

Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

1-19 December 2014



Created by

Kristian Ståhl, Lomma, Sweden
(text, checklist, photo)
kristian.stahl@hotmail.com

Roger Holmberg, Kungsör, Sweden
(compilation, photo)
roger.holmberg@5D.se



First morning in Ushuaia, looking out to the Beagle Channel

Diary

A since long planned trip to the Antarctic finally starts. We are all in all eight Swedes from various parts of the country who decided to make this trip. Due to private reasons, one of the original eight did not participate. Roger and myself start the trip to Ushuaia.

The other six start one week earlier, with birding in Brazil and Tierra del Fuego. Roger and I have a perfect flight Stockholm/Copenhagen – Paris - Buenos Aires – Ushuaia and land in the evening 30 November. A dinner in town and then bed time in our beautifully located hotel “Las Lengas”.



1/12 Ushuaia and to Falkland Islands

We enjoy a super lunch at Chico's Restaurant, including King Crab and Black Hake. Mmm!

In the harbour, the South American Tern is numerous, some 400 individuals. We meet up with the rest of the guys, Torgny, 2xPer, Sören, Cacke and SUS, and sail out on the Beagle Channel at 6:30 PM. We head for the Falkland Islands. Beagle gives us Black-Browed Albatross, Southern Fulmar and Chilean Skua, among others.



Our ship, M/v Plancius, accommodates 116 passengers in 53 cabins.



Roger and I had one of the nine twin port-hole cabins. Considerably more space since the cabin is the same in size as the quadruple cabins, and a wise choice.



Sailing the Beagle Channel

2/12 Sailing to Falklands

We are on open sea towards Falklands the whole day.



Birding from deck

A nice mix of species to enjoy; Northern and Southern Royal Albatross, Southern Giant Petrel, Slender-billed Prion, Sooty Shearwater and Wilson's Storm-Petrel to mention some.



Southern Giant Petrel, dark and white forms



Cape Petrel

Temperature is around 6-8 degrees, so there are no problems to stand on deck. It is getting dark at 10:30 PM.

3/12 Falklands; Carcass and Saunder's Islands



We arrive to the Falklands at 5:40 AM and are accompanied by Gentoo - and Magellanic Penguins as well as some Common Diving-Petrels.



Our first landing (always in Zodiac) is at Carcass Island, a superb walk that produces Ruddy-headed Goose, Falkland Flightless Steamerduck, Crested Duck, South American Snipe, Blackish



Upland Goose

Cinclodes, Dark-faced Ground Tyrant, Cobb's Wren, Long-tailed Meadowlark, Black-throated Finch and Black-chinned Siskin. Not bad!!



Magellanic Penguins on Carcass Island

In the afternoon we make a landing on Saunders Island and have a superb walk



among a thousand Penguins; Gentoo, Magellanic, Rock-hopper and a few King Penguin. We then walk in the sunshine on to a nesting area of Black-browed Albatross. Fabulous!



Rockhopper Penguins



Gentoo Penguins



Black-browed Albatross



Imperial Cormorant

4/12 Falklands; Port Stanley and sailing towards South Georgia

We wake up early to enjoy our passage past Cape Pembroke, through The Narrows and into Stanley Harbour in sunshine, accompanied by several Black-browed Albatross, White-chinned Petrel and Sooty Shearwater.



Stanley is the capital of the Falklands and has about 2500 residents. Landing in Zodiacs at 9 AM and staying in Stanley until noon. We visit the Museum, quite

interesting, and a local pub, also interesting.....

After lunch, we head for South Georgia, meaning open sea for the next two and a half days.



M/V Plancius

We spend most of the afternoon and evening on deck. Birds passing include Southern Giant Petrel, 100 Wilson's, 150 Sooty Shearwater, 100 Cape Petrel, Common Diving-petrel and some nice views of Slender-billed Prion. Still enjoying relatively calm winds and sunshine.

5/12 Sailing towards South Georgia

Starting on deck at 5:20. Conditions good, and one of the first birds to approach us is a Light-mantled Sooty Albatross. So beautiful and perfectly designed.



Light-mantled Sooty Albatross

Our first Gray-headed Albatross join us for a little while. Also Antarctic Prions and Black-bellied Storm-Petrels start to appear. Large Albatrosses is limited to one Sothern Royal.



Grey-headed Albatross

Most of the day good visibility, some sunshine and also some mist.

6/12 Sailing towards South Georgia, Shag Rocks

A bit windy, 18 m/s, but since the wind is from the stern we have no problem to stand on deck. We run into a handful of Wanderers of different age and plumage. A challenge! Hundreds of Antarctic Prions follow us as does the always present Cape Petrel. Black-bellied Storm-Petrels outnumber Wilson's. The Giant Petrels are dominated by Southern, although both species are noted.

On the Covergence at noon we have a glimpse at one Blue Whale, showing only once and disappeared.



