

BIRDWATCHING IN Falkland Islands, South Georgia, & Antarctica

November 2008



**Erik Mølgaard, Marianne Mølgaard &
Eleonora “Ellie” Ilieva**

**DOF TRAVEL
DANISH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRDLIFE DENMARK**



INTRODUCTION

In November 2008, DOF Travel Danish Ornithological Society (DOF) carried out its second tour to Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and the Antarctic. On this cruise we chartered the entire ship and we had the incredible number of 51 clients onboard. A ship full of birders is a dream condition. Hence, we could plan a trip with top priority on birds and wildlife. This is the main reason that we got such a successful tour.

Being a birder you must choose a cruise visiting Falkland Islands and South Georgia. These locations hold huge colonies of Albatrosses and King Penguins. At sea you will also see a great variety of seabird species; especially the ocean between Falklands and South Georgia is very productive. A rather small vessel taking around 50 passengers is perfect as it is permitted to visit all the accessible sites, and it will not be too crowded onshore.

The time of the year was selected to get best opportunity to see seabirds and enjoy the early spring on the islands. In addition this is the part of the season you get the best offers from the cruise operators.

The weather conditions during this cruise were changeable. We had nice and sunny weather on most of the landings at Falkland Islands and South Georgia. At the Antarctic we had the most beautiful weather with bright sun and no wind at Brown Bluff and at the pack ice at Boucharde Strait. The next three days the weather was awful with rain and heavy winds. At sea there were heavy winds one day between Trelew and the Falklands and at some parts of the Bransfield Strait. The Drake Passage being the windiest sea of the world was on its best behaviour, and we had a nice crossing with light wind but still high swell.

The ice situation at Weddell Sea and around Arctic Peninsula was very unusual in the last half of 2008. Since July, we had monitored the ice distribution on <http://www.seaice.dk/test.S/>. The edge of the ice lay several hundreds kilometres further south compared with the last 5 years. Just before the trip in the beginning of November the ice edge lay near Snow Hill Island in Weddell Sea, with open sea all the way to that area. Reaching Weddell Sea from north we met a border of drift ice closing the access to Weddell Sea. Hence, we had to go east to go through Antarctic Sound to find an open passage into the eastern part of Weddell Sea. The unusual ice situation was why it was possible to visit South Orkney Islands and Weddell Sea so early this spring.

DOF Travel leaders were Peter Lafrenz and Erik Mølgaard. They had spent 1½ year planning the trip and had done everything from contract negotiations with the cruise operator Oceanwide, budget, all communication with the clients to finally leading the tour.

The ship Professor Molchanov was chartered from Oceanwide Expeditions, Bellamy Park 9, 4381 CG Vlissingen, The Netherlands (www.oceanwide-expeditions.com). We had excellent service from our two contact persons Michel van Gessel and Frits Steenhuisen. As we chartered the whole ship, they kindly let us choose some of the crew as a Danish expedition leader, guides, and even a Danish doctor - all birdwatchers too! Compared to standard cruises of 20 days, our charter included 21 days. Further, we negotiated an early departure at 2 p.m. from Trelew giving us the opportunity to watch seabirds already the first afternoon offshore Golfo Nuevo, and much more important a possibility to do an extra landing on Falkland Islands at Steeple Jason.

The expedition leader was Morten Jørgensen (Danish). He has worked several years for Oceanwide both in the Arctic and the Antarctic. The two guides were Eleonora "Ellie" Ilieva (Bulgarian) and John Frikke (Danish). And finally the doctor was Eric Schaumburg (Danish). All four did an excellent job and were nice being together with.

The tour fee varied between DKK 57,000 and DKK 70,500 (approx. € 7,600-9,400) depending on the type of cabin chosen. The price included all transportation from Denmark, full cruise, 7 days in Argentina including full birding program, meals, tips, local guide and tour leader as well as usual DOF Travel services (meetings, information etc).

Descriptions of landing sites are not included in this report. You can easily find excellent descriptions in the following books which also have sketches of the sites.

- Falklands Island: A Visitor's Guide to the Falkland Islands by Debbie Summers.
- South Georgia: A Visitor's Guide to South Georgia by Sally Ponset and Kim Grosbie
- Antarctic: Description can be downloaded from http://www.ats.aq/e/ats_other_siteguidelines.htm

Bird books: We found the following two books most useful.

- A Complete Guide to Antarctic Wildlife by Hadoram Shirihai
- Albatrosses, Petrels and Shearwaters of the World by Derek Onley and Paul Scofield.

Maps: We used the following three maps.

- Falkland Islands Explorer; Visitor's Map of the Falkland Islands, scale 1:365,000
- South Georgia Explorer; Visitor's Map of the South Georgia, scale 1:250,000
- Antarctic Explorer: Visitor's Map of the Antarctic Peninsula Region and Map of the Antarctic Continent

Before and after the cruise we stayed a total of 7 days in Argentina. We had booked all the hotels, transfers, and the daily bird trip and birding guides through Seriema Nature Tours in Buenos Aires (www.seriematours.com). The company did an excellent job and had some very good bird guides. We visited Costanera Sur Reserve, Ceibas and Otamendi from Buenos Aires. Further a half day at Valdés where we did a whale watching cruise from Puerto Pyramide. In Ushuaia we visited Tierra del Fuego National Park, Martial Glacier, and Hidden Lake. We saw a total of 230 species of which Straight-billed Reedhaunter and White-bellied Seed-snipe were some of the most interesting species. A birding list from these days it not included in this report. You can easily find information about these sites at the internet.

