A PHOTOGRAPHIC GUIDE FOR OBSERVERS AT SEA

SAINT PAUL & AMSTERDAM

BIRD GUIDE

Kauffmann M., Gasco N.,
Lemenager M., Delord K.

2025

A photographic guide for observers at sea

Saint Paul & Amsterdam

Bird Guide

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Marc Leménager, Karine Delord

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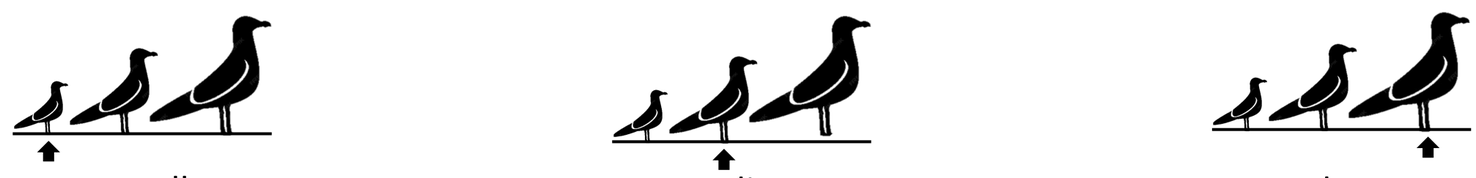
INTRODUCTION

This guide aims at providing information on bird identification for fishery observers working in French islands Saint-Paul & Amsterdam waters, in the southern Indian Ocean. We designed it so that it could be used by every observer, including the ones who have little experience in bird identification. We therefore used simple diagnostic traits and tried to limit specialist vocabulary to describe the species. These descriptions might not be sufficient in some cases , but you will find more precise and complete information on identification for these species, in the reference list at the end of the guide (see Shirihai et al., 2008; Onley & Scofield, 2007).

Each species sheet provides the name of the species in English, French and latin, pictures of the bird at sea showing diagnostic traits, as well as 3 pictograms indicating :

- species rough size within the southern seabird range



small medium large

- breeding status on Saint-Paul and Amsterdam islands

breeder non breeder

- frequency of observation from the fishing boats. Note that some relatively abondant species on land are seldomely seen from fishing boats, or only in case of accidental landings (nocturnal petrels namely).

R regular **O** occasional

We included in this book all the species that have been recorded breeding in Saint-Paul and Amsterdam during the last terrestrial surveys (Lesage et al., 2024; Barbraud et al., 2021), as well as the species that do not breed on the islands but have been observed from fishing boats by observers during bird counts or opportunistic observations since the beginning of the program.

Red-tailed tropicbird – Phaéton à brins rouges

Phaethon rubricauda

File:Red-tailed Tropicbird RWD2.jpg. (2022, May 4). *Wikimedia Commons*. Retrieved 12:07, February 4, 2025 from https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Red-tailed_Tropicbird_RWD2.jpg&oldid=653875218.

Northern rockhopper penguin

Gorfou sauteur subtropical

Eudyptes moseleyi

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Amsterdam albatross – Albatros d'Amsterdam