Shag Rocks

At 2:30 PM we pass Shag Rocks and its inhabitant, South Georgia Shag (I suppose...). Here we also get to see our first Iceberg. Stunning!

7/12 Reaching South Georgia; Right Whale Bay, Rosita's Harbour

Colder this morning and poor visibility. But still, we can follow Snowy Albatross as it glides just above the top of the waves.



Wandering (Snowy) Albatross

We are now quite accustomed to the presence of Antarctic Prions along with some Gray-headed-, Back-browed- and Light-mantled Albatrosses.



Antarctic Prion



At about 8 AM we can see South Georgia in front of us. Our first planned stop is at Elsehul, with a possibility to get the South Georgia Pipit. Regrettably it proves impossible to do a landing there because of the waves being too high.



King Penguin colony at Right Whale Bay



King Penguins

So we make our way to Right Whale Bay, where we go ashore. We walk through a

King Penguin colony holding some 20000 breeding pairs along with lots of youngs. Small numbers of Gentoo Penguin are present.



Antarctic Fur Seals

Here we also have to run a gauntlet through big numbers of aggressive Fur Seals. Also Elephant Seals are here, but no bulls and seemingly much more peaceful. The smell of these animals is very distinctive to say the least!



Southern Giant Petrels feeding on a dead Fur Seal
Giant Petrels and Brown Skuas, ssp Lonnbergi patrols the Penguin colony in search for eggs or a chick. Some Antarctic Terns seem to be nesting in the bay.



Since Elsehul remains impossible to get to, we sail to Rositas Harbour.

It is situated so, that we pass Prion Island and Albatross Island. Here we have breeding Snowy Albatross. Prion Island holds the pipit, as do other islands where the rat eradication project has been successful.



Fighting Fur Seals at Rosita's Harbour

The Norwegian Brown Rat has established itself on South Georgia and has managed to almost eliminate the pipit, but a project was launched in time, and now several islands are rat free, and the population of pipits is expected to increase. We are not allowed to land on Prion Island, so no pipit.

8/12 South Georgia; Stromness and Grytviken

We start in Stromness, an old Whaling station, but also the historic site of Shackleton's arrival at the end of his South Georgia crossing from Fortuna bay. It is raining and after a walk around the station we head for Grytviken.



Grytviken

We land there at 2 PM. It is still raining a bit as we get a guided tour of this major whaling station that was active until 1962 or so.



It is heartbreaking to learn about how Man persecuted the Whales almost to extinction.



Shackleton's resting place

The total icon of the Antarctica, "The Boss", Sir Ernest Shackleton, is buried in the cemetery at Grytviken, along with Whalers and his right hand in at least his greatest and most well known expedition, with his ship the Endurance.

9/12 South Georgia; S:t Andrews Bay and Gothul



Lots of Penguins, and Roger, in S:t Andrews Bay

We sail during the night and arrive at Saint Andrews Bay at 7 AM. Still not so cold, +

6 degrees, and not too windy, 7-8 m/s. The sight is amazing, with a colony of about 200000 pairs of King Penguins plus young. This is South Georgias largest King Penguin colony.

No problem to get ashore and we pass 100 Elephant seal pups plus some sub-adults.



Elephant Seals in S:t Andrews Bay

We sail back to Gothul and on our way we enjoy the sighting of an adult Light-mantled Sooty Albatross.



Kristian and Per climbing in Gothul

We arrive at Gothul at 3:30 PM and we remain there until 6 PM. Here we have a



Gentoo Penguin in Gothul
colony of breeding Gentoo Penguin and also nesting Southern Giant Petrels.



Breeding Southern Giant Petrel in Gothul

The Petrels need far more space between him/her and us than the Penguins.

10/12 South Georgia; Gold Harbour, Cooper's Bay and Island, Drygalski Fiord. Sailing south towards Antarctica!



Contact with wildlife in Gold Harbour

We make a morning landing in Gold Harbour (6-8 AM), where we meet much the same wildlife as on previous locations. We then head for Cooper's bay where we will have a Zodiac tour (no landing), and we are a bit extra tensed since we know that on Coopers Island, outside the bay, there should be a population of South Georgia Pipit.



Cooper's Bay

This is our last chance of getting it. We are not allowed to land on the island, so Roger and I ask for a possibility to get all of us in

one Zodiac that could at least focus on sailing us to parts of the bay where we have the best chances.



Chinstrap Penguins in Cooper's Bay



Macaroni Penguins in Cooper's Bay
Our driver, Scotsman Kelvin, gives us quickly the musts, Chinstrap- and Macaroni Penguins and decides to take a shot at the Island!



Cooper's Island

The waves are not too bad and we get there in 10 minutes. We have about 10 minutes before we need to turn back and Kelvin finds one spot where we can come close to shore. Here, on the shore line, SUS almost immediately shouts Pipit!



Jump for joy, South Georgia Pipit!

We find 3 individuals of this much wanted species. Kelvin will from now on call himself **THE GREAT PIPIT-HUNTER**. His reward; 8 GT's!
Our day is made and we are completely relaxed.