The report contains the following:

1. Itinerary
2. Description of Landings
3. List of Birds
4. List of Sea Mammals and Mammals

The extensive field notes of Erik Vikkelsøe Rasmussen, Andreas Petersen, Peter Lafrenz, Marianne and Erik Mølgaard are the foundation of this report.

The taxonomy used in this report is the classification and names given in The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World, Sixth Edition.

Species observed only by one or two participants are marked in the bird and mammals list with the name(s) of the observer(s) in brackets.

The participants were: Marianne Mølgaard, Lene & Siri Dalsgaard, Hanne Wichmand, John Hansen, Ole Frode Jakobsen, Einar Flensted-Jensen, Lis Kastrup, Svend Pettersson, Andreas Petersen, Claus Horneman, Kirsten Breddam, Frands E. Jensen, Bue Rønnow, Lars Rasmussen, Inger Andersen, Putte & Erik Vikkelsø Rasmussen, Tina & Mads Elley, Jan Tandrup Pedersen, Hans Wulffsberg, John Andersen, Rolf Køngerskov, Kirsten Schaumburg, Henrik Brøsti Jørgensen, Ellen-Merete Bomholtz, Kirsten & Poul Erik Madsen, Grethe & Asger Bjørn, Helmuth Larsen, Christian Rørdam, Karen & Leif Høxbroe, Mogens Friis John Larsson, Joes Jacobsen, Anne Pade, Annika Mortensen, Henrik Bo Hansen, Elma & Jens Scheibel, Ulla Sylvest, Rolf Bülow, Flemming Christiansen, Kirsten Lauritzen, Søren Lauritzen, Hanna Lauritzen, Vibeke & Flemming Møller.

Finally, it should not be forgotten that the whole trip was characterised by good fellowship and pleasant being together. Again it is a pleasure to look back on a successful DOF tour!

Erik & Marianne Mølgaard

DOF Travel
Danish Ornithological Society
Vesterbrogade 140
1620 Copenhagen V
Denmark

Private:
Ekströms Väg 27g
218 45 Vintrie
Sweden

Mail: moel@telia.com

Eleonora "Ellie" Ilieva

Ilinden, Bl.117, ent G, ap 91,
Sofia 1309
Bulgaria

Mail: eleonorailieva@gmail.com



Steeple Jason

ITINERARY

04.11.08	13.00-14.00 14.00-19.00 14.00-	Puerto Madryn Cay Golfo Nuevo Sailing towards Falkland Islands (08.00 pm: 43°28'S/64°03'W)
05.11.08	All day	Sailing towards Falkland Islands (08.00 am: 45°48'S/63°05'W, 08.00 pm: 47°52'S/62°13'W)
06.11.08	-14.45 14.45-	Sailing to Falkland Islands (8.00 am: 49°58'S/61°26'W) Falklands Islands 14.45-18.20 Steeple Jason
07.11.08	All day	Falklands Islands 08.25-11.55 Carcass Island 13.35-18.00 Saunder's Island
08.11.08	-13.00 13.00-	Falklands Islands 07.15-07.30 Port Stanley 07.45-10.45 Gypsy Cove and Yorke Bay Pond, Cape Pembroke 11.00-12.35 Port Stanley Sailing towards South Georgia (08.00 pm: 51°54'S/55°37,5'W)
09.11.08	All day	Sailing towards South Georgia (08.00 am: 52°18'S/52°06'W, 08.00 pm: 52°44'S/48°13'W)
10.11.08	All day	Sailing towards South Georgia (08.00 am: 53°10'S/44°21'W, 08.00 pm: 53°41'S/40°17'W)
11.11.08	All day	South Georgia 08.30-11.30 Salisbury Plain 14.00-16.45 Prion Islet
12.11.08	All day	South Georgia 08.15-11.00 Fortuna Bay 14.00-18.00 Grytviken
13.11.08	-19.30 19.30-	South Georgia 08.00-12.05 St. Andrews Bay 16.30-19.30 Cooper Bay Sailing towards South Orkney Islands
14.11.08	All day	Sailing towards South Orkney Islands (08.00 am: 56°34'S/38°22'W, 08.00 pm: 58°17'S/41°04'W)
15.11.08	-12.00 12.00-	Sailing towards South Orkney Islands (08.00 am: 59°58'S/43°50'W) South Orkney Islands 15.30-19.00 Shingle Cove
16.11.08	All day	Sailing towards Antarctic Sound (08.00 am: 61°43'S/48°26'W, 08.00 pm: 61°58'S/51°08'W)

17.11.08	-12.45 12.45-21.00	Sailing towards Antarctic Sound (08.00 am: 63°33'S/55°46'W) Antarctic Sound 16.30-20.15 Brown Bluff
18.11.08	All day	Weddell Sea (08.00 am: 63°40'S/56°43'W) 12.30-18.30 Bouchard Strait on ice pack between James Ross Island and Snow Hill Island
19.11.08	All day	South Shetland Islands 09.30-11.30 Barrientos Island (Aitcho Islands) 16.00-17.35 Deception Island (only on ship)
20.11.08	08.10-09.30 10.00-12.00 13.15-14.45 20.30-22.50	Lamaire Channel Pléneau Island (Zodiak cruise) Petermann Island Almirante Brown and Paradise Bay
21.11.08	-13.00 13.00-19.30 19.30-	Sailing towards South Shetland Islands (08.00 am: 63°43'S/61°06'W) South Shetland Islands 14.40-16.45 Half Moon Island Sailing towards Ushuaia (08.00 pm: 62°13'S/59°26'W)
22.11.08	All day	Sailing towards Ushuaia 08.00 am: 60°23'S/60°58'W, 08.00 pm: 58°27'S/63°17'W
23.11.08	All day	Sailing towards Ushuaia (08.00 am: 56°19'S/65°21'W) 14.40- Beagle Channel
24.11.08	07.15-	Ushuaia



Bouchard Strait between James Ross Island and Snow Hill Island

DESCRIPTION OF LANDINGS

Golfo Nuevo: (42°45'S / 64°34'W), Argentina

We started the cruise at Trelew in Argentina. From Trelew we sailed through Golfo Nuevo to the Atlantic Ocean. Golfo Nuevo is known for calving Southern Right Whales. We saw two from the ship crossing the Golfo. Just out of the mouth of Golfo Nuevo we saw lot of sea birds. Here were several species of Albatrosses, Petrels, Shearwaters, and four species of Skuas/Jaegers.

