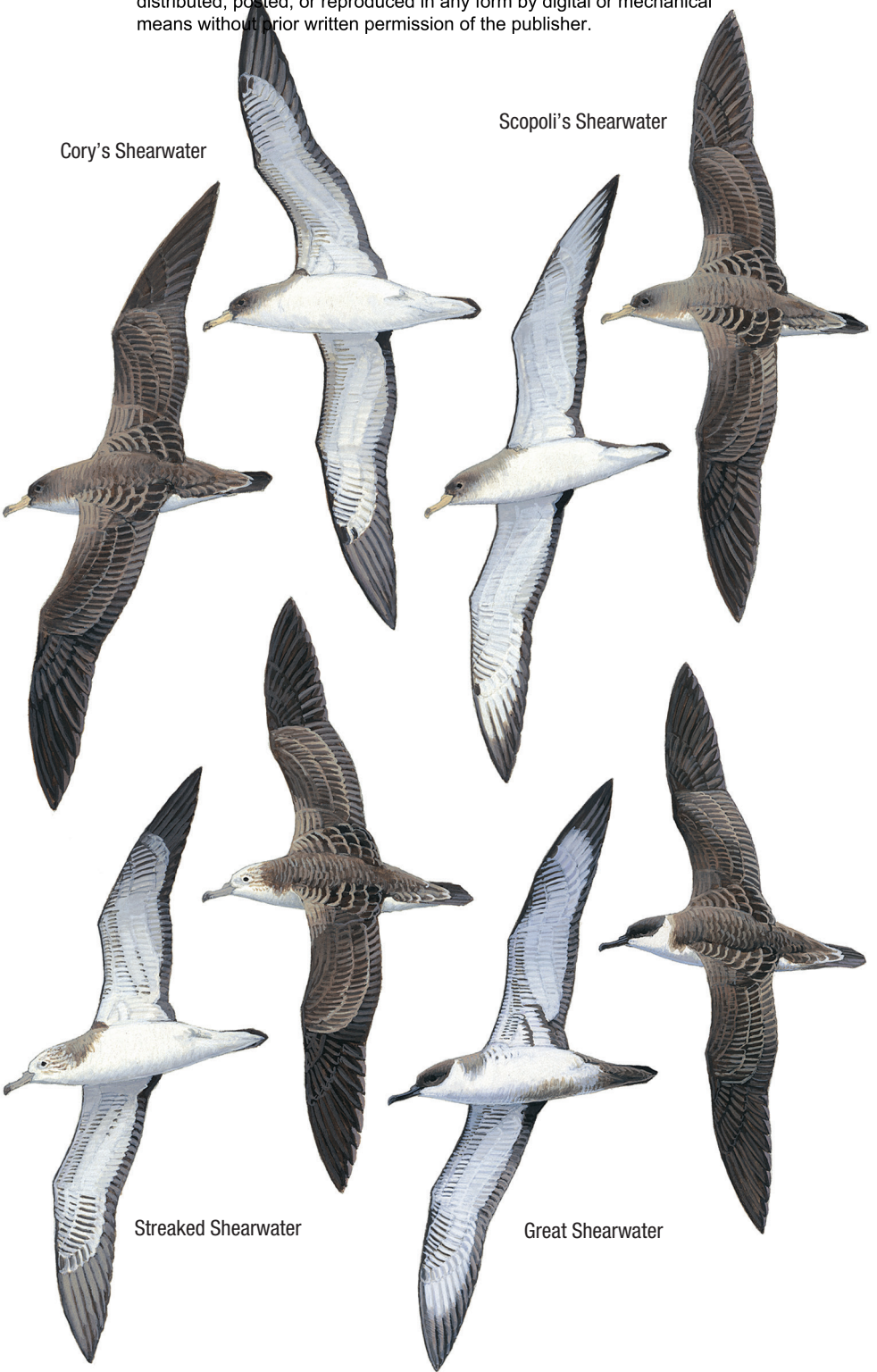
43–51cm, 17–20"; WS 100–118cm, 39–46"



Large **dark-capped** shearwater with **bold white collar** (sometimes incomplete), **dark bill** and **white horseshoe pattern on rump.** Underparts pale with dark semi-collar at shoulder, dark bars and spots in armpits, and variable (sometimes absent) **dark 'oil stain' patches on belly and vent** most easily seen when banking. Larger Cory's and Scopoli's Shearwaters have broader wings, yellow bills and lack a contrasting dark cap. Flight powerful with rapid wingbeats and long glides on taut pointed wings; in strong winds towers steeply in tight arcs. Monotypic. **SH** Breeds on Tristan da Cunha and Gough (c.5 million pairs), migrating to North Atlantic. Very common pelagic passage migrant (Apr–May and Sep–Oct) on west and south coasts of continental Africa, rare Jun–Aug; rare in Indian Ocean north of Durban, SAf. **Voice** Nasal bleating and squawking.