Sailing towards the Drygalski Fjord

We sail on and since conditions are optimal, with sun and little wind, we sail through the quite narrow passage of Cooper Sound, into the Drygalski Fjord and are offered a spectacular landscape.



Drygalski Fjord

The landscape is accompanied by a couple of superb Snow Petrels against the deep blue-green sea.



Lesser Snow Petrel in Drygalski Fiord
 This sight is one that will be remembered for the rest of at least my life.



Antarctic Terns in the depth of Drygalski Fiord

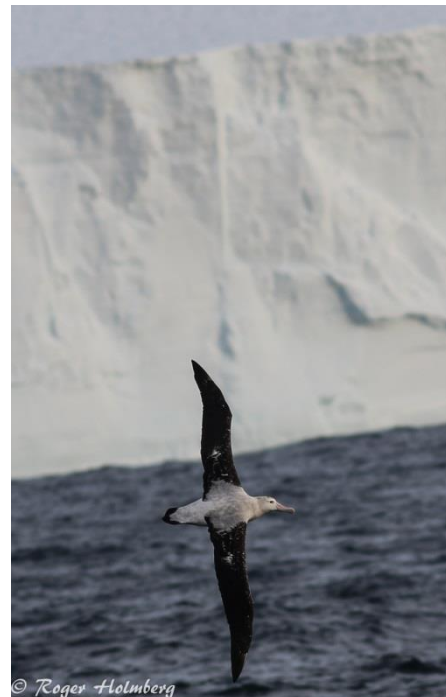


Glacier sculptures in Drygalski Fiord
 We continue south and leave South Georgia behind us.

We have good birding during the late afternoon, including Snowy-, Gray-headed-, Black-browed-, and Light-mantled Sooty Albatross. Also 30 Blue Petrels alongside numerous Antarctic Prions. We manage to feel certain of 2 South Georgia Diving-Petrels.



Suddenly an ice shelf, unknown to the crew, emerges in front of us. It is estimated to have a length of over 50 km!!



Snowy Albatross against the ice-shelf

All in all a very good day!

We are informed that it is too much ice around the South Orkneys, so we decide to head straight for Elephant Island.



The Chef manages to purchase South Georgia Reindeer and does a very good job of it and serves a really excellent dinner! Together with a (couple of) glass(es) of Malbec, life is superb!

11/12 Sailing south towards the Antarctic Peninsula

Open sea all day. Not too high waves and about +3 degrees.



Fin Whales blowing

We get nice views of a group of about 10-12 Fin Whales. This very long and slender Whale seem to be relatively common in these waters. The second largest animal after the Blue Whale, growing to 27.3 meters and weighing nearly 74 tonnes.



Antarctic Prion

The Antarctic Prion continues to be numerous and we get some Blue Petrels today as well. The Giant Petrels, Cape Petrels, Wilson's- and Black-bellied Storm-petrels et al are duly noted.



Blue Petrel

12/12 Sailing south towards the Antarctic Peninsula

Open sea all day. Relatively high waves, +3 degrees. The "normal" species are noted, such as Black-browed Albatross, both species of Giant Petrels, Wilson's and Black-bellied Storm-Petrel and Antarctic Prion. Also a Light-mantled Sooty Albatross, some Snow Petrels and an Antarctic Petrel. This super-bird hangs around the vessel for a good two hours and gives us great opportunities to get decent photos.



Antarctic Petrel

The wind increases and in the evening all decks are closed. The wind is at that time 15-20 m/s.
However, no problems to sleep.

13/12 Reaching Elephant Island



At 7:30 AM we can see Elephant Island ahead of us. Elephant Island, made famous through the incredible story of Shackleton and the Endurance expedition.



The wind is still pretty hard, but that doesn't stop some 250 Cape Petrels and some Southern Fulmars to hang around our vessel.



Cape Petrel at Elephant Island

We anchor outside Wild Point and the sun is shining over us and also over the Chinstrap colony. Roughly 700 Cape Petrel and some 50 Fulmars. We try to get ashore, but the waves are too high. We need to rethink and decide to sail towards the continent and Brown Bluff.

The scenery is remarkable and as we sail we only have one bird as company; Antarctic Petrel. Need I say more? Well it doesn't stop here. Later in the afternoon we run into 2 Humpback Whales and around 10 PM suddenly 11 Antarctic Petrels pays us a visit in the evening light!



Antarctic Petrel



Sailing south to Antarctica

14/12 First landing on Antarctic Peninsula; Brown Bluff. Sailing west into Antarctic Sounds

We start on deck at 5:10. Sunny, calm and -1 degree. A fabulous morning that starts off with a group of 6-7 Orcas. There are four basic forms of the Orca and this is what is called Type B, large.



Killer Whales

We have them in viewing and photo distance for some 15 minutes. Truly fantastic dolphins!