Steeple Jason Island: (50°02'S / 61°12'W), Falklands

The island is one of the most dramatic islands of the archipelago. It has a total area of 1,952 acres, and it is 10 km long and 1.6 km across lies northwest and southeast. From the coasts the land rises steeply to a rocky ridge. We landed on the rocks and started wandering towards the first Gentoo Penguin colony. Later, the group headed northwest. The tussock grass, an excellent habitat for feeding and nesting, surrounded the colony area of thousands of Black-browed Albatrosses, which is the largest colony in the world with approx. 113,000 pairs.

Carcass Island (51° 18'S / 60° 34'W), Falklands

Carcass Island lies in the northwest of the Falkland Islands archipelago. Our landing on Carcass Island was to the east of the settlement, Leopard Beach, on impressive stretches of fine white sand. Part of the group took the unmarked trail up to a small gate on Jason Hill and then took westerly direction towards Carcass settlement. When we got there we met the friendly farmer Rob McGill, who kindly invited us for a cup of coffee and cake. On the way back we enjoyed looking at a few Commerson's Dolphins in the sea.

Saunders Island: (51° 22'S / 60° 05'W), Falklands

We made our landing at The Neck, a narrow isthmus that links Elephant Point to the main part of the island. The southerly beach we landed on was about 400 m long and we quickly spotted the Gentoo Penguins. Then we strolled east towards the unique colony of Rock-hopper Penguins on a dramatic eroded slope. A little bit further on we enjoyed watching the fascinating colony of Black-browed Albatrosses. Some of us went even further and sat down to look at the mixed colony of Rockhoppers, King Cormorants, and Black-browed Albatrosses.

Gypsy Cove (51° 41'S / 57° 48'W) and Port Stanley, Falklands

As we made our landing at Port Stanley's pier, we took a ride to Yorke Bay Pound at Cape Pembroke near the airstrip to look for Rufous-chested Dotterel. Later on we walked to Gypsy Cove, which is 6 km from Stanley, to the northwest of Yorke Bay. This hilly Gypsy Cove was an excellent habitat for the Correndera Pipit. The rest of the morning we spent wandering around Stanley.

<http://www.epd.gov.fk/wp-content/uploads/Yorke%20Bay%20Pond%20Plan%20Management%20Plan.pdf>

Salisbury Plain (54°03'S / 37°19'W), South Georgia

Located on the southern shores of the Bay of Isles, 50 km from the western extremity of the island. The plain is formed by the retreat of the Grace Glacier, covering over 2 sq. km and it is the largest area of level ground at South Georgia. As we were approaching the beach we spotted large Elephant Seals, hauling out. The 2 km long beach is one of South Georgia's largest Elephant Seal breeding populations. We spent most of the time watching them and observing the huge colony of King Penguins, which were everywhere, as far as the eye can see.

Prion Islet (54°01'S / 37°20'W), South Georgia

Named by Robert Cushman Murphy, after the Antarctic Prions he found nesting in 1912, it lies in the Bay of Isles towards the west end of South Georgia's northeast coast. This site is

an important breeding area for Wandering Albatrosses and the endemic South Georgia Pipit. It is also a site of high environmental sensitivity and exceptional conservation value, one of the rat-free tussock islands. Landings are permitted only on the east coast beach, where there is a boardwalk. We split into groups and took the boardwalk up towards the viewing areas where we observed young Wandering Albatrosses and the displaying South Georgia Pipit.

Fortuna Bay (54°07'S / 36°48'W), South Georgia

Fortuna Bay is a 6 km long fjord leading to the heart of South Georgia's rugged interior, between Cape Best and Cape Robertson on the central north coast. This is where Shackleton made his descent to the beach on his route across the island. Our landing was at Whistle Cove and soon we saw beautiful Reindeer grazing the grassy slopes and more King Penguins. The most amazing sight was of a Light-mantled Sooty Albatross, nesting on a ridge.

Grytviken (54°15'S/36°45'W), South Georgia

Grytviken lies within King Edward Cove, a sheltered harbour on the western shore of Cumberland East Bay and it was named after sealers' try pots found at the site. Grytviken is the site of the South Georgia Government's administrative centre and British Antarctic Survey research station. Our zodiac landing was directly in front of the cemetery near Louise. We raised glasses in a toast to Sir Ernest Shackleton at his grave in the whalers' cemetery. After a while in groups we walked to the museum, housed in the former whaling station.

St. Andrews Bay (54°26'S/36°11'W), South Georgia

St. Andrews Bay lies approximately 30 km southeast of the entrance to Cumberland Bay. The landing was made on the far north corner of the beach, under Clark Point, which was slightly more sheltered. The coastline at St. Andrews runs north-east in a 3 km long uninterrupted sweep of dark sand. As we began to disembark we saw that the beach was covered in penguins and seals. This is South Georgia's largest King Penguin colony and Elephant Seal beach. We took a walk towards the glacier, past the hut where we saw a good number of Reindeer and nesting Brown Skua. It was incredible to look at such a large assemblage of wildlife, so some of us just sat on the beach and enjoyed it.