Cory's Shearwater

Scopoli's Shearwater



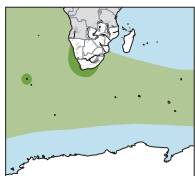
Streaked Shearwater

Great Shearwater

PLATE 15: SHEARWATERS II AND DIVING-PETRELS

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea* NT

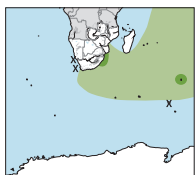
40–51cm, 16–20"; WS 94–109cm, 37–43"



Large to medium-sized dark brown shearwater with pointed wings, torpedo-shaped body and **whitish to silvery panel on centre of underwing** that may be difficult to see in some light conditions. At close range from similar Flesh-footed Shearwater by dark slender bill. Lacks small head, broad wings and long tail of dark morph Wedge-tailed Shearwater. Larger and longer-winged than Balearic Shearwater (Plate 16) with dark throat and belly. Flight agile, with rapid wingbeats and long glides on narrow tapering wings; steep arcs in stronger winds. Monotypic. **SH** Small numbers breed on Tristan da Cunha and Inaccessible in Atlantic Ocean. Very common non-breeding year-round resident in African coastal pelagic waters, more abundant Apr–Sep on west and south coasts; uncommon off ESAF and rare SMoz, vagrant north of 20°S. Very similar Short-tailed Shearwater may also occur; see Vagrants Watchlist (p. 582).

Flesh-footed Shearwater *Ardenna carneipes* NT

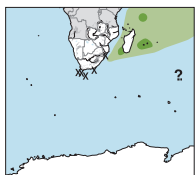
40–48cm, 16–19"; WS 99–116cm, 39–46"



Large to medium-sized uniform chocolate-brown shearwater with broad wings and rounded tail. At close range **fleshy-pink bill with dark tip** and pink-coloured feet (difficult to see in shearing flight). Dark morph Wedge-tailed Shearwater is slither, with longer wedge-shaped tail and thinner dark bill. Sooty Shearwater has pale silvery underwings and dark slender bill. Slow petrel-like flight with easy shallow wingbeats, often skimming water surface. Singles and small groups regularly attend fishing boats. Monotypic. **SH** Breeds on St Paul (c.500 pairs) in Indian Ocean; in African pelagic waters non-breeding year-round resident, fairly common on east coast becoming rare further west, vagrant north of WSAF.

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Ardenna pacifica*

38–47cm, 15–19"; WS 97–109cm, 38–43"

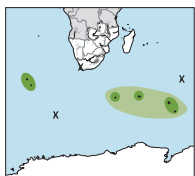


Large to medium-sized slender, small-headed shearwater, with broad secondaries and **wedge-shaped tail**. Bill dark-pink-grey with darker tip; legs pale (difficult to see in shearing flight). Two morphs occur: dark morph is all-dark brown; much rarer pale morph has grey-brown upperparts and mostly white underparts. Flesh-footed Shearwater is bulkier with slightly longer wings and shorter tail, with pinkish feet. Larger *Calonectris* shearwaters (Plate 14) differ from pale morph Wedge-tailed by having pale bills and rounded tails. In buoyant flight Wedge-tailed has wings well bowed, held forward and slightly above the body; flaps slowly, gaining height in low arc before rising and gliding down again; speeds up as wind strengthens, similar jizz to Streaked Shearwater (Plate 14). Monotypic. **SH** Singles and small groups uncommon but regular year-round visitor to pelagic waters of Mozambique Channel. Vagrant off coastal SAF, especially east coast.

