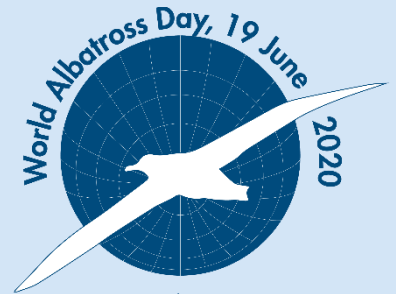


Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross



Agreement on the Conservation
of Albatrosses and Petrels

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Artwork by **Kerry Bea** from a photograph by Kirk Zufelt

THE INDIAN YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS is one of 11 species of 'mollymawk' albatrosses in the genus *Thalassarche*. They, although still big birds by any measure, are noticeably smaller than are the six great *Diomedea* albatrosses – the Indian Yellow-nosed, along with the

closely related Atlantic Yellow-nosed, are the smallest. The mollymawks are largely restricted to the Southern Ocean, breeding on cool-temperate and subantarctic islands.



The Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross, an essentially black and white bird, has a yellow streak along the upper mandible when adult, similar to that of the Atlantic Yellow-nosed, but which has a greyer head. Two other mollymawks, Buller's and Grey-headed, have in addition yellow on their lower mandibles. It has a restricted distribution, breeding only on the southern Indian Ocean islands of Amsterdam, Crozet, Kerguelen and Saint Paul (France) and Prince Edward (South Africa). The species' at-sea distribution extends to the coasts of Africa and Australia, and on to New Zealand. At sea it feeds on fish and squid obtained by surface seizing or by shallow dives from the sea surface.

The total population is estimated at a little over 40 000 annually breeding pairs, and perhaps 160 000 individuals or more of all age classes. Over half (c. 27 000 pairs) of the population breeds on Amsterdam Island, with notable populations (c. 7 000 pairs each) in the Crozets and on Prince Edward Island. The Amsterdam Island population is the best studied; Prince Edward Island is rarely visited and its birds remain largely unstudied.

In addition to fisheries-induced mortality (especially from longlining), the Amsterdam Island birds have been seriously affected by avian cholera, which kills chicks and thus reduces breeding success, leading to a population decrease on the island; other populations appear more stable. The combination of at-sea and on-land threats has resulted in a global status of Endangered. Conservation actions required centre on research aimed to find ways to limit impact of the disease and promoting the adoption of best-practice mitigation measures in fisheries within the species' range.

Sources:

ACAP 2012. Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche carteri*;
<https://www.acap.aq/en/acap-species>

BirdLife International 2020. Species factsheet: *Thalassarche carteri*;
<http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/factsheet/indian-yellow-nosed-albatross-thalassarche-carteri/text>

John Cooper, ACAP Information Officer, 26 January 2020