Diomedea amsterdamensis

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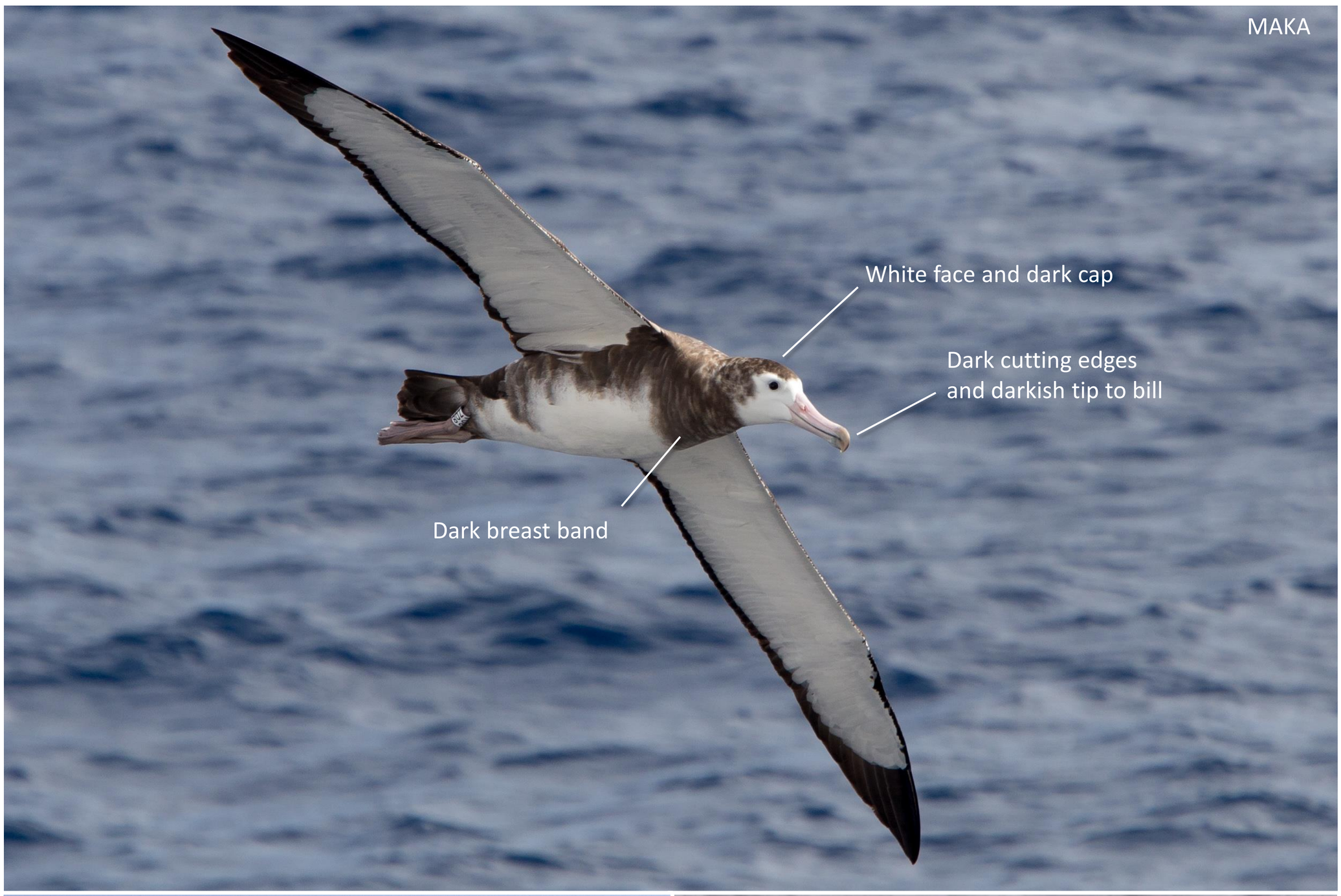
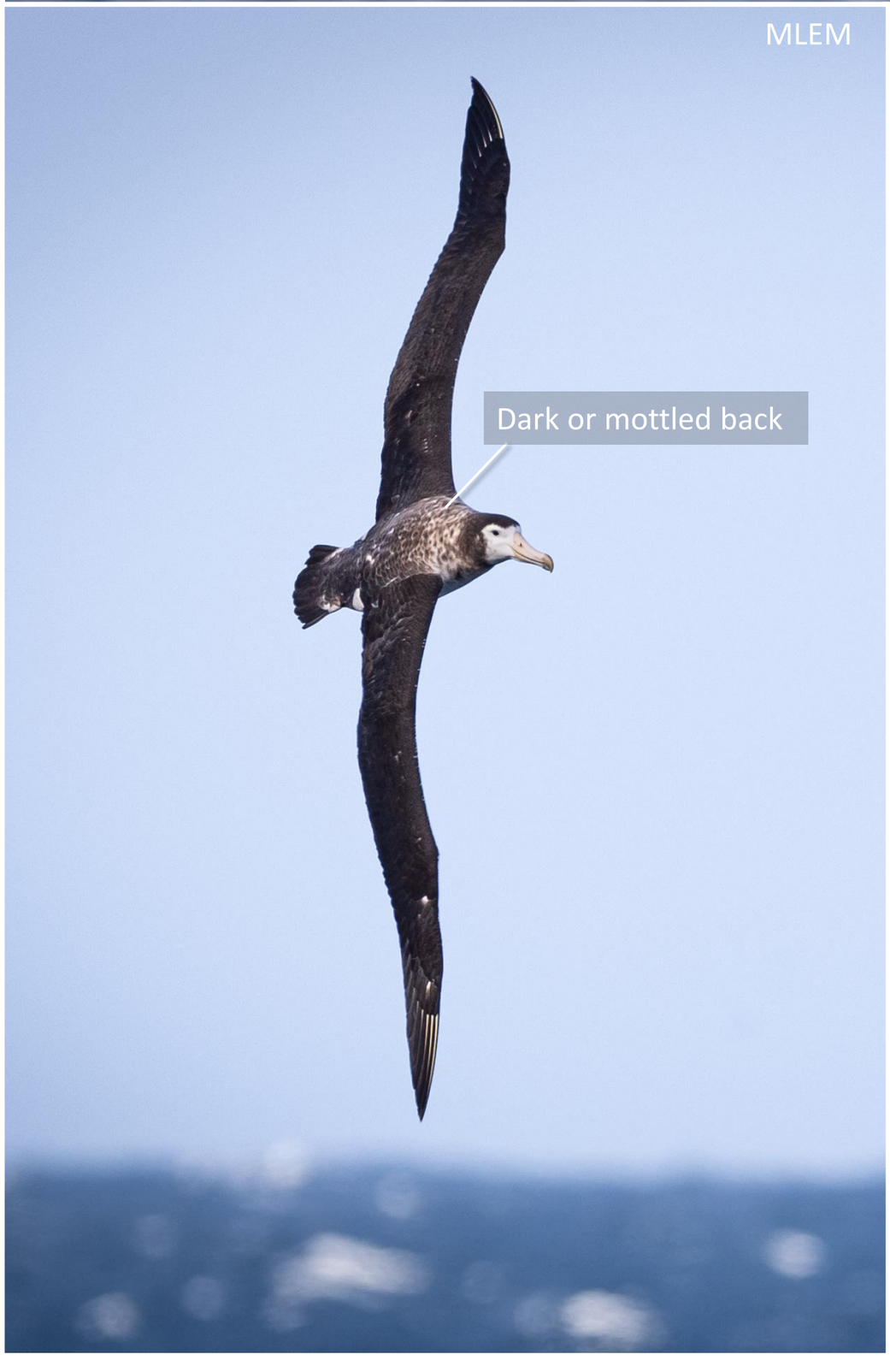
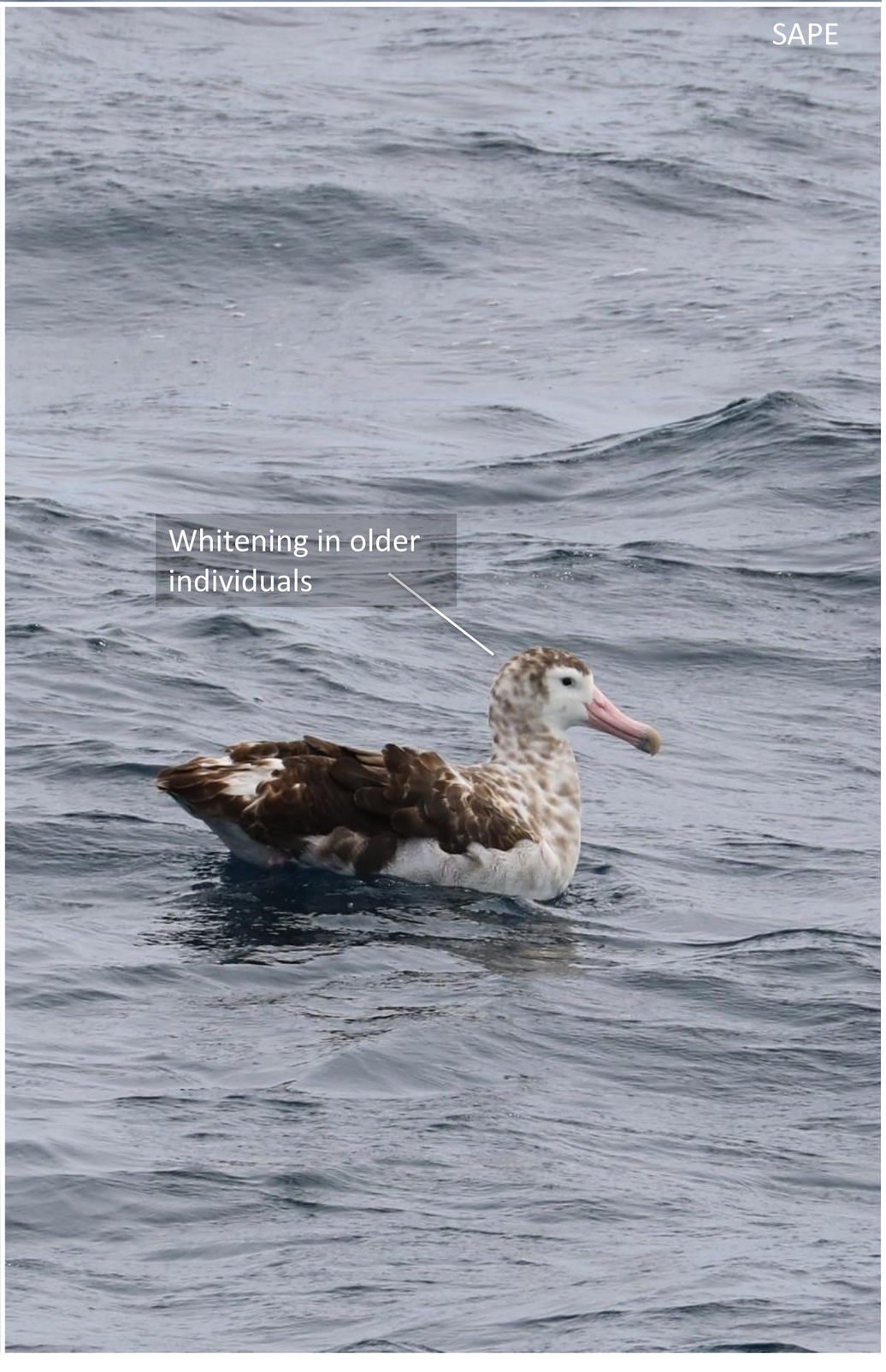
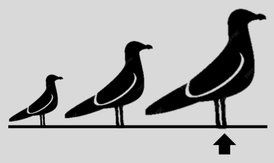






Snowy albatross – Albatros hurleur

Diomedea exulans



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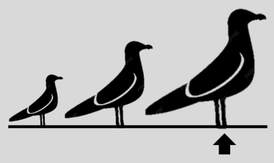
Snowy albatross – Albatros hurleur