DIVING-PETRELS Small pot-bellied black-and-white petrels with stubby bills and short tails. Characteristic behaviour: *explode auk-like from water on short powerful rapidly beating wings, flying directly and skimming low over surface before dropping and submerging. Dives to feed, wings acting like penguin flippers. Diving-petrels are near-identical and almost impossible to separate at sea. Sexes and immature plumages alike.*

Common Diving-petrel *Pelecanoides urinatrix*

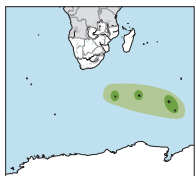
20–25cm, 8–10"; WS 33–38cm, 13–15"



Slightly larger than near-identical South Georgia Diving-petrel, Common appears longer-necked with duskiest throat, breast and underwing, and white scapular streaks and trailing edge to secondaries reduced or absent. In the hand, Common has **larger stouter bill with longer nostrils (paraseptal process positioned towards rear of nostril)** and adult **lacks black line on back of leg**, although some immature Common possess this. Two races occur: *dacunhae* (Tristan group and Gough) and larger and broader-billed *exsul* (Prince Edward, Crozet and Kerguelen). **SH** Abundant breeder on subantarctic islands, being sedentary afterwards; one record of dead bird in Cape Town, SAF. **Voice** Two-note cooing *whooo-whip* at colonies, silent at sea. **Note** Race *exsul* is sometimes considered specifically distinct as Subantarctic Diving-petrel.

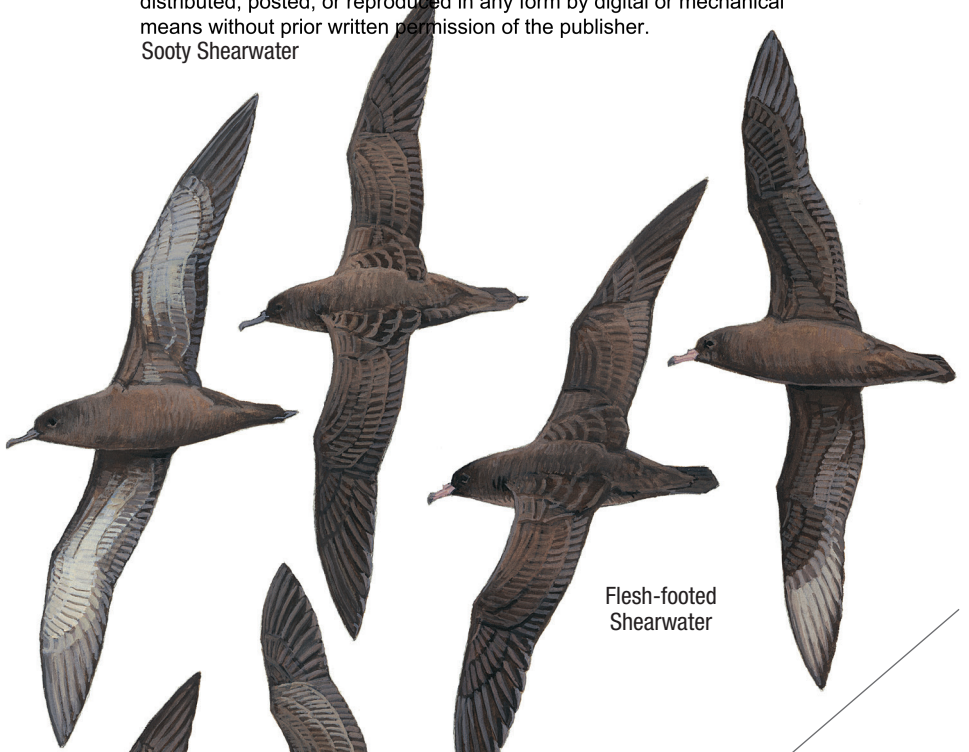
South Georgia Diving-petrel *Pelecanoides georgicus*

18–22cm, 7–9"; WS 30–33cm, 12–13"

