

CHAMBERS, S. 2009.

Birds of New Zealand - Locality Guide. 3rd edn.

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Indian yellow-nosed mollymawk (albatross): pp 27-28.



### INDIAN YELLOW-NOSED MOLLYMAWK

**Family** Diomedidae

**Species** *Thalassarche carteri*

**Common name** Yellow-nosed Mollymawk

**Status** Circumpolar

**Abundance** Uncommon

**Size** 700 mm – 750 mm (cf sparrow 145 mm, a small mollymawk)

**Breeding islands close to New Zealand** Breeds on islands to the south of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. Does not breed close to New Zealand.

**Breeding months** September to April.

**Range worldwide** From north of the Tropic of Capricorn to about 55° south around New Zealand's southern islands.

**New Zealand range** A winter visitor to New Zealand waters appearing regularly off the east coast of the North Island from East Cape to North Cape.

**Description – mature bird**

**Head** White. **Upperwings and back** Black. **Rump** White. **Underparts** White.

**Underwing** Mainly white, with wing edges and wing tips black. **Tail** Dark grey upper and under, tipped with black. **Bill** Black, with upper edge of yellow, and orange tipped.

**Conspicuous features**

- Underwing white, finely edged with black.

- Smaller than both Grey-headed and Bullers Mollymawks.
- Bill is the most distinctive feature being black with a yellow top edge. Bullers and Grey-headed have black-sided bills but with top ridges and bottom edges yellow.

### **Where to find – North Island**

**North Auckland** – Waters to Little Barrier Island in winter. P 289.

**Coromandel** – Whitianga Mercury Islands area on the eastern side of the Coromandel Peninsula often have Yellow-nosed quite close in to shore.

**Bay of Plenty** – In winter towards White Island from Whakatane or Ohope Beach. P. 322.