Antarctic Sounds



Brown Bluff, at the Antarctic Peninsula

At about 7 Am we enter into The Antarctic Sound and are greeted by Adelie Penguins here and there. At 9 AM we do a zodiac-

landing at Brown Bluff. Adelie Penguin colony of about 10000 breeding pairs.



Landing on Brown Bluff

The high and very steep cliffs harbor hundreds of Cape Petrels but also Snow Petrel and Wilson's Storm-petrel.

A Crabeater Seal is resting on the ice just outside the shore line. So, we have now set foot on the Antarctic mainland. Yihaa!



Adelie Penguin at Brown Bluff

The return to our vessel is a bit tricky because of the wind and the waves, but it all ends well.





Esperanza research station

We head back to Hope Bay and the Argentinean Research-base Esperanza. We get a guided tour and end up drinking coffee and writing post cards.



We also walk past the remains of the hut where three Swedes (Duse, Andersson och Grundén) from the Nordenskjöld expedition in 1902 overwintered, waiting for rescue.

We sail again and tomorrow we expect to be a bit further south along the west coast of the peninsula.

15/12 Antarctic; Mikkelsen Harbour. Sailing south in Gerlache Strait to Charlotte Bay

In the morning, around 6 AM, it is snowing a bit, and the visibility is rather poor. Around zero degrees.



Mikkelsen Harbour

We are approaching Mikkelsen Harbour, on a small island called D'Hainaut Island, near on the south tip of Trinity Island, and we have some Wilson's, Southern Giant Petrel, Brown Skua (Lonnbergi) and some Gentoo Penguins.



Gentoo Penguin with nesting material

We land in the Harbour at 9 AM and the Gentoos greet us. Maybe 500 pairs or so are breeding here. We get close contacts with a group of resting Weddell Seals as we cross the tip of the island.



Weddell Seal at Mikkelsen Harbour

Among the constantly hungry Brown Skuas we note at least 2 South Polar Skuas.

A group of 10 Arctic Terns has found a good place here.
We are back on our vessel shortly before 11 AM and 12:15 we sail for Charlotte Bay and Portal Point.



South Polar Skua over Gerlache Strait
Gerlache Strait is truly beautiful and practically no wind and sunshine makes it perfect.



Gentoo and Chinstrap Penguins in Gerlache Strait



Humpback Whales in Gerlache Strait

Lots of icebergs with gems on them, in the shape of Gentoos and Chinstraps. Several South Polar Skuas along with Brown

Lonnbergi's offer good opportunities to check for differences in size and plumage.



Sören, Kristian and SUS in Gerlache Strait
Once in the bay, after four hours sailing, we have to accept that we have too much ice to be able to reach Portal Point.



Zodiac cruise in Charlotte Bay

We decide to reposition our vessel and do a zodiac tour among the icebergs. This proves to be a hit! In totally calm water we cruise among the icebergs and bits of ice for two hours.





© Roger Holmberg



© Roger Holmberg

Meeting with Crabeater Seals in Charlotte Bay

We have a couple of Weddell Seals and Crabeater Seals. One Wilson's and an Antarctic Tern as well as a Brown Skua fly by and on a couple of small icebergs we have groups of Chinstrap Penguins.

According to Roger, this was an absolute magic moment in his life...

16/12 Sailing north towards South Shetland Islands; Deception and Half Moon Islands, entering south Drake's Passage



© Roger Holmberg

Our last day before the beginning of our return through the Drake Passage. First target is Deception Island. We sail through the narrow and often windy Neptun's Bellows and pass Whalers Bay and anchor up at Telephone Bay.



© Roger Holmberg

Neptun's Bellows at Deception Island

Deception Island is a crater and volcanic activities took place as recently as in the late sixties. Bird wise not much to report, even if some Chinstraps and Gentoos follow our activities on the beach.



© Roger Holmberg

A walk on the beach, Telephone Bay



© Roger Holmberg

A walk on the crater's edge, Telephone Bay

We walk up the crater and some take the opportunity to “dive” into the ocean here, since the water is slightly warmer, or less freezing cold....



© Roger Holmberg

Antarctic swim, a must for some. Water temp +2C. Our very last landing will be at Half Moon Island. It holds a colony of about 500 pairs of Chinstrap and is a very good choice for last landing.



© Roger Holmberg

Landing on Half Moon Island

Some cliffs and a bit of altitude. We spend some hours just standing, admiring the strength and determination of the soldiers, sorry, Chinstraps.



KRISTIAN STÅHLJ PHOTO

Chinstrap 'soldiers'.

Suddenly out of nowhere about 100 Antarctic Terns emerges from the cliffs. At this site we get a theoretical chance to get good shots at a Wilson's who appears to nest or try to nest among the cliffs. Not an easy task!

We return to ship at 6 PM and head for Drake Passage. It will really be exiting to experience this more or less always bumpy ride.