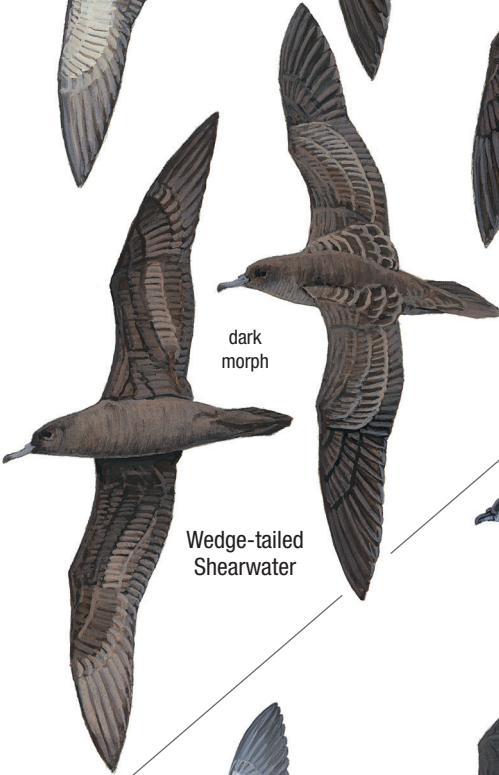


Slightly smaller than near-identical Common Diving-petrel, South Georgia appears shorter-necked with cleaner underparts, paler neck-sides merge with grey supercilium, and white scapular streaks and trailing edge to secondaries visible in fresh plumage. In the hand, South Georgia has **smaller more petite bill with shorter nostrils (paraseptal process in centre of nostril)** and adult has black line on rear of leg. Monotypic. **SH** Abundant breeder (Oct–Feb) on Crozet and Kerguelen (millions), rare (possibly extinct) on Prince Edward Islands. Mostly sedentary after breeding, but ranges further from colonies than other diving-petrels. **Voice** Squeaking at colonies, occasionally in flight. [Alt. Georgian Diving-petrel]

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Sooty Shearwater

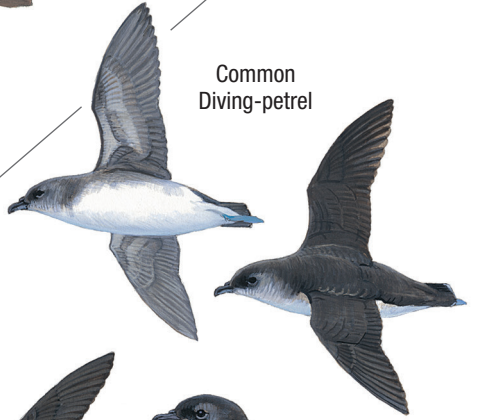


Flesh-footed Shearwater

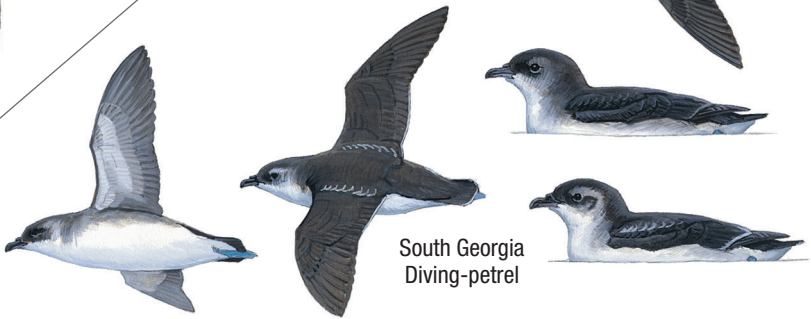


dark morph

Wedge-tailed Shearwater



Common Diving-petrel



South Georgia Diving-petrel

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PLATE 16: RED SHEARWATERS

PIED SHEARWATERS A group of shearwaters with dark upperparts and pale underparts. Sexes and immature plumages alike.

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus* CR

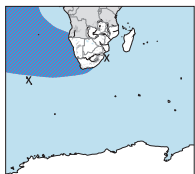
30–40cm, 12–16"; WS 76–93cm, 30–37"



Medium-sized shearwater with **brownish upperparts and variable dirty underparts**, often paler on breast and belly, and mostly **darker on armpits and undertail**. Similar shearwaters are smaller with darker upperparts and cleaner whiter underparts contrasting strongly, especially on face. In flight, heavier build, deep-bodied rapid wingbeats, all-dark rear flanks, shorter tail with toes projecting clearly, and pot belly distinguish Balearic. Monotypic. **SH** Rare vagrant to GSA pelagic waters, only on west coast. **Note** Often considered conspecific with extralimital Yelkouan Shearwater *P. yelkouan*. [Ait. Mediterranean Shearwater]

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

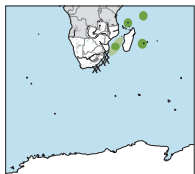
30–38cm, 12–15"; WS 75–89cm, 30–35"