Cooper Bay (54°47'S/35°48'W), South Georgia

Cooper Bay is protected from the open ocean by nearby Cooper Island and has a comparatively mild climate. It lies on the south-facing coast of a 5,000 hectare peninsula contained between the Twitcher Glacier in Iris Bay and the Salomon Glacier in Hamilton Bay. The island's largest Chinstrap Penguin colony is found here, but we all wanted to see Macaroni Penguins as this is the only Macaroni Penguin colony at South Georgia which is reasonably accessible from an all-weather landing beach.

Shingle Cove (60°39'S/45°34'W), South Orkney Islands

Shingle Cove is a small sheltered cove on southern shore of Coronation Island, on NW shore of Iceberg Bay. It comprises low cliffs with two gravel beaches at either end of the inner bay, and a few rocky outcrops of metamorphic schist. We made our landing in two groups at Primary landing site and Secondary landing site, respectively. Both groups walked to the Adelie Penguin colony carefully and avoided straying into burrowing Snow Petrel areas. There were Brown Skua nesting nearby and Antarctic Terns flying over and it was such an incredible experience to watch the Adelie Penguins, fighting for pieces of rock!

http://www.ats.aq/siteguidelines/documents/pdf_ingles/shingle_cove_ingles.pdf

Brown Bluff (63°32'S/56°55'W), the Antarctic

It lies on the east Coast of Tabarin Peninsula on the south western coast of Antarctic Sound. The beach is rising steeply towards towering cliffs, embedded with volcanic lumps. It was a beautiful day we got together for a group photo commemorating our first continental landing! A few even jumped into the ice cold sea like the penguins. Due to very low tide icebergs were everywhere on the beach and most of us spread out to take photos. Then we took a

walk to the beautiful glacier to enjoy the numerous Cape Petrels floating gently in the water. The main attraction was the large Adelie Penguin colony.

http://www.ats.aq/siteguidelines/documents/pdf_ingles/Brown_%20ingles.pdf



Gentoo Penguins, Brown Bluff

Bouchard Strait between James Ross Island and Snow Hill Island, the edge of the ice sheet (64°16'S/57°01'W), the Antarctic

Sailing southward in open water aiming to get as close as possible to the well known Emperor Penguin colony at the southern coast of Snow Hill Island, we met the ice edge in Bouchard Strait between the James Ross Island and Snow Hill Island. Most of the group paid a visit to the ice sheet enjoying this virgin place in the sunshine. From the top deck of the vessel the leftover keen watchers set their eyes on a tiny black spot in the horizon where the ice plain meets the snow covered hills of Snow Hill Island - our first Emperor Penguin approaching the ice edge walking and gliding towards the open water. Then we found 2 more and then 4 more etc. The next hours we had a fantastic time with the Emperor Penguins, all together we saw 17 - some of them quite close in the pack ice at the ice edge and even a few swimming near the ship. This place must have been some of the nearest open water from the Emperor Penguin colony only 20-25 km away.

http://www.ats.aq/siteguidelines/documents/pdf_ingles/SnowHill_ingles.pdf

Barrientos Island (62°24'S/59°47'W), Aitcho Islands, South Shetland Islands

Situated at the north entrance of English Strait between Robert and Greenwich Islands, its 1.5 km coast is dominated by steep cliffs, reaching a height of approximately 70 m. We landed on the south facing beach at the eastern end of the island. The entire centre of the island was supposed to be covered by a very extensive moss carpet, lichens and green alga, but as we were there very early in the season, most area was still snowy. There were lots of Gentoo and Chinstrap Penguins, Southern Giant Petrels and Brown Skuas.

http://www.ats.aq/siteguidelines/documents/pdf_ingles/Aitcho_ingles.pdf

Deception Island (62°59'S, 60°34'W), South Shetland Islands

We had planed to make the traditional landing in Whaler Bay. Very bad weather with heaving wind and rain did it impossible to land. We watch the bay from the ship and the captain demonstrated challenging manoeuvring as he let the ship get so close to the shore that it seemed to be a last minute reversing that avoided the ship was grounded.

http://www.ats.aq/siteguidelines/documents/pdf_ingles/Whalers_bay_ingles.pdf

Pleneau Island (65°06'S/64°04'W), the Antarctic

The island is located west of Booth Island at the southern end of the Lemaire Channel. It was a very cold day, but we all took the opportunity for a zodiac cruise around the breathtaking icebergs.

http://www.ats.aq/siteguidelines/documents/pdf_ingles/Paulet_ingles.pdf

Petermann Island (65°10'S, 64°10'W), the Antarctic

The island is normally very beautiful with nice views of Penguins etc. We had again a very bad weather with strong wind and light rain and our Expedition leader thought it was too dangerous to land on this southernmost island on the cruise.

http://www.ats.aq/siteguidelines/documents/pdf_ingles/Petermann_ingles.pdf

Almirante Brown, Paradise Bay, (64°52'S, 52°64'W), the Antarctic

Some took their second continental landing with a short stroll through the Argentinean base and up to the top of a look-out hill. About half of the group also enjoyed a zodiac cruise in the area of Skontorp Cove, looking at nesting Cape Petrels, Antarctic terns, Antarctic Shags, and Wilson's Storm-Petrels.