Diomedea exulans



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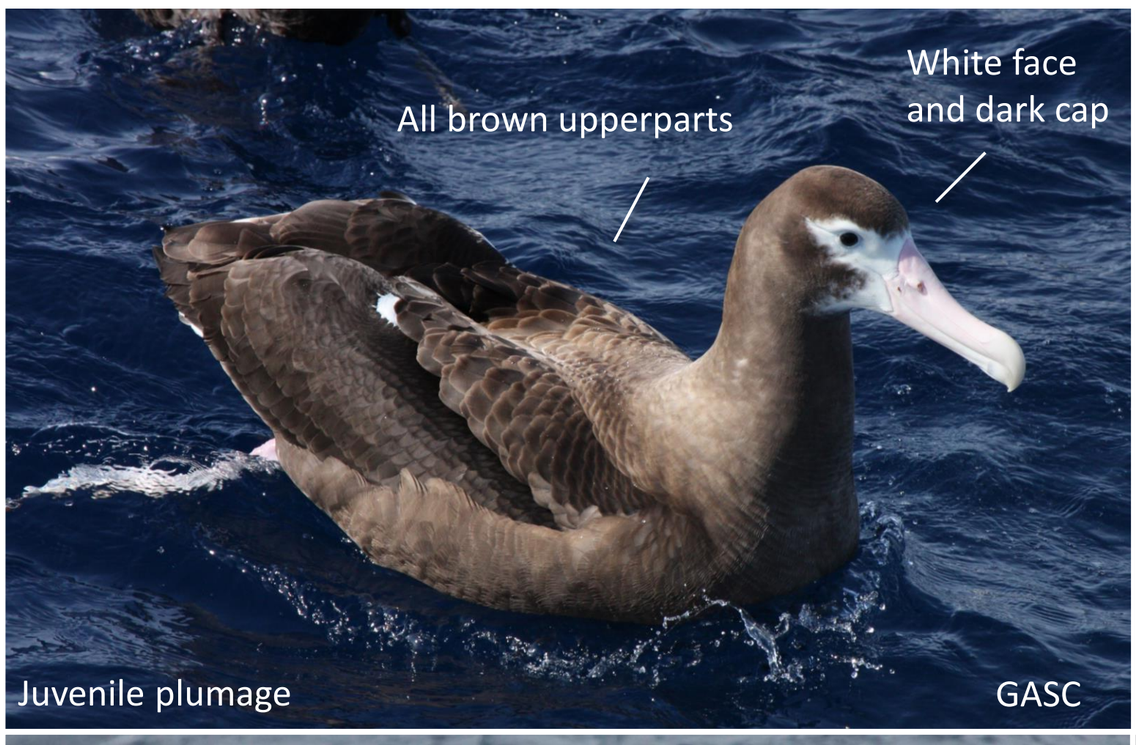

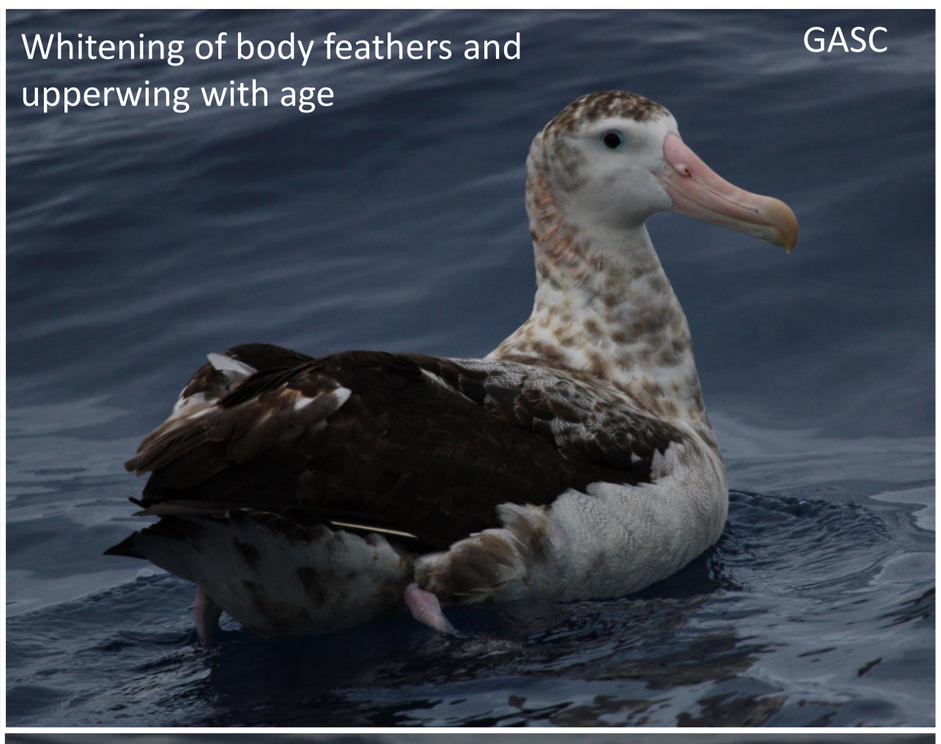

Southern royal albatross – Albatros royal

Diomedea epomophora

Sooty albatross – Albatros fuligineux à dos sombre

Phoebetria fusca

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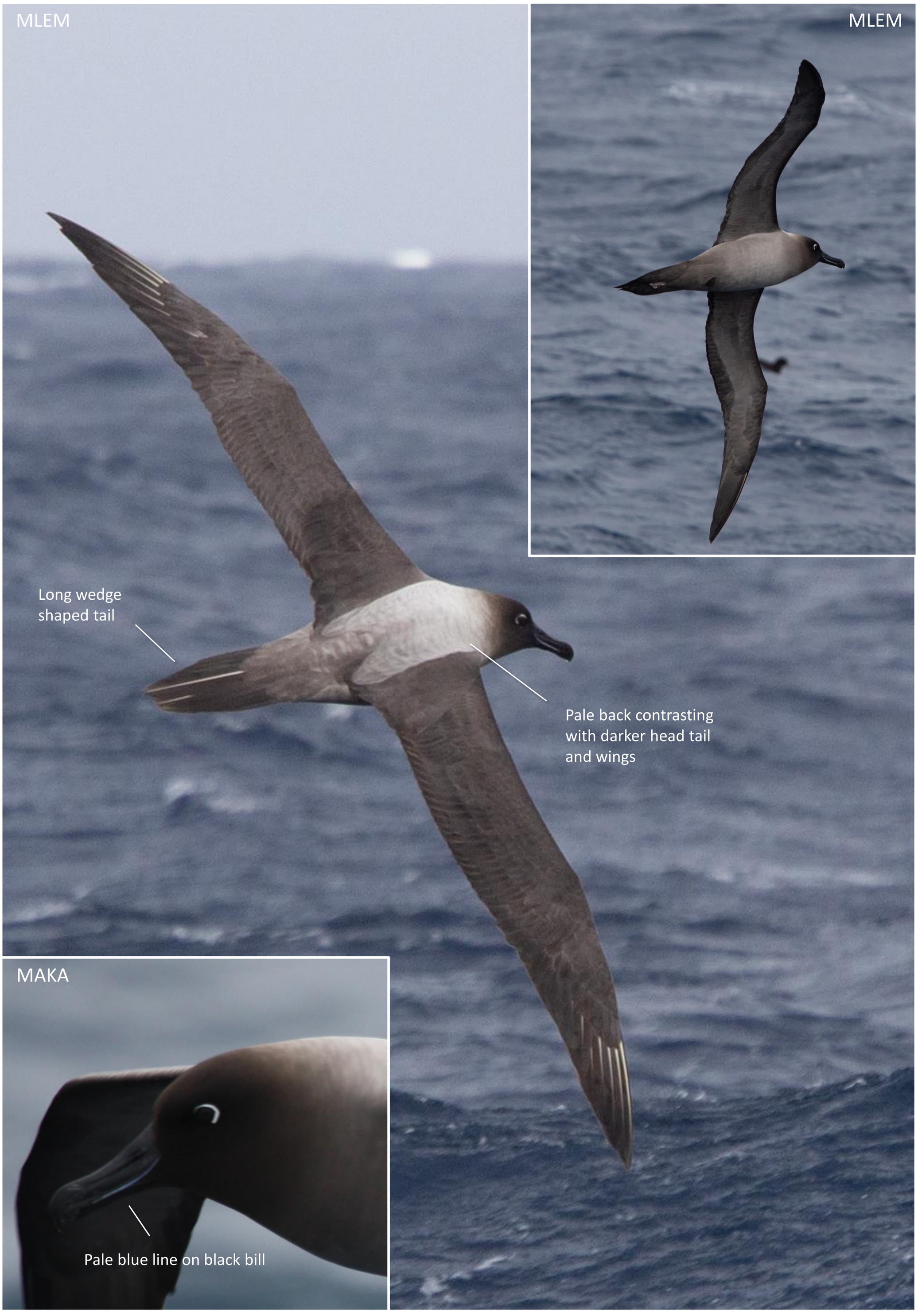
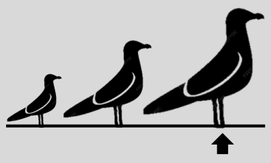
Light-mantled sooty albatross