Sailing through South Shetland Islands

17/12 Sailing north through Drake Passage

We get a variety of the birds we saw on the way down, like 4 Gray-headed Albatross – three of them immature -, 10 Black-browed Albatross – 2 imm -, 3 Light-mantled Albatross, this superb being!, and 5 Blue Petrel. As we approach the Convergence all activity stops and the “only” bird we see is a Southern Royal Albatross. The winds are more or less totally absent and we hope for a little bit more tomorrow! On the other hand it has been fantastic being able to stand on deck all day in sunshine and agreeable temperature watching all the Prions, Wilson's etc.

18/12 Sailing north through Drake Passage and reaching the Beagle Channel

Starting on deck at 6.50 AM. Not much wind, partly sunny. Today it looks completely different out there. The large Albatrosses dominate the scene and we just love all the challenges! Species and age?



Sooty Shearwaters

We have all in all 8 Snowy, 7 Southern Royal and 3 Northern Royal albatross. The Giant Petrels are totally dominated by Southern (13 to 1) and we manage to see 1 Common Diving-petrel. Otherwise decent number of Black-browed Albatross and Wilson's Storm-petrel. A Common Minke Whale shows itself just in front of us.

Towards the end of the day, suddenly Sooty Shearwater starts to appear in numbers and we count 600 passing by.



Peale's Dolphin in Drake Passage

Finally, the Beagle Channel is what remains of this amazing "expedition". Not much birding since most of the passage is during night time.

19/12 Final landing in Ushuaia

We say farewell to the extraordinarily professional staff that really made all the difference in terms of food, cleaning, lectures and Zodiac trips. We have

participated in a superb voyage into a fabulous continent, and hopefully learned a lot from it!



Farewell speech from the captain and guides

Our ship has served us really well. It is a very stable and quiet vessel. In the cabin, noise-wise you could just as well be in a hotel. Also in the dining-room, the lounge or even on deck, you hardly noticed the sound of the engines.



Some of the jolly fellows on Plancius

We head for Buenos Aires to spend the evening there, but that's another story!

More photos

There are quite a few photos in the following sections Bird and Mammal lists. Even more photos from Kristian can be found on www.pbase.com/kstahl

Info about Oceanwide Expedition tours



More info about this and other tours arranged by Oceanwide Expeditions can be found on www.oceanwide-expeditions.com

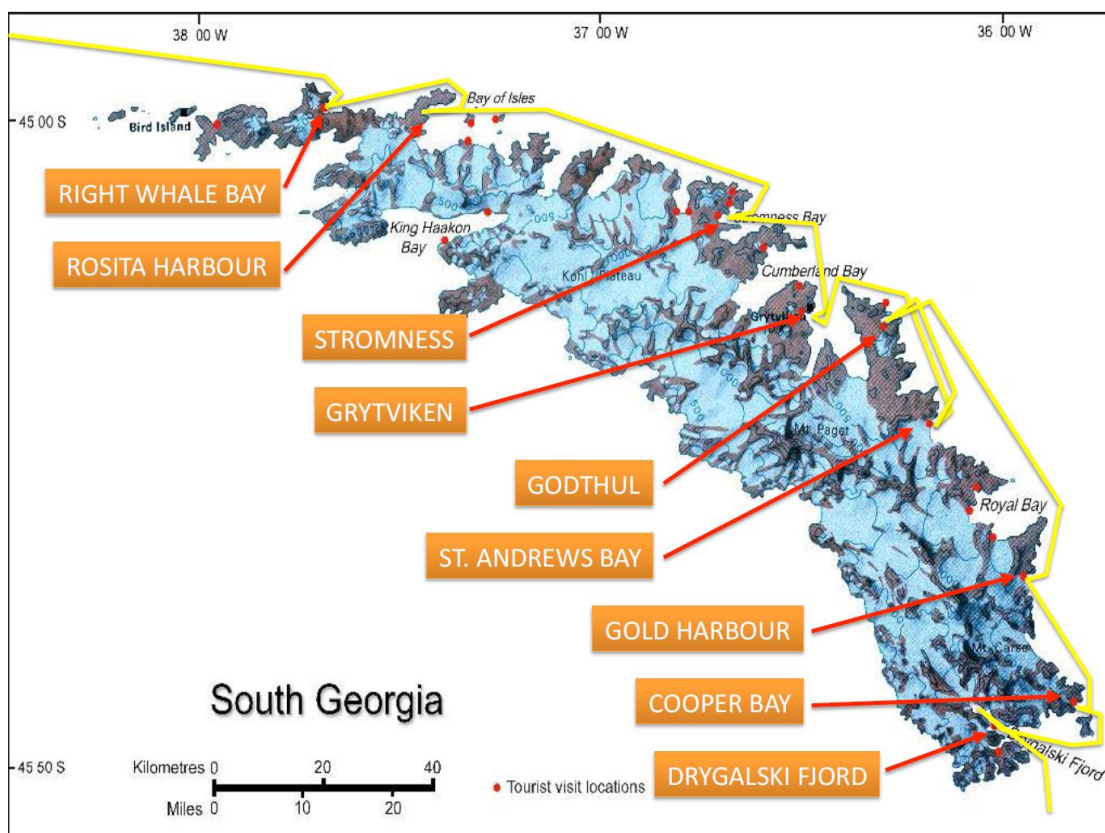
Maps from Oceanwide Expedition's documentation



Map showing the total route Ushuaia-Falklands-South Georgia-Antarctica-Ushuaia



Places visited on the Falkland Islands



Places visited on South Georgia



Places visited on and around the Antarctic Peninsula

BIRD LIST

Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

1-19 December 2014

In the bird species list we have followed the systematics and nomenclature of Cornell Labs/Clements version 6.9.