Half Moon Island (60°36'S/59°55'W), South Shetland Islands

Half Moon Island is a 2 km long crescent shaped island between Greenwich and Livingston Islands. Our landing site was a small beach area on the north shore of the south-eastern tip of the island. The beach is characterized by a small hill and series of igneous rock outcrops. We all spread out, finding it really hard to walk in the deep snow to have a look at Chinstrap Penguins.

http://www.ats.aq/siteguidelines/documents/pdf_ingles/Half_moon_ingles.pdf



Light-Mantled Albatross

LIST OF BIRDS

King Penguin *Aptenodytes patagonicus*

14 Saunder's Island, 95,000 Salisbury Plain, 8,000 Fortuna Bay, 45 Grytviken, 200,000 St. Andrews Bay.

Emperor Penguin *Aptenodytes forsteri*

16 ad + 1 2K Bouchard Strait on the ice between James Ross Island and Snow Hill Island, 5 single birds on ice floes on our way northwards the same evening.

Gentoo Penguin *Pygoscelis papua*

Very common and seen on all the islands. We counted a total of 7,125 birds. Highest number recorded was 350 Steeple Jason, 3,000 Saunder's Island, 200 Brown Bluff, 1,000 Barrientos Island, 1,500 Pléneau Island, 500 Half Moon Island.

Adelie Penguin *Pygoscelis adeliae*

3,000 Shingle Cove, 25 Antarctic Sound, 10,000 Brown Bluff, 50 Brown Bluff - Bouchard Strait, 200 Lemaire Channel, 4 Pléneau Island, 500 Petermann Island.

Chinstrap Penguin *Pygoscelis antarcticus*

75 Cooper Bay, 75 South Georgia - South Orkney Islands, 50 South Orkney Islands – Brown Bluff, 3,000 Barrientos Island, 1,000+ Deception Island, 10 Lemaire Channel, 2 Pléneau Island, 25 Bransfield Strait, 2,000 Half Moon Island.

Rockhopper Penguin *Eudyptes chrysocome*

30 Steeple Jason, 2,300 Saunder's Island.

Macaroni Penguin *Eudyptes chrysolophus*

2,000 Cooper Bay, 8 Drake Passage 22/11.

Magellanic Penguin *Spheniscus magellanicus*

250 Golfo Nuevo, 1 Golfo Nuevo – Falkland Islands 5/11, 50 Carcass Island, 20 Saunder's Island, 1 Gypsy Cove, 1 Falkland Islands – South Georgia 8/11.



King Penguin



King Penguin juvenile

Great Grebe *Podiceps major*

4 Golfo Nuevo, 1 Golfe Nuevo – Falkland Islands 5/11, 4 Beagle Channel.

White-tufted Grebe *Rollandia rolland*

2 Yorke Bay Pond.

Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans*

3 Offshore Golfo Nuevo – Falkland Islands 5/11, 3 Falkland Islands - South Georgia 8/11, 23 9/11, 9 10/11, 8 juv. Prion Islet, 2 Drake Passage 22/11, 10 23/11.

Note: Probably this species would be split into 4 species. In that case our birds will be named Snowy Albatross *Diomedea exulans*.

Royal Albatross *Diomedea epomophora*

Subspecies epomiophora (**Southern Royal**); 3 Offshore Golfo Nuevo, 2 Golfo Nuevo – Falkland Islands 5/11, 3 6/11, 2 Falkland Islands - South Georgia 8/11, 1 9/11, 5 Drake Passage 23/11.

Subspecies sanfordi (**Northern Royal**); 2 Offshore Golfo Nuevo, 2 Drake Passage.

Note: Sometimes the two subspecies is regarded as full species.

Wandering / Royal Albatross *Diomedea exulans* / *epomophora*

8 Golfo Nuevo – Falkland Islands 5/11, 6 6/11, 1 Falkland Islands – South Georgia 8/11, 20 10/11, 1 Drake Passage 22/11, 4 23/11.



Wandering Albatross



Light-mantled Albatross

Gray-headed Albatross *Thalassarche chrysostoma*

2 Falkland Islands - South Georgia 8/11, 6 9/11, 7 10/11, 2 Fortuna Bay – Grytviken, 1 Grytviken – St. Andrews Bay, 3 Drake Passage 21/11, 20 22/11, 2 23/11.

Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos*

2 Golfo Nuevo – Falkland Islands 5/11.

Note: Some authors suggest that the two forms of Yellow-nosed Albatross should be regarded as two full species. In that matter these birds will become Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos*.

Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris*

Common throughout the cruise and very common ship-follower except at the Antarctic where we only saw 5 birds at Bransfield Strait. 102,727 birds were counted. Highest numbers recorded were 100 Offshore Golfo Nuevo, 100 Golfo Nuevo – Falkland Island 5/11 2,000 6/11, 100,000 Steeple Jason, 150 Saunder's Island, 100 Falkland Islands - South Georgia 10/11, 125 Drake Passage 23/11.

Light-mantled Albatross *Phoebastria palpebrata*

1 Falkland Islands - South Georgia 9/10, 16 10/11, 2 Salisbury Plain, 4 Prion Islet, 4 Fortuna Bay 12/11, 1 Fortuna Bay – Grytviken, 2 Grytviken, 16 Grytviken - St. Andrews Bay, 4 St. Andrews Bay, 4 St. Andrews Bay – Cooper Bay, 2 Cooper Bay, 1 South Georgia - South Orkney Islands 14/11, 1 15/11, 1 Bransfield Strait, 2 Drake Passage 21/2, 2 22/11.



Black-browed Albatross



Black-browed Albatross

Antarctic Giant Petrel *Macronectes giganteus*

Common throughout the cruise and very common ship-follower. 766 birds were counted.

Highest numbers recorded were 125 Steeple Jason, 50 Salisbury Plain.

Note: 83 Giant Petrel sp. is included in the count for species. The species is also called Southern Giant Petrel.

