



Black-footed Albatross (*Phoebastria nigripes*)

Size: Head and body length, 68 - 74 cm; wingspan, 193 - 216 cm **Weight:** 2.7 - 3.7 kg **Habitat:** Ranges widely over north Pacific; breeds in the Hawaiian Islands and Japan **Surviving number:** Estimated at 129,000 breeding individuals



Photographed by Tui De Roy

WILDLIFE AS CANON SEES IT

Balancing act. The black-footed albatross balances long sojourns at sea with family time spent at breeding colonies. At sea, it sits on the surface while foraging for food, drinking seawater and secreting salt from glands above its eyes. Back on land, monogamous breeding pairs strengthen their bonds with ritualized display postures, including bowing, preening and calling with bills pointing to the sky. But with each female laying

just one egg a year and only 6.9 out of 100 eggs becoming breeding adults, populations are barely in equilibrium. Bycatch, pollution and introduced predators could all tip the balance.

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