Medium-sized shearwater with strongly contrasting dark sooty upperparts and pale underparts. Dark cap stops just below eye, contrasting strongly with white throat; dark neck patches extend to breast-sides, creating pale crescent on ear-coverts; undertail and rear flank patch white. Underwings have broad dark trailing edge. Larger Balearic Shearwater has dirtier underparts including vent and flanks, and toes project clearly beyond tail in flight; nominate race of smaller Tropical Shearwater very similar with comparatively smaller ronder head, and whitish (not sooty) ear-coverts; Tropical Shearwater race *nicolae* has diagnostic dark undertail. Typical shearwater flight low over water; rapid wingbeats followed by glides on bowed stiff wings; in strong winds arcs steeply. Monotypic. **SH** Breeds in North Atlantic (Apr–Sep), migrating south Oct–Mar; uncommon visitor off African west and south coasts, vagrant north of Durban, ESAF; rarely year-round. **Note** Previously considered conspecific with Balearic Shearwater and extralimital Yelkouan Shearwater *P. yelkouan*.

Tropical Shearwater *Puffinus bailloni*

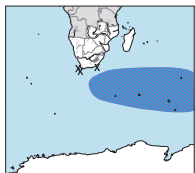
27–33cm, 11–13"; WS 64–74cm, 25–29"



Small, rather thickset shearwater intermediate in bulk and bill size between Manx and Little Shearwaters: strongly contrasting blackish-brown above and white below. Dark cap stops just below eye. Two races, sometimes considered separate species, occur: **Seychelles Shearwater** (*nicolae* (breeds Seychelles) has diagnostic **dark undertail-coverts**, while nominate **Baillon's Shearwater** (breeds Europa and Reunion) has white undertail-coverts. Upperwing may have white-tipped greater coverts creating pale band on midwing. In flight, hurried rapid fluttering interspersed with short glides. **SH** Singles or small flocks uncommon but regular in pelagic waters of Mozambique Channel, vagrant further south especially after tropical cyclones. **Note** Very similar but slightly larger Persian Shearwater may also occur in the region; see Vagrants Watchlist (p. 582). All taxa were previously considered races of Audubon's Shearwater *P. lherminieri*. Another taxon described as Mascarene Shearwater *P. atrodorsalis* is now regarded as immature nominate Tropical Shearwater.

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*

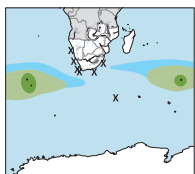
25–28cm, 10–12"; WS 58–67cm, 23–26"