Albatros fuligineux à dos clair

Phoebetria palpebrata



Indian yellow-nosed albatross
Albatros à bec jaune de l'océan Indien
Thalassarche carteri



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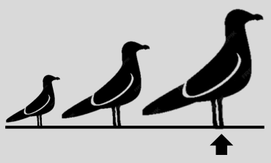
Grey-headed albatross – Albatros à tête grise

Thalassarche chrysostoma



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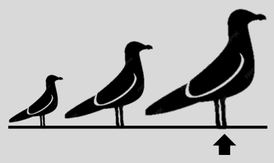
Black-browed albatross – Albatros à sourcils noirs

Thalassarche melanophris



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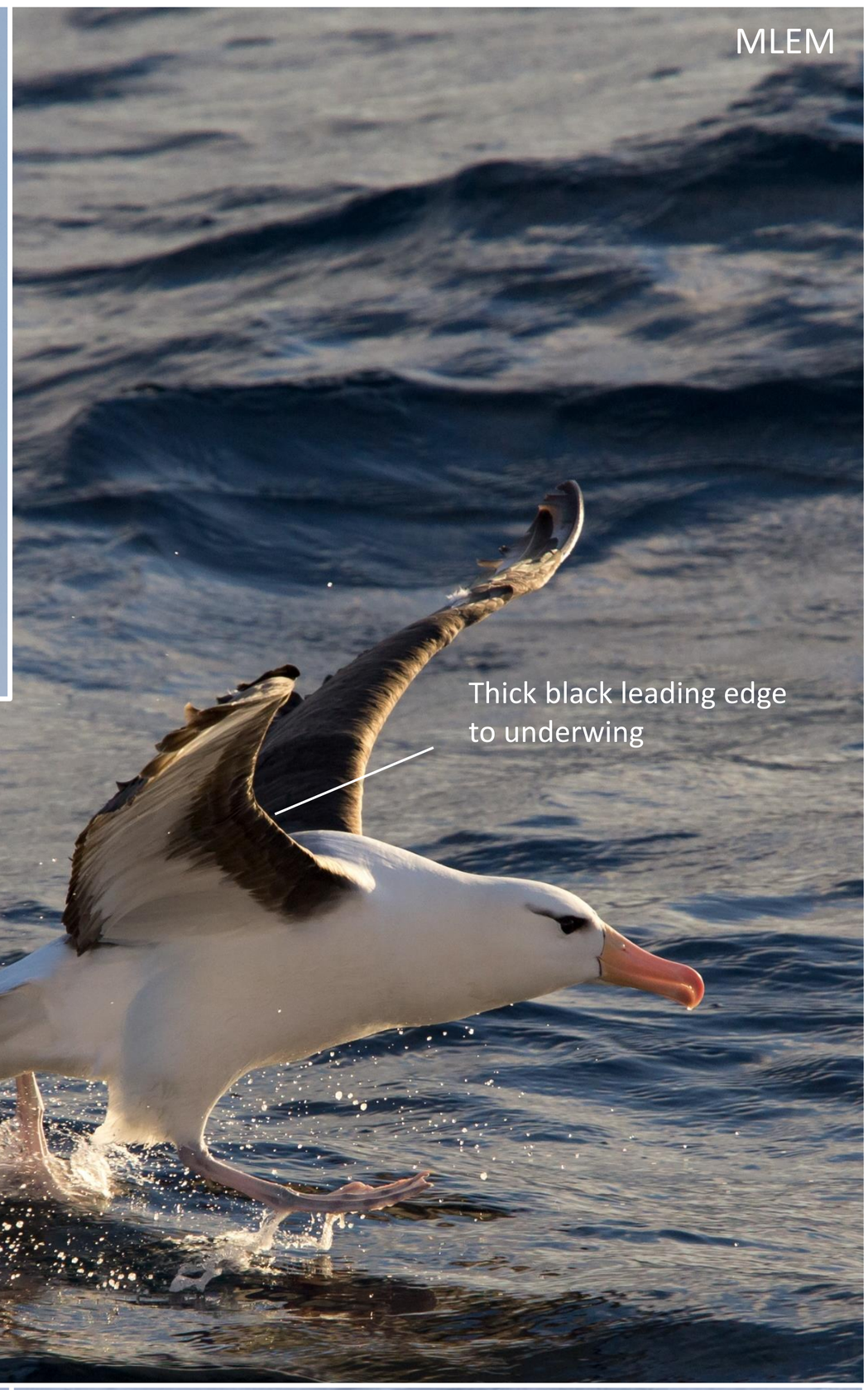