Hall's Giant Petrel *Macronectes halli*

1 Offshore Golfo Nuevo, 1 Falkland Islands - South Georgia 8/11, 2 9/11, 1 St. Andrews Bay – Cooper Bay, 1 Drake 22/11, 1 23/11. The species may be overlooked between all the Antarctic Giant Petrels.

Note: Also called Northern Giant Petrel.

Southern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialisoides*

3 Golfo Nuevo – Falkland Islands, 1 Carcass Island, 6 Falkland Islands - South Georgia 8/11, 1 9/11, 4 10/11, 2 St. Andrews Bay, 6 South Georgia - South Orkney Islands 14/11, 6 15/11, 160 South Orkney Islands – Brown Bluff 16/11, 1 17/11, 6 Brown Bluff, 1 Lemaire Channel, 18 Bransfield Strait, 300 Drake Passage 21/11, 2 22/11, 2 23/11.

Antarctic Petrel *Thalassoica antarctica*

7 South Orkney Islands – Brown Bluff 16/11, 1 near Lemaire Channel.

Cape Petrel *Daption capense*

Common on the whole cruise and there was always birds following the ship. 2,289 birds were counted. Highest numbers counted were 150 Falkland Islands – South Georgia 10/11, 275 South Georgia - South Orkney Islands 16/11, 750 Drake Passage 21/11.



Atlantic Petrel



Snow Petrel

Snow Petrel *Pagodroma nivea*

More common and widespread than usually, maybe because it was a November cruise. 259 birds were counted. We saw the first birds at Salisbury Plain and the last ones at Bransfield Strait the 21/11. Highest numbers recorded were 10 Fortuna Bay – Grytviken, 11 South Georgia - South Orkney Islands 14/11, 15 15/11, 55 along South Orkney Islands, 22 Shingle Cove, 40 South Orkney Islands – Brown Bluff, 16 Bouchard Strait, 17 Bouchard Strait – Antarctic Sound, 25 Lemaire Channel, 12 Pléneau Island.

White-headed Petrel *Pterodroma lessonii*

1 Falkland Islands – South Georgia 9/11.

Atlantic Petrel *Pterodroma incerta*

3 Falkland Islands - South Georgia 8/11, 52 9/11, 6 10/11.

Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis*

8 Falkland Islands – South Georgia 9/11, 6 10/11.

Blue Petrel *Halobaena caerulea*

1 Falkland Islands – South Georgia 9/11, 5 10/11, 15 Prion Islet – Fortuna Bay, 8 Salisbury Plain – Cooper Bay, 100 Offshore South Georgia 13/11, 185 South Georgia - South Orkney Islands 14/11, 10 15/11, 80 Drake Passage 22/11, 500 23/11.



Southern Giant Petrel



Cape Petrel

Antarctic Prion *Pachyptila desolata*

5 Falkland Islands - South Georgia 9/11, 210 10/11, 5,000 Offshore South Georgia, 690 South Georgia - South Orkney Islands 14/11, 80 15/11, 12 South Orkney Islands – Brown Bluff 16/11, 6 Bransfield Strait, 10 Drake Passage 21/11, 52 22/11, 20 23/11.

Slender-billed Prion *Pachyptila belcheri*

47 Golfo Nuevo – Falkland Islands 5/11, 700 6/11, 4 Falkland Islands - South Georgia 8/11, 40 9/11, 29 Drake Passage 23/11.

Fairy Prion *Pachyptila turtur*

3 Golfo Nuevo – Falklands Islands 5/11, 9 Falkland Islands - South Georgia 9/11, 3 10/10, 3 Drake Passage 23/11.

Prion sp. *Pachyptila sp.*

50 Golfo Nuevo – Falkland Islands 5/11, 340 Falkland Islands - South Georgia 9/11, 1,450 10/11, 60 Drake Passage 22/11, 75 23/11.

White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis*

Common apart from the Antarctic. 394 birds were counted. Highest numbers recorded were 70 Golfo Nuevo - Falkland Islands 5/11, 54 Falkland Islands - South Georgia 9/11, 60 Grytviken - St. Andrews Bay.

Kerguelen Petrel *Aphrodroma brevirostris*

1 Falkland Islands - South Georgia 9/11, 8 10/11, 2 South Georgia - South Orkney Islands 14/11.

Greater Shearwater *Puffinus gravis*

15 Offshore Golfo Nuevo, 1 Golfo Nuevo – Falkland Islands 5/11.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

5 Offshore Golfo Nuevo, 14 Golfo Nuevo – Falkland Islands 5/11, 13 6/11, 320 Falkland Islands - South Georgia 8/11, 16 9/11, 1 10/11, 1 Drake Passage 22/11, 75 23/11, 1 Beagle Channel.

Grey-backed Storm-Petrel *Garrodia nereis*

9 Golfo Nuevo – Falkland Islands 6/11, 3 Falkland Islands - South Georgia 8/11, 6 9/11, 1 10/11.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

Common through out the cruise. 853 birds were counted. Highest numbers recorded were 170 Golfo Nuevo – Falklands Islands 6/11, 150 Falkland Islands - South Georgia 8/11, 19 9/11, 45 10/11, 25 Offshore South Georgia, 30 South Orkney Islands – Brown Bluff 17/11, 19 Drake Passage 22/11, 150 23/11, 50 Beagle Channel 23/11.

Black-bellied Storm-Petrel *Fregetta tropica*

1 Falkland Islands - South Georgia 9/11, 85 10/11, 1 Prion Islet - Fortuna Bay, 10 Offshore South Georgia 13/11, 4 South Georgia - South Orkney Islands 14/11, 8 15/11, 1 South Orkney Islands – Brown Bluff 16/11, 2 Drake Passage 21/11, 2 22/11, 8 23/11.