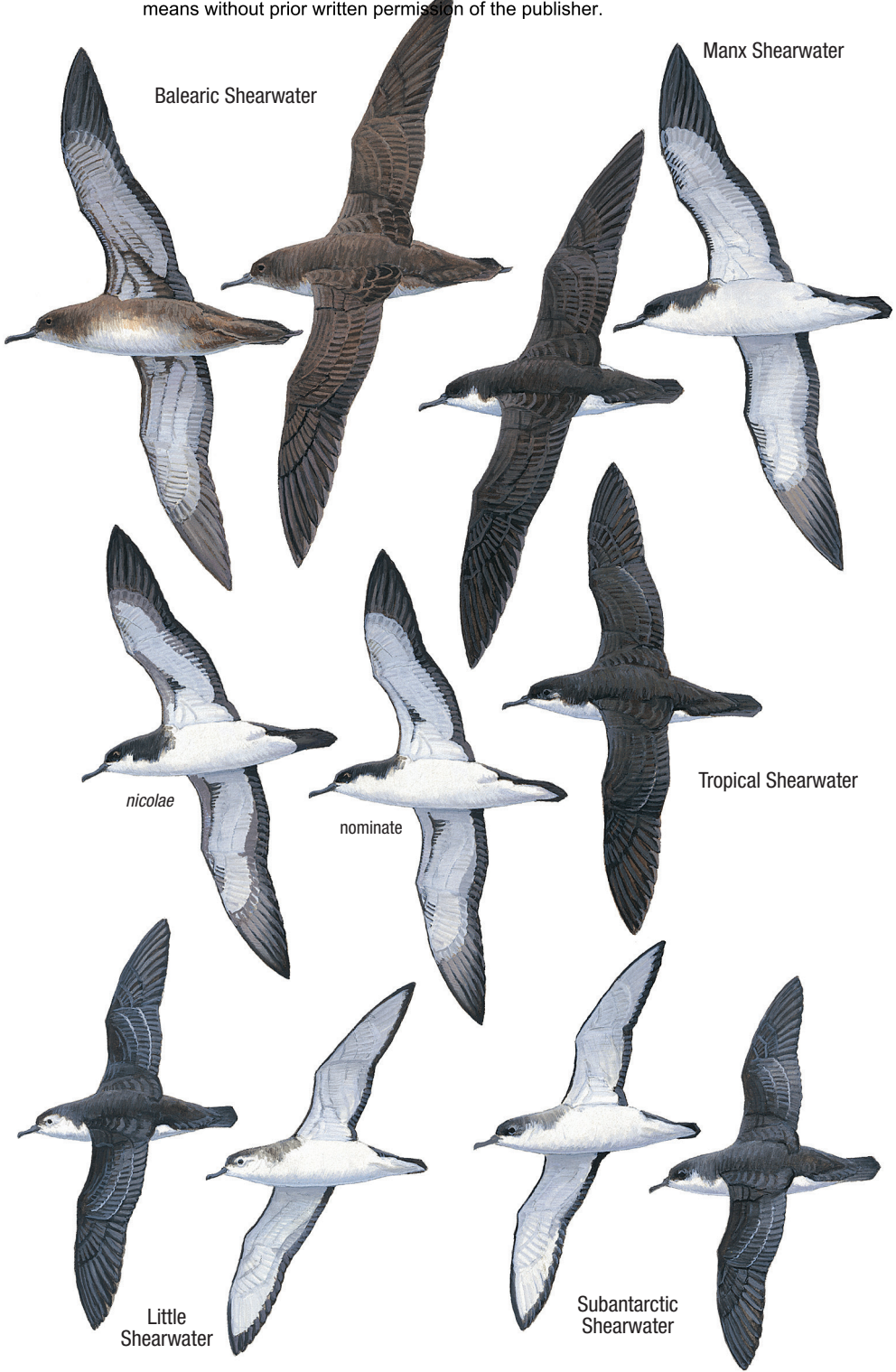
Tiny, small-billed shearwater with strongly contrasting blackish upperparts and white underparts, including very white underwing with narrow dark leading and trailing edges. Race *tunneyi* has **dark eye exposed on cute white face**. At close range, head comparatively larger, more rounded and often raised higher than similar shearwaters; bluish legs and feet separate it from all but Subantarctic Shearwater. For a shearwater its short, broad and blunt wings result in very rapid bursts of wingbeats, with short glides on bowed wings, and similar action to diving-petrels (Plate 15). Race in GSA is *tunneyi*. **SH** Breeds off SW Australia. Rare but regular in pelagic waters off African east and south coasts, rare visitor to coastal Africa, mostly May–Sep. **Note** Previously treated as conspecific with Subantarctic Shearwater.

Subantarctic Shearwater *Puffinus elegans*

27–30cm, 10–12"; WS 58–67cm, 23–26"



Almost identical to Little Shearwater but marginally larger, chunkier with shorter wings, slightly more robust bill and **dark cap extending below eye**, like small Manx Shearwater. At close range in fresh plumage (Mar–Jun) has diffuse pale tips to upperwing-coverts forming wing-bars and pale panels on inner upperwing; bluish legs and feet separate it from all but Little Shearwater. Flies like Little Shearwater. Monotypic. **SH** Breeds on Gough (c.10,000 pairs), Tristan group (c.7,000 pairs) and St Paul (rare); fairly common in oceanic waters 55–34°S, rare in African pelagic waters, mostly May–Sep, on west and south coasts. **Note** Previously treated as conspecific with Little Shearwater.



Balearic Shearwater

Manx Shearwater

nicolae

nominate

Tropical Shearwater

Little Shearwater

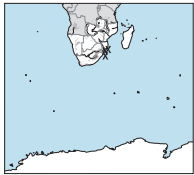
Subantarctic Shearwater

PLATE 17: PSEUDOBULWERIA, BULWERIA AND DARK STORM-PETRELS

PSEUDOBULWERIA AND BULWERIA *Pseudobulweria* are bulky, large-billed, long-winged tropical petrels with elongated bodies and bulky bills. *Bulweria* are small, slender dark brown petrels with long wings and tails (pointed when closed). Long wings and tapered tails eliminate gadfly petrels (Plate 11); dark-rumped storm-petrels are slightly smaller and have forked tails. Sexes and immature plumages alike. Silent at sea.