Shy albatross – Albatros timide

Thalassarche cauta

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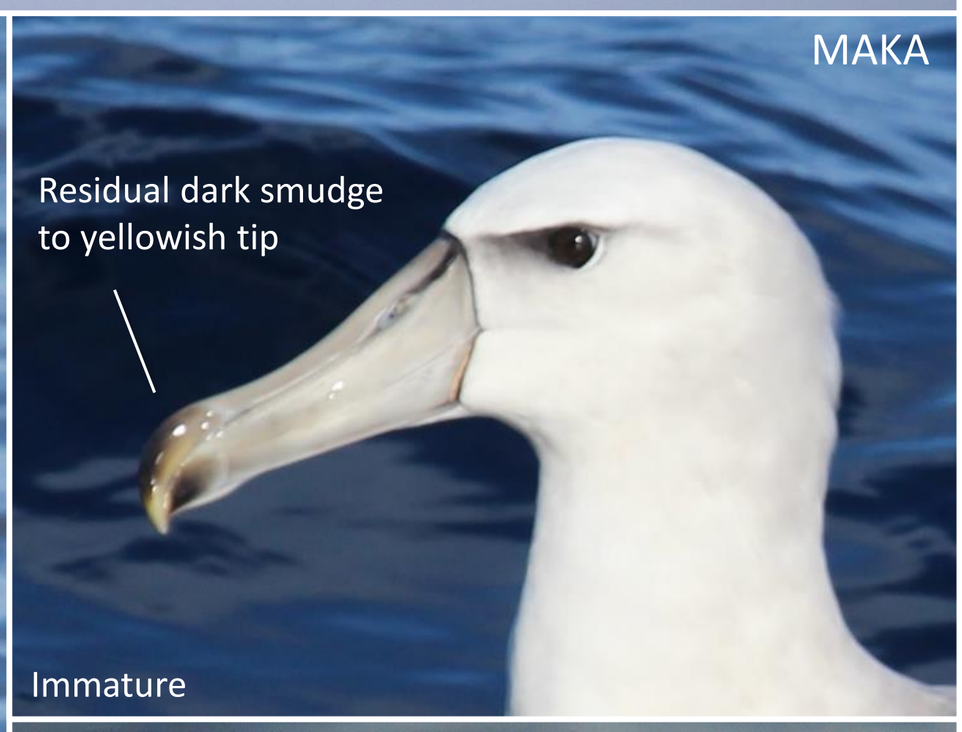
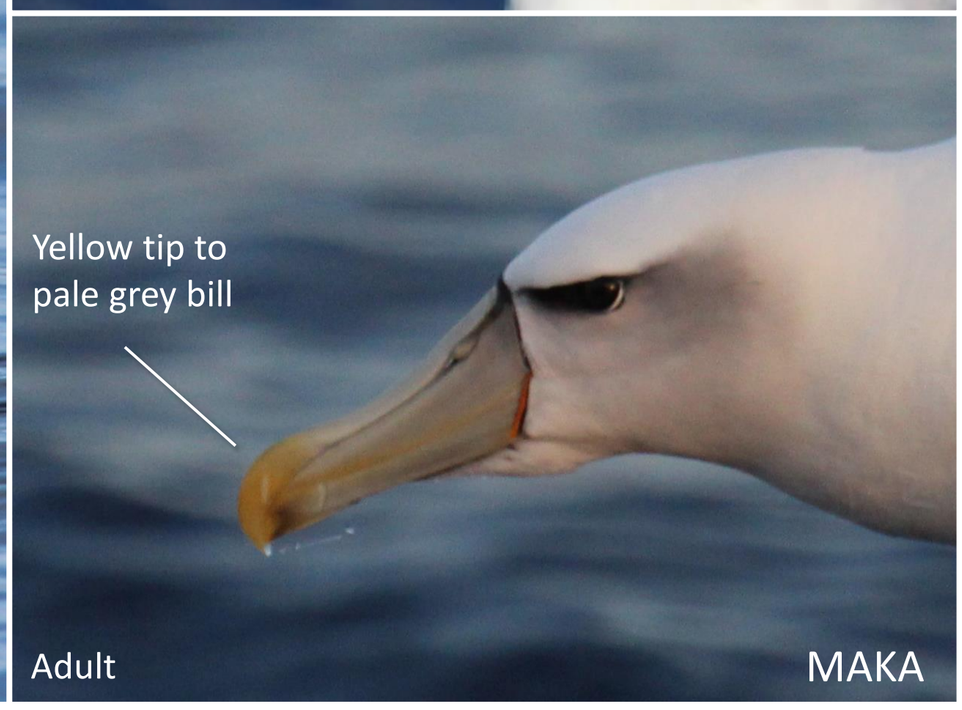


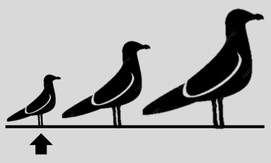


Salvin's albatross – Albatros de Salvin

Thalassarche salvini

Cape petrel – Damier du Cap

Daption capense



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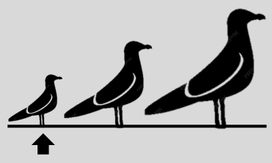
Blue petrel – Pétrel bleu

Halobaena caerulea



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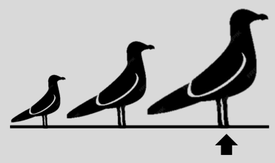
Northern giant petrel – Pétrel géant subantarctique

Macronectes halli



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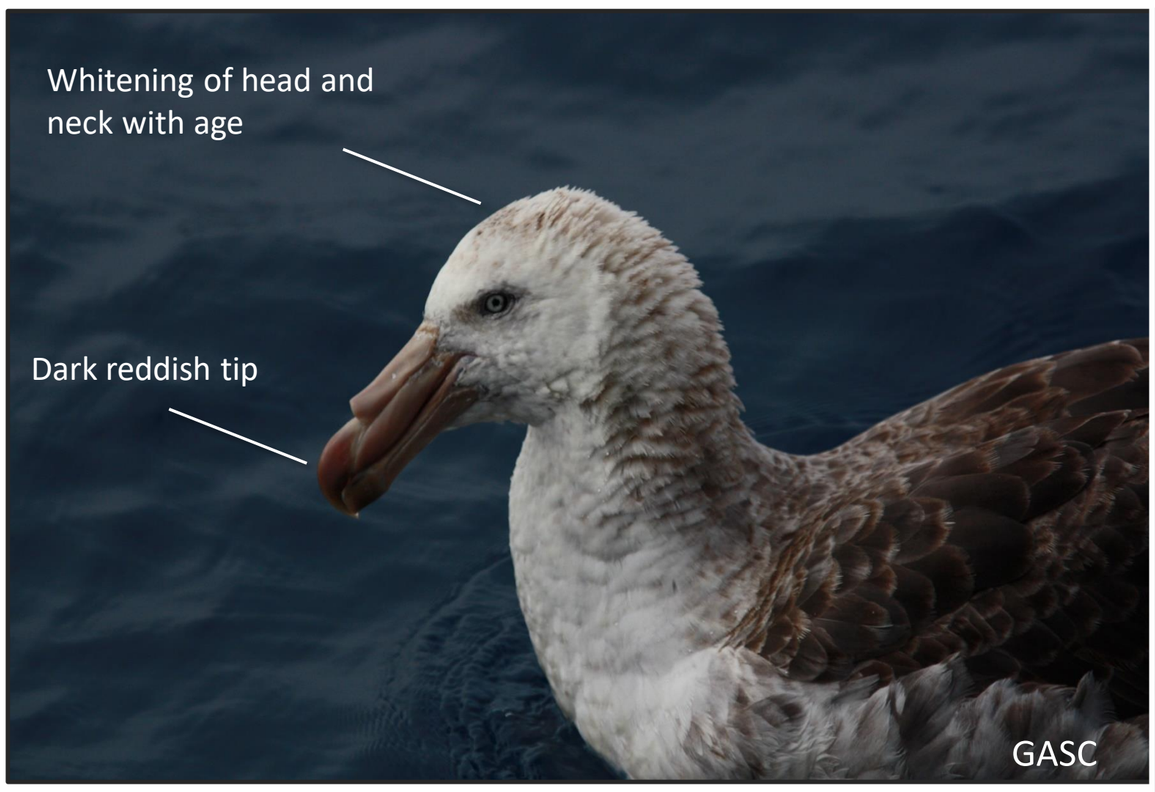