Ducks, Swans and Waterfowl (*Anatidae*)



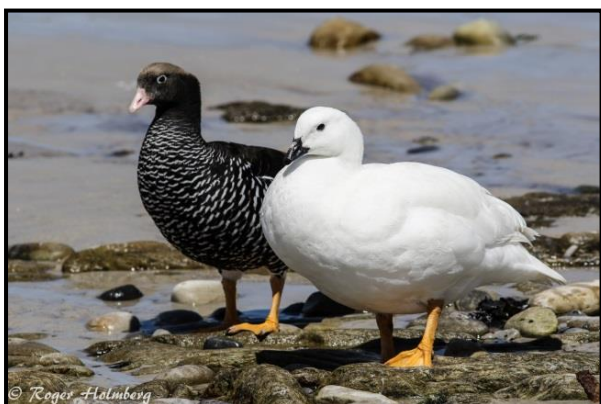
Upland Goose (*Chloephaga picta*)

12-03 Carcass and Saunders Island-Common, 12-04, Stanley-2 ex



Kelp Goose (*Chloephaga hybrida*)

12-03, Carcass and Saunders Island-common



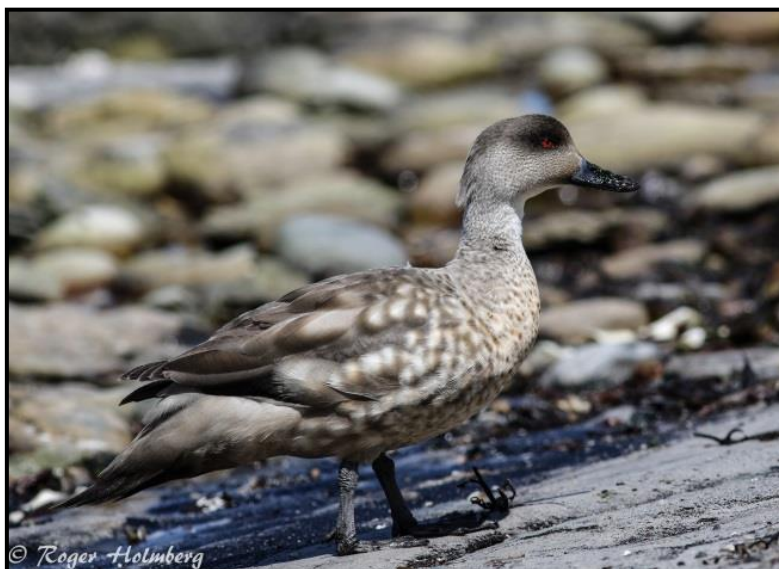


Ruddy-headed Goose (*Chloephaga rubidiceps*)
12-03, Carcass Island-10

Flying Steamerduck (*Tachyeres patachonicus*)
12-01, Beagle Channel-8



Falkland Steamerduck (*Tachyeres brachypterus*)
12-03, Carcass and Saunders Island-31, 12-04, Stanley-2



Crested Duck (*Lophonetta specularioides*)
12-03, Carcass Island-15, 12-04, Stanley-2

Chiloe Wigeon (*Anas sibilatrix*)
12-03, Carcass Island-2



Yellow-billed Pintail (*Anas georgica*)

12-01, Ushuaia- 2, 12-03, Carcass Island-3, 12-08, Strömness -2, 12-10, Gold harbour - Coopers Bay-2

Speckled Teal (*Anas flavirostris*)

12-03, Carcass Island-30

Penguins (*Spheniscidae*)



King Penguin (*Aptenodytes patagonicus*)

12-07 - 10, South Georgia. Largest colony at St Andrews Bay, 500.000 individuals.