Magellanic Diving-Petrel *Pelecanoides magellani*

3? Drake Passage 22/11, 1 23/11, 1 Beagle Channel 23/11, 3 24/11.

South Georgia Diving-Petrel *Pelecanoides georgicus*

1 Prion Islet – Fortuna Bay, 3 St. Andrews Bay – Cooper Bay, 1 may be this species South Georgia - South Orkney Islands 14/11.

Common Diving-Petrel *Pelecanoides urinatrix*

8 Golfo Nuevo – Falkland Islands 6/11, 8 Falkland Islands – South Georgia 8/11, 4 9/11, 3 10/11, 13 Prion Islet – Fortuna Bay, 5 Drake Passage 21/11.

South Georgia / Common Diving-Petrel

500 offshore South Georgia.

Rock Shag *Phalacrocorax magellanicus*

1 Golfo Nuevo, 2 Steeple Jason, 1 Carcass Island, 20 Gypsy Cove, 4 Beagle Channel.

Antarctic Shag *Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis*

4 South Orkney Island, 6 South Orkney Island – Brown Bluff, 12 Bouchard Strait, 1 Barrientos Island, 45 Pléneau Island, 1 Petermann Island, 2 Almirante Brown, 3 Half Moon Island.

South Georgia Shag *Phalacrocorax georgianus*

2,000 Shag Rocks between Falkland Islands and South Georgia, 2 Salisbury Plain, 4 Prion Islet, 6 Fortuna Bay, 2 Grytviken, 4 Cooper Bay.

Imperial Shag *Phalacrocorax atriceps*

2 Golfo Nuevo, 15 Golfo Nuevo - Falkland Islands 6/11, 25 Steeple Jason 6/11, 2 Carcass Island, 2 Saunder's Island 7/11, 1 Port Stanley, 225 Beagle Channel.

Note: Blue-eyed Cormorant *Phalacrocorax atriceps* and King Cormorant *Phalacrocorax albiventer* is lumped into this super species.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

2 Steeple Jason, 2 Gypsy Cove, 2 Beagle Channel.

Upland Goose *Chloephaga picta*

50 Steeple Jason, 150 Carcass Island, 30 Saunder's Island, 20 Yorke Bay Pond, 15 Port Stanley.

Kelp Goose *Chloephaga hybrida*

8 Steeple Jason, 2 Carcass Island, 2 Saunder's Island, 1 Gypsy Cove.

Ruddy-headed Goose *Chloephaga rubidiceps*

20 Carcass Island, 2 Yorke Bay Pond.



Ruddy-headed Goose



Falkland Steamerduck

Falkland Steamerduck *Tachyeres brachypterus*

3 Steeple Jason, 4 Carcass Island, 2 Saunder's Island, 2 Port Stanley.

Red Shoveler *Anas platalea*

3 Golfo Nuevo.

Chiloe Wigeon *Anas sibilatrix*

2 Carcass Island.

Speckled Teal *Anas flavirostris*

1 Steeple Jason, 2 Yorke Bay Pond.

Crested Duck *Anas specularioides*

1 Steeple Jason, 12 Carcass Island, 1 Port Stanley.

Yellow-billed Pintail *Anas georgica*

Anas georgica spinicauda: 10 Carcass Island.

Anas georgica georgica (**South Georgia Pintail**): 3 Salisbury Plain, 6 Prion Islet, 2 Fortuna Bay, 8 Grytviken, 3 Cooper Bay.

Note: Sometimes *Anas georgica georgica* is regarded as a full species and named South Georgia Pintail.

Silver Teal *Anas versicolor*
2 Yorke Bay Pond.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*
2 Steeple Jason, 2 Carcass Island, 9 Saunder's Island, 2 Yorke Bay Pond.

Red-backed Hawk *Buteo polyosoma*
2 Saunder's Island, 1 Gypsy Cove.

Striated Caracara *Phalcoboenus australis*
12 Steeple Jason, 4 Carcass Island, 6 Saunder's Island.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*
1 Carcass Island (Morten Jørgensen).



Rufous-chested Dotterel



Striated Caracara

Magellanic Oystercatcher *Haematopus leucopodus*
4 Steeple Jason, 4 Carcass Island, 4 Yorke Bay Pond/Gypsy Cove.

Blackish Oystercatcher *Haematopus ater*
2 Steeple Jason, 2 Port Stanley 8/11.

Two-banded Plover *Charadrius falklandicus*
6 Yorke Bay Pond.

Rufous-chested Dotterel *Charadrius modestus*
3-4 Yorke Bay Pond.

South American Snipe *Gallinago paraguaiiae*
1 Steeple Jason, 4 Carcass Island, 1 Yorke Bay Pond.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*
7 Yorke Bay Pond.

Snowy Sheathbill *Chionis albus*
1 Steeple Jason, 20 Saunder's Island, 10 Salisbury Plain, 8 St. Andrews Bay, 15 Cooper Bay, 3 Barrientos Island, 4 Almirante Brown, 6 Half Moon Island.

Dolphin Gull *Larus scoresbii*

2 Golfo Nuevo, 4 Steeple Jason, 2 Carcass Island, 30 Saunder's Island, 15 Port Stanley, 2 Gypsy Cove.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

Common Golfo Nuevo, 112 Falkland Islands, 44 South Georgia, 4 Shingle Cove, 8 Brown Bluff, 20 Barrientos Island, 4 Deception Island, 14 Lemaire Channel, 30 Half Moon Island, 5 Beagle Channel.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

8 Offshore Golfo Nuevo.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

1 Falkland Islands – South Georgia 9/1, 1 10/11, 2 South Georgia - South Orkney Islands.

South American Tern *Sterna hirundinacea*

14 Offshore Golfo Nuevo, 2 Steeple Jason, 2 Carcass Island, 4 Port Stanley, 25 Beagle Channel.

Antarctic Tern *Sterna vittata*

Common at South Georgia, South Orkney Islands, and Antarctica. 129 birds were counted. Highest numbers recorded were 25 St. Andrews Bay, 12 Shingle Cove, 12 Deception Island, 20 Half Moon Island.