Southern giant petrel – Pétrel géant antarctique

Macronectes giganteus

MacGillivray's prion – Prion de MacGillivray

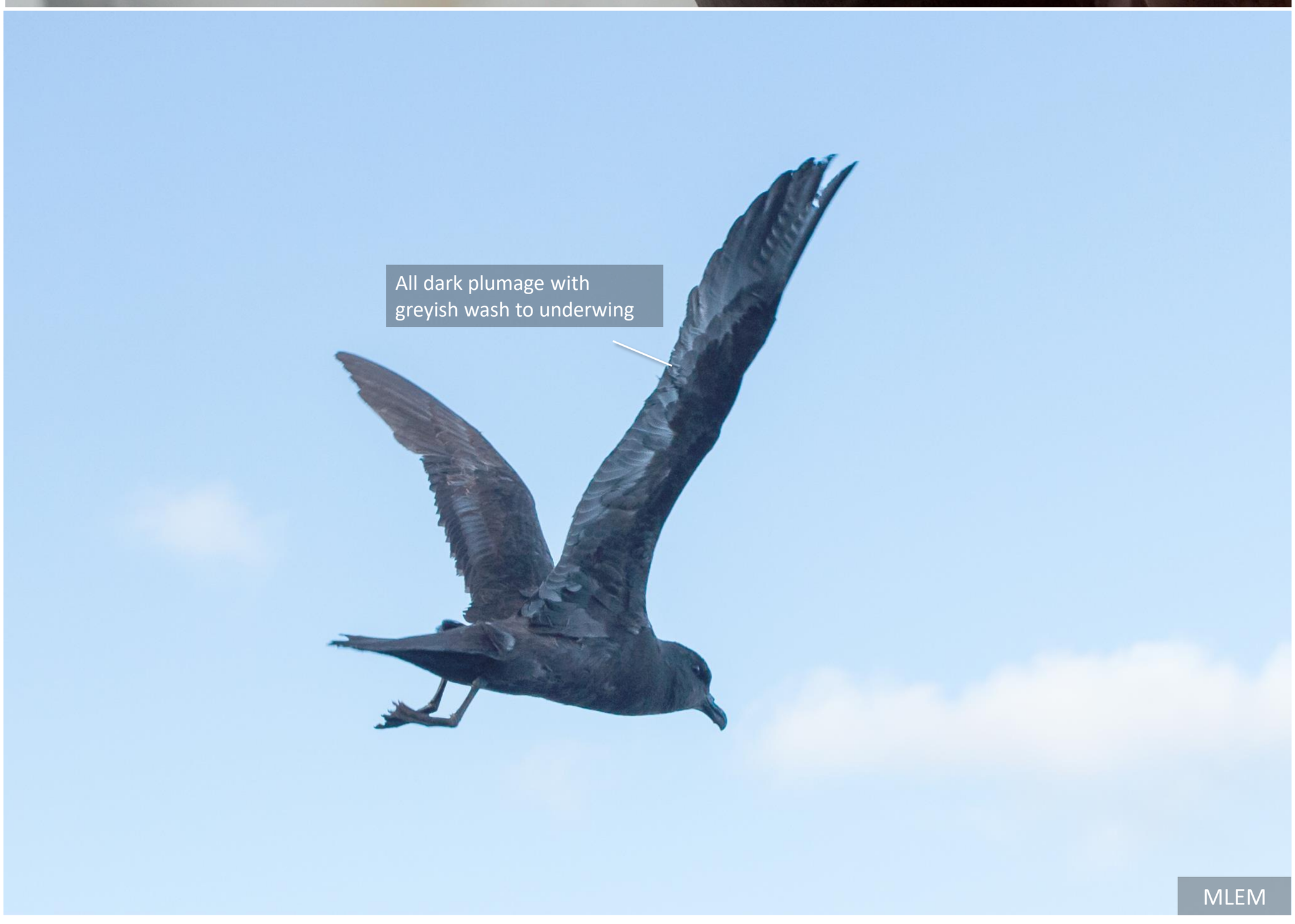
Pachyptila macgillivrayi

Fairy prion – Petit prion

Pachyptila turtur

Great-winged petrel - Pétrel noir

Pterodroma macroptera



Soft-plumaged petrel- Pétrel soyeux

Pterodroma mollis

Juan Fernandez petrel - Pétrel de Juan Fernández

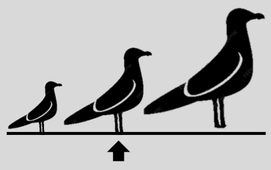
Pterodroma externa

Plate: John Gerrard Keulemans, 1842--1912, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Christoph Moning, CC BY 4.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>, via Wikimedia Commons"

White-chinned petrel – Pétrel à menton blanc

Procellaria aequinoctialis



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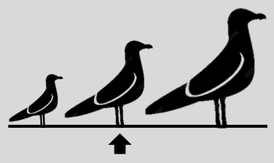
Grey petrel – Pétrel gris

Procellaria cinerea

Flesh-footed shearwater – Puffin à pieds pâles

Ardenna carneipes



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Sooty shearwater – Puffin fuligineux

Ardenna grisea

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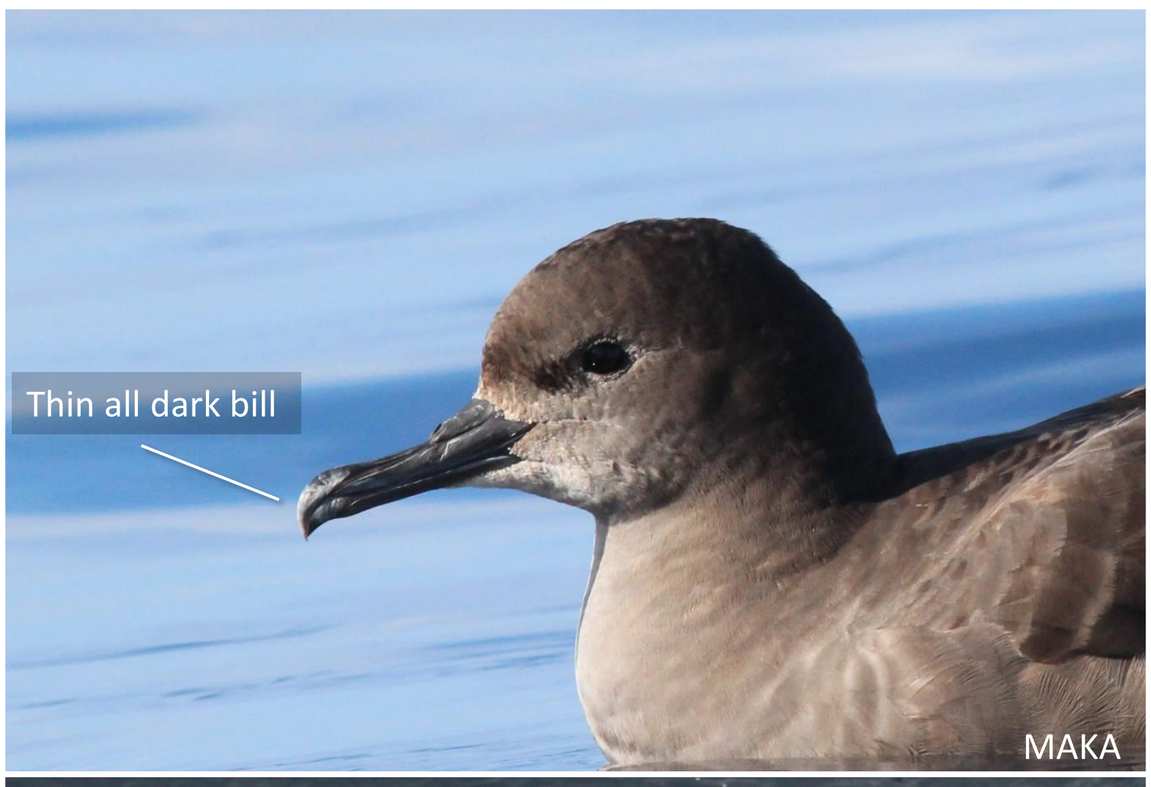
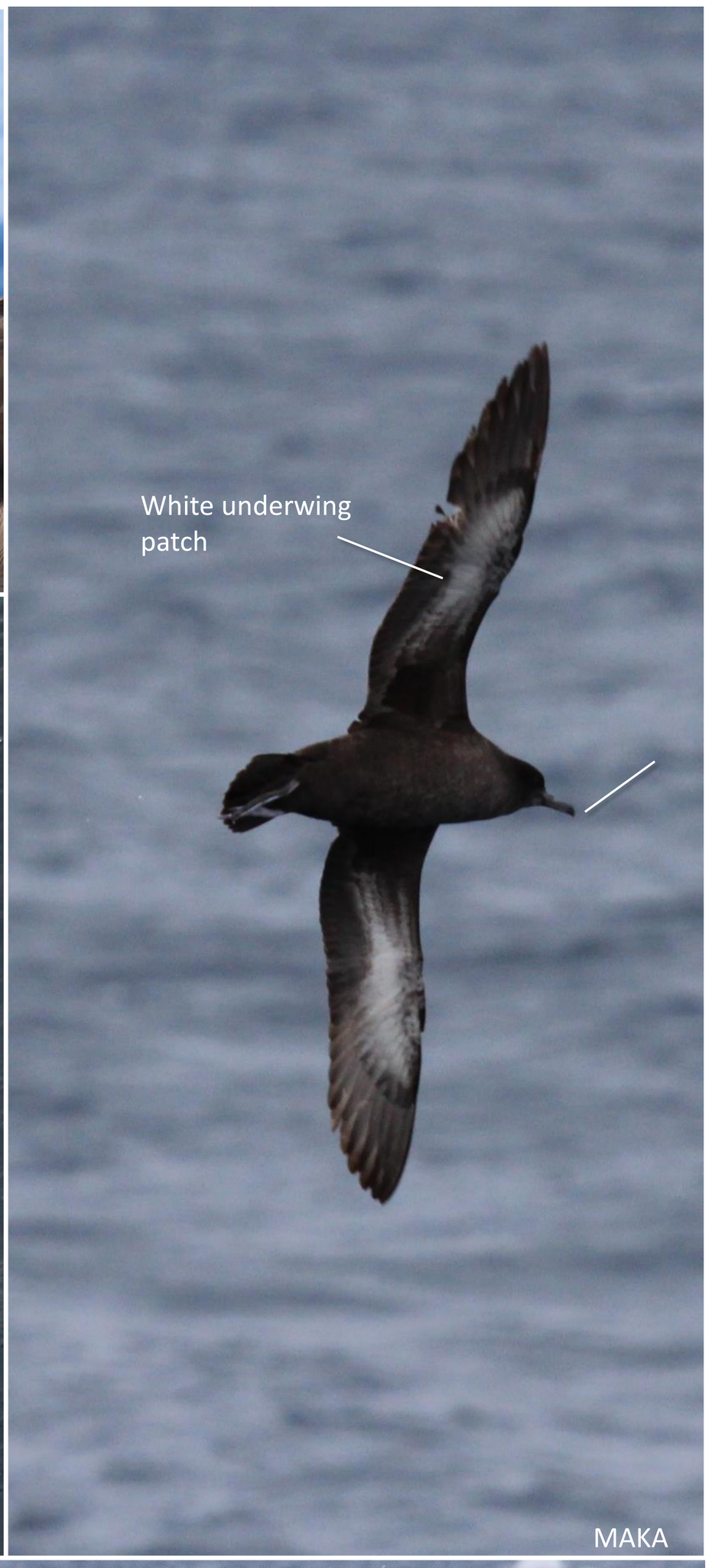