Adelie Penguin (*Pygoscelis adeliae*)

12-14, Antarctic Sound, Brown Bluff and Hope Bay, 20,000+



Gentoo Penguin (*Pygoscelis papua*)

12-03 – 16, Noted as common during nine days, on Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula



Chinstrap Penguin (*Pygoscelis antarcticus*)

12-10, Gold Coopers Bay-75,
12-16, Deception Island-100, Half Moon Island-800

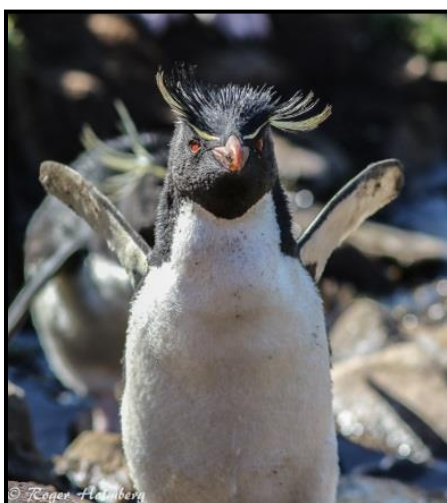


Magellanic Penguin (*Spheniscus magellanicus*)

12-03, Carcass and Saunders Island-common, 12-04, Stanley-common



Macaroni Penguin (*Eudyptes chrysolophus*)
12-10, Coopers Bay-500



Rockhopper Penguin (*Eudyptes chrysocome*)
12-03, Saunders Island- common

Albatrosses(*Diomedidae*)



Gray-headed Albatross (*Thalassarche chrysostoma*)
Noted during seven days, South Georgia and Drake Passage



Black-browed Albatross (*Thalassarche melanophris*)

Noted during 14 days, not when in the Peninsula area



Light-mantled Sooty Albatross (*Phoebastria palpebrata*)

Noted during seven days, first sighting 12-05, Falklands - South Georgia and last sighting 12-17, Drake Passage



Southern Royal Albatross (*Diomedea epomophora*)

12-02, Open sea towards Falklands-3, 12-04, Leaving Falklands-1, 12-17 – 18, Drake Passage-8



Northern Royal Albatross (*Diomedea sanfordi*)

12-02, Open sea towards Falklands-1, 12-18, Drake Passage-3



Wandering (Snowy) Albatross (*Diomedea exulans*)

12-06 - 7, Falklands - South Georgia-7 plus perhaps 100 around nesting area of Albatross Island, 12-10, Open Sea South Georgia – Antarctic Peninsula-3, 12-18, Drake Passage-8

Petrels, Shearwaters(*Procellariidae*)



Southern Giant Petrel (*Macronectes giganteus*)

Noted all days



Northern Giant Petrel (*Macronectes halli*)

Noted during seven days 12-06 – 12 and again 12-18. In total ca 100 individuals



Southern Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*)

Noted daily 12-01 – 6 and again 12-11 – 17. Highest numbers 100 Elephant Island 12-13



Antarctic Petrel (*Thalassoica antarctica*)

12-12, Open Sea, second day towards Elephant Island-1, 12-13, Off Elephant Island-1, Elephant Island – Antarctic Peninsula-11



Cape Petrel (*Daption capense*)

Common all days from 12-03. Highest numbers, 500+, 12-12, 12-13



Snow Petrel (*Pagodroma nivea*)

12-07, Right Whale bay – Rosita's harbor-1, 12-10, Drygalski Fjord-3, 12-11, Open Sea, first day towards Elephant Island-5, 12-12, Open Sea, second day towards Elephant Island-1, 12-14, Brown Bluff -10, 12-15, 1



Blue Petrel (*Halobaena caerulea*)

12-10, Open sea South Georgia - Elephant Island-30, 12-11, Open sea South Georgia - Elephant Island -8, 12-17, Drake Passage day one-6



Antarctic Prion (*Pachyptila desolata*)

Noted as Common - Very Common at open sea Falklands - South Georgia and South Georgia – Elephant Island. Highest numbers 12-12, Open Sea South Georgia – Elephant Island-1000. Also common Drake Passage 12-17



Slender-billed Prion (*Pachyptila belcheri*)

12-02, Open sea towards Falklands-3, 12-04, Open sea Falklands – South Georgia-8, 12-05, Open sea Falklands – South Georgia-1000, 12-11, Open sea South Georgia - Elephant Island -1

Fairy Prion (*Pachyptila turtur*)

12-02, Open sea towards Falklands-1, 12-05, Open sea Falklands – South Georgia-10,



White-chinned Petrel (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*)

12-02 – 14-Common, 12-17 – 18-Common

Greater Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*)

12-04, Open sea toward South Georgia-2, 12-07, Approaching South Georgia-1



Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*)

12-02, Open sea towards Falklands-200, 12-04, Open sea Falklands – South Georgia-185,
12-05, Open sea Falklands – South Georgia-3, 12-18, Open sea-Beagle Channel-600

Diving-Petrels (*Pelecanoididae*)



Common Diving-petrel (*Pelecanoides urinatrix*)

Subspecies *P.u. berard* in the Falklands, *P.u. exsul* in South Georgia
12-03, Approaching Falklands-11, 12-04, - 7, Falklands - South Georgia-6,
12-10, South Georgia – Elephant Island-5, 12-18, Drake passage-1



South Georgia Diving-petrel (*Pelecanoides georgicus*)

12-07, Approaching South Georgia-1, 12-10, South Georgia – Elephant Island-5

Storm-Petrels(*Hydrobatidae*)



Wilson's Storm-petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*)

Noted as common during 16 days. Highest numbers 12-2, 200 on Open sea towards Falklands