Snowy-crowned Tern *Sterna trudeaui*

1 Offshore Golfo Nuevo.

Royal Tern *Sterna maximus*

1 Offshore Golfo Nuevo.

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis eurygnathus*

4 Offshore Golfo Nuevo.

Note: This subspecies is sometimes regarded as a full species and named Cayenne Tern *S. eurygnathus*.

Chilean Skua *Stercorarius chilensis*

1 Beagle Channel 23/11, 30 24/11.

South Polar Skua *Stercorarius maccormicki*

1 Brown Bluff - Bouchard Strait, 3 Bouchard Strait, 1 Lemaire Channel.

Brown Skua *Stercorarius antarcticus*

Common. 206 birds were counted. Highest numbers recorded were 20 Carcass Island, 15 Salisbury Plain, 20 Prion Islet, 30 Deception Island.

Note: Hybrids between South Polar Skua and Brown Skua occurs at South Shetland Islands and the Antarctic. We have not spent time to study this matter and therefore not included this type of birds into the count of this species.

Note: Probably more than one species involved. The birds at Falkland Islands and South Georgia may be split into full species.

Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus*

2 Offshore Golfo Nuevo.

Arctic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*

1 Offshore Golfo Nuevo.

Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus*

4 juv. Offshore Golfo Nuevo.

Jaeger sp. *Stercorarius sp.*
2 Offshore Golfo Nuevo.

Blackish Cinclodes *Cinclodes antarcticus*
14 Steeple Jason, 30 Carcass Island, 1 Saunder's Island, 1 Yorke Bay Pond.

Dark-faced Ground-Tyrant *Muscisaxicola maclovianus*
10 Carcass Island, 4 Yorke Bay Pond.

South Georgia Pipit *Anthus antarcticus*
8 Prion Islet.



South Georgia Pipit



Snowy Sheathbill

Cobb's Wren *Troglodytes cobbi*
3 Carcass Island.

Sedge Wren *Cistothorus platensis*
2 Steeple Jason, 2 Carcass Island, 2 Gypsy Cove.

Austral Thrush *Turdus falcklandii*
3 Steeple Jason, 10 Carcass Island, 3 Saunder's Island, 5 Gypsy Cove.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
6 Port Stanley.

Black-chinned Siskin *Carduelis barbata*
2 Carcass Island.

Canary-winged Finch *Melanodera melanodera*
20 Steeple Jason, 14 Carcass Island, 6 Yorke Bay Pond/Gypsy Cove.

Long-tailed Meadowlark *Sturnella loyca*
1 Steeple Jason, 14 Carcass Island 7/11, 5 Yorke Bay Pond.

LIST OF MAMMALS

Antarctic Fur Seal *Arctocephalus gazella*

Common at South Georgia. Elsewhere we had only 1 Shingle Cove, 1 Barrientos Island.

South American Sea Lion *Otaria flavescens*

2 Steeple Jason.

Leopard Seal *Hydrurga leptonyx*

1 South Orkney Islands – Brown Bluff 16/11, 1 Brown Bluff, 2 Bouchard Strait.

Weddell Seal *Leptonychotes weddellii*

1 South Orkney Islands – Brown Bluff 16/11, 7 17/11, 1 Brown Bluff, 4 Bouchard Strait, 1 Barrientos Island, 1 Deception Island, 2 Lemaire Channel.

Crabeater Seal *Lobodon carcinophaga*

2 South Orkney Islands – Brown Bluff 17/11, 15 Bouchard Strait, 1 Lemaire Channel.

Southern Elephant Seal *Mirounga leonine*

1 Carcass Island, common at South Georgia where the highest number we recorded was 500 St. Andrews Bay and 5 Shingle Cove.

Seal sp.

20 Bouchard Strait.

Commerson's Dolphin *Cephalorhynchus commersonii*

4 Carcass Island.



Southern Elephant Seal, St. Andrews Bay

Peale's Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus australis*

7 Carcass Island, 2 Drake Passage 23/11, 3 Beagle Channel.

Hourglass Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus cruciger*

2 Bransfield Strait.

Dolphin sp.

4 Drake Passage 23/11.

Killer Whale *Orcinus orca*

3 Bransfield Strait, 2 Drake Passage 22/11.

Southern Bottlenose Whale *Hyperoon planifrons*

3 South Georgia – South Orkney Island 15/11.

Southern Right Whale *Eubalaena australis*

2 Golfo Nuevo.

Antarctic Minky Whale *Balaenoptera bonaerensis*

3 Bransfield Strait.

Southern Blue Whale *Balanoptera musculus intermedia*

8-11 South Orkney Island – Brown Bluff 16/11.

Note: We saw a mother group at 61°43'S/48°26'W. We watched them for an hour.

Fin Whale *Balanoptera physalus*

2 South Orkney Island – Brown Bluff 16/11.

Note: We saw these Whales together with the Blue Whales.

Whale sp.

1 South Georgia – South Orkney Island 15/11, 1 South Orkney Island – Brown Bluff 17/11.

Reindeer *Rangifer tarandus*

25 Fortuna Bay, 30 St. Andrews Bay.



Southern Blue Whale

Photo by Morten Jørgensen ©