Tahiti Petrel *Pseudobulweria rostrata* NT

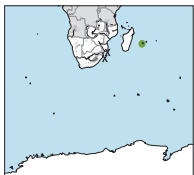
38–40cm, 15–16"; WS 84cm, 33"



Large, sturdy, **white-bellied dark petrel with dark bulbous bill**; margin between dark hood and white breast well defined. Wedge-shaped tail dark, rump often mottled black and white, and undertail-coverts white, **creating white wedge on undertail**. Dark underwing has variable pale median bar where flight feathers meet underwing-coverts. Similar Atlantic Petrel (Plate 11) has dark undertail-coverts and lacks pale bar on underwing. Flight slow and powerful with strong deep wingbeats interspersed with gliding on straighter wings than gadfly petrels; in stronger winds barely flaps. Race in GSA unknown. **SH** Rare vagrant to SMOz and SAF east coast pelagic waters Nov–Dec. Solitary.

Mascarene Petrel *Pseudobulweria aterrima* CR

35–36cm, 14"; WS 84–90cm, 33–35"



Uniform dark petrel with well-projecting neck and square head, large bulbous dark bill, and longish rear body. Similar *Bulweria* smaller with pale wing-bars and longer tails. Mascarene more uniformly dark than gadfly petrels, except near-identical but larger Great-winged Petrel (Plate 9) which has a shallower and daintier bill with pointed (not rounded) hook tip, less attenuated rear body, and more energetic jizz. Flight pattern heavy, less dextrous than gadfly petrels, seldom reaching more than 5m above ocean, with bursts of shallow effortless beats on long, slender, round-tipped wings. Monotypic. **SH** Very rare; only records are satellite-tracked birds in waters off SMOz and ESAF.

Jouanin's Petrel *Bulweria fallax* NT

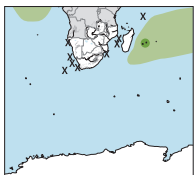
30–32cm, 12–13"; WS 76–83cm, 30–33"



Larger than similar Bulwer's Petrel, with larger head and bill, and pale bar on upperwing weak (worn plumage) or absent (fresh plumage). Smaller than Wedge-tailed Shearwater (Plate 15) with shorter heavier-looking bill. In calm conditions flies close to ocean with long glides and rapid elastic wingbeats, but in stronger winds sweeps over surface in series of wide arcs like gadfly petrels, climbing perhaps 15m above waves, wings held forward and slightly bowed. Monotypic. **SH** Breeds Socotra (Jun–Dec), dispersing throughout Indian Ocean. Possibly regular in deeper pelagic waters off Moz north of 10°S, vagrant further south Nov–Dec. Solitary, avoids ships.

Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii*

26–29cm, 10–11"; WS 63–73cm, 25–29"



Smaller than similar Jouanin's Petrel, with smaller head and bill; pale diagonal bar on central upperwing more pronounced in strong light. Tail **wedge-shaped** (rarely visible when spread in banking flight) but appears pointed when closed, and proportionately longer than Jouanin's. Flies gracefully on rapidly beating bowed wings held forward, typically <2m above surface, sometimes twisting erratically with switchbacks and glides; rarely arcs like Jouanin's. Monotypic. **SH** Breeds in North Atlantic and on Round Island, Mauritius. Rare visitor to pelagic waters of west coast Nov–Mar; vagrant to SMOz. Solitary, avoids ships.

STORM-PETRELS Diminutive seabirds with characteristic flight patterns. Small size and usually a white rump eliminate confusion with other groups, but identifying storm-petrels to species level can be difficult. Note flight and feeding patterns, distribution of white in plumage, and shape and length of wings, tail and legs. Sexes and immature plumages alike. Mostly silent at sea.

Matsudaira's Storm-petrel *Hydrobates matsudairae* VU

24–25cm, 9–10"; WS 46–56cm, 18–22"



Large, long-winged storm-petrel with slight contrast between blackish head and marginally paler body. Similar to smaller Swinhoe's Storm-petrel (Plate 18) but wings show indistinct pale band on upperwing-coverts (duller when worn); at close range has **bold white shafts to bases of outer 5–7 primaries forming prominent curved wedge on leading edge of wing**. Deeply forked tail (difficult to see). Flight strong and languid, wings stiff and less angled than smaller storm-petrels, with infrequent flaps and short glides giving lazy 'nightjar-like' impression, but occasionally makes surprise dashes, twists and turns. Dips to surface to feed, raising wings in a 'V'. Monotypic. **SH** Breeds NW Pacific, rare vagrant to east coast pelagic waters Mar–Sep.

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