Black-bellied Storm-petrel (*Fregetta tropica*)

Noted on open sea during eight days, 12-05 - 17

Cormorants, Shags(*Phalacrocoracidae*)

Rock Shag (*Phalacrocorax magellanicus*)

12-01, Ushuaia- Beagle channel-2, 12-03, Carcass Island-fairly common,
12-04, Stanley - Open sea toward South Georgia-noted



Antarctic Shag (*Phalacrocorax bransfieldensis*)

12-13 – 16, Common Elephant Island and Antarctic peninsula



South Georgia Shag (*Phalacrocorax georgianus*)
12-07 – 10, South Georgia-150



Imperial Shag (*Phalacrocorax. a. atriceps*)
12-01, Beagle channel – Falklands-30, 12-03 - 4, Falklands, 100

Herons, Egrets and Bitterns(*Ardeidae*)



Black-crowned Night-heron (*Nycticorax n. falklandicus*)
12-03, Carcass Island-1

New World Vultures(*Cathartidae*)

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)
12-03 -4, Falklands-25

Sheathbills(*Chionidae*)



Snowy Sheathbill (*Chionis albus*)

Noted as fairly common on Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctic continent

Oystercatchers(*Haematopodidae*)



Blackish Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ater*)

12-03, Carcass Island-10



Magellanic Oystercatcher (*Haematopus leucopodus*)

12-03, Carcass Island-10, Saunders Island-20, 12-04, Stanley-2

Snipes, Sandpipers and Phalaropes(*Scolopacidae*)



South American Snipe (*Gallinago paraguaiae*)
12-03, Carcass Island-5

Skuas and Jaegers(*Stercorariidae*)



Chilean Skua (*Stercorarius chilensis*)
12-01, Beagle channel-5, 12-18, Beagle channel-3



South Polar Skua (*Stercorarius maccormicki*)
12-12, Open Sea second day towards Elephant Island-2, 12-15, Trinity Island and Antarctic Peninsula-20



Falkland (Brown) Skua (*Stercorarius a. antarcticus*)

12-02, Open sea towards Falklands-1, 12-03, Carcass and Saunders Island-30, 12-04, Stanley-1, 12-05, Open sea-1, 12-18, Open sea-Beagle Channel-1



Subantarctic (Brown) Skua (*Stercorarius antarcticus lonnbergi*)

Noted as common daily 12-07 – 16 with highest numbers, 100, Right Whale Bay – Rosita's Harbour

Gulls and Terns (*Laridae*)



Dolphin Gull (*Leucophaeus scoresbii*)

12-01, Ushuaia - Beagle channel-20, 12-03 – 04, Falklands-15



Kelp Gull (*Larus dominicanus*)

12-01 – 18, Common on and close to land. Scarce on Open sea

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

Adults and first year birds in winter plumage.

12-02, Open sea towards Falklands-1, 12-09, off St Andrews Bay-5, 12-15, Mikkelsen Harbour, Trinity Island -10

South American Tern (*Sterna hirundinacea*)

12-01, Ushuaia-400, Beagle Channel-200, 12-03 – 04, Falklands-10



Antarctic Tern (*Sterna vittata*)

Subspec *S.v.georgiae* on South Georgia and *S.v.gaini* in Antarctica.

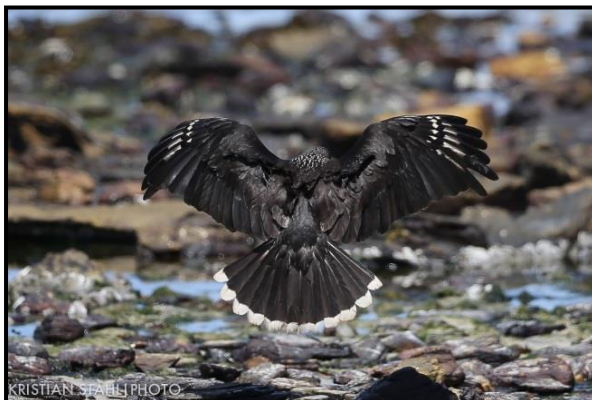
12-07 – 10, South Georgia-daily 10-30 individuals (ssp *georgiae*), 12-13 – 16, Antarctic Peninsula-common all days with highest numbers 100 at Half Moon Island

Caracaras, Falcons(*Falconidae*)



Striated Caracara (*Phalcoboenus australis*)

12-03, Carcass and Saunders Island-common



Southern Caracara (*Caracara plancus*)

12-03, Carcass Island-2

Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers(*Furnariidae*)



Blackish Cinclodes (*Cinclodes antarcticus*)

12-03, Carcass Island-30



Tyrant Flycatchers(*Tyrannidae*)

Dark-faced Ground-tyrant (*Muscisaxicola maclovianus*)

12-03, Carcass Island-3

Wrens(*Troglodytidae*)



Cobb's Wren (*Troglodytes cobbi*)
12-03, Carcass Island-10