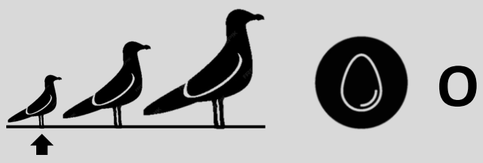


Great shearwater – Puffin majeur

Ardenna gravis

Subantarctic little shearwater – Puffin élégant

Puffinus elegans



White-bellied storm petrel – Océanite à ventre blanc

Fregetta grallaria

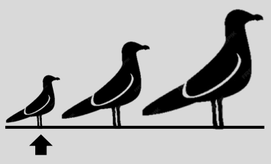
File:White-bellied Storm-Petrel-Lord Howe Island-26March2013.jpg. (2020, October 27). *Wikimedia Commons*. Retrieved 12:09, February 4, 2025 from https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:White-bellied_Storm-Petrel-Lord_Howe_Island-26March2013.jpg&oldid=503667804.

Black-bellied storm petrel – Océanite à ventre noir

Fregetta tropica

Wilson's storm petrel – Océanite de Wilson

Oceanites oceanicus



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Common diving petrel – Pétrel plongeur commun

Pelecanoides urinatrix

File:Pelecanoides urinatrix 1 - SE Tasmania.jpg. (2025, January 17). *Wikimedia Commons*. Retrieved 13:05, February 4, 2025 from https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Pelecanoides_urinatrix_1_-_SE_Tasmania.jpg&oldid=984534438.

Australasian gannet – Fou austral

Morus serrator

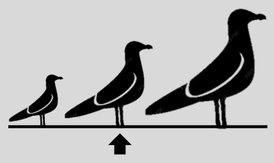
R

Ad plumage

Juv plumage

Brown skua – Labbe subantarctique

Stercorarius antarcticus



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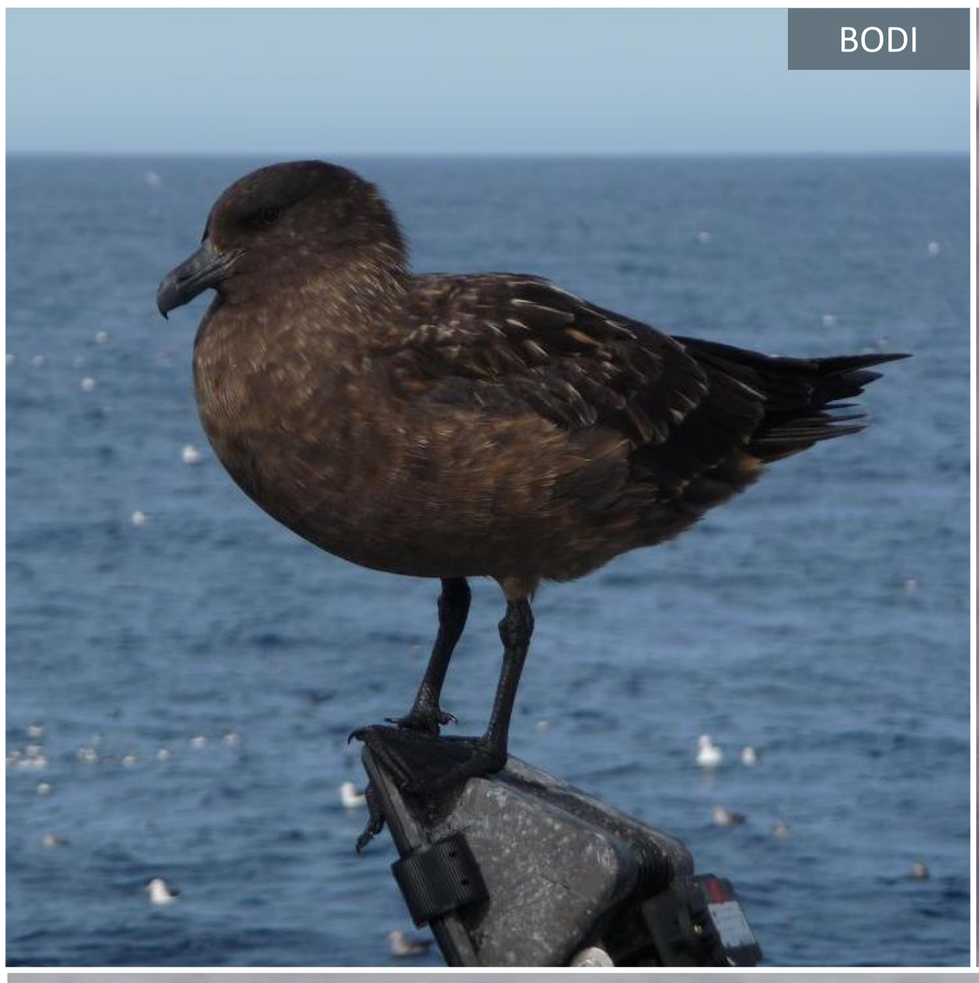

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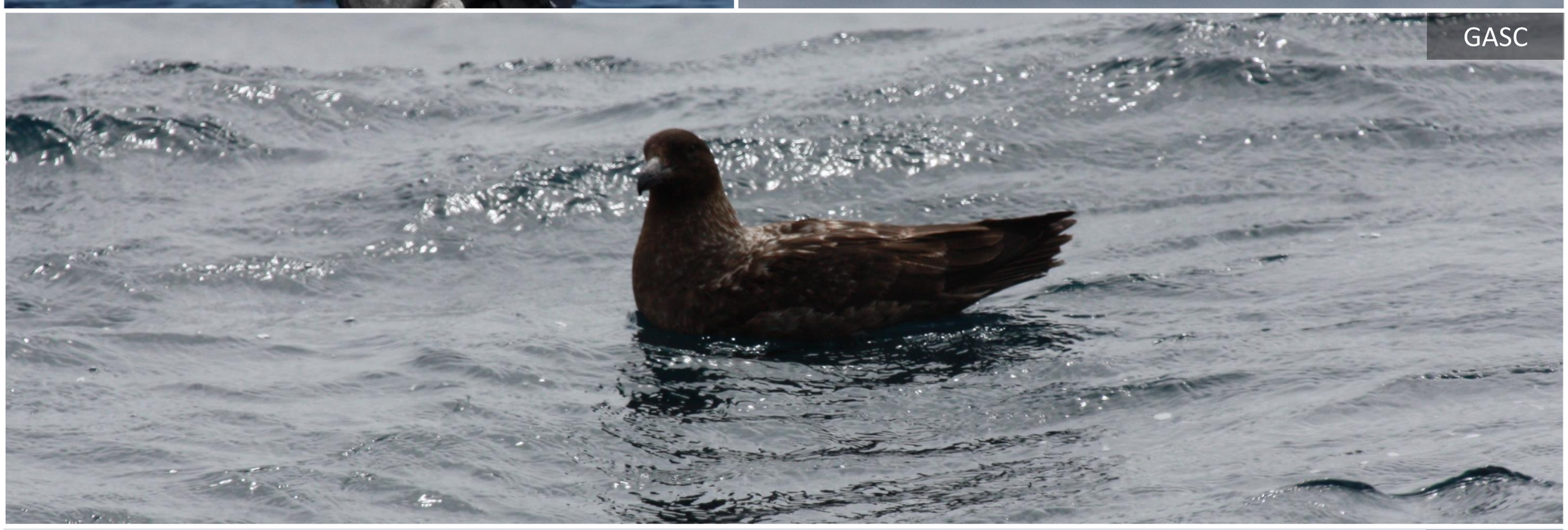

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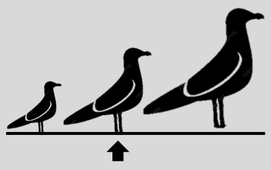
Franklin's gull – Mouette de Franklin

Leucophaeus pipixcan



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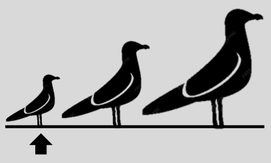
Sooty tern – Sterne fuligineuse

Onychoprion fuscata

Antarctic tern – Sterne antarctique

Sterna vittata



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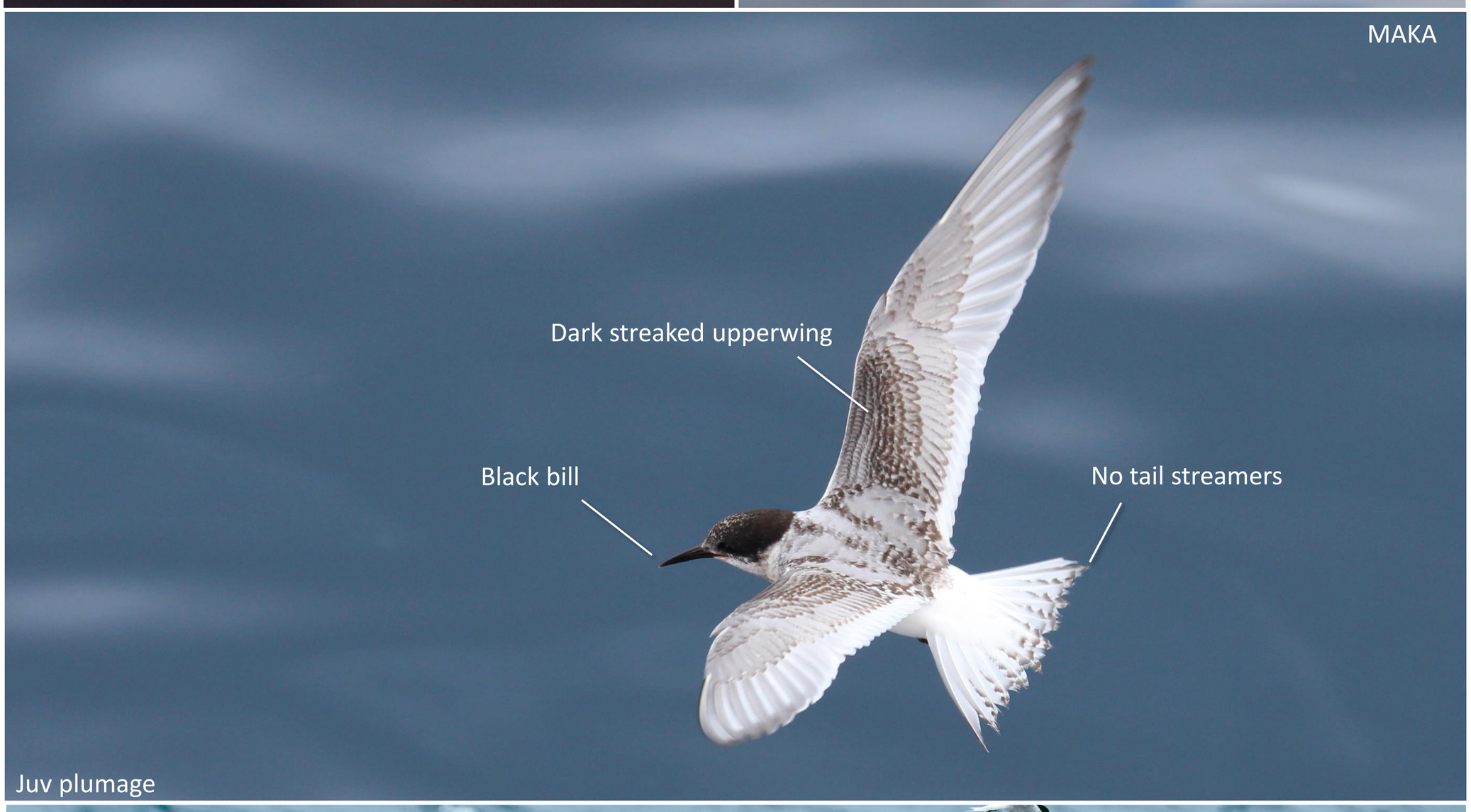
Ad plumage, black cap complete during breeding season

Ad plumage, whitening of cap outside breeding season



Juv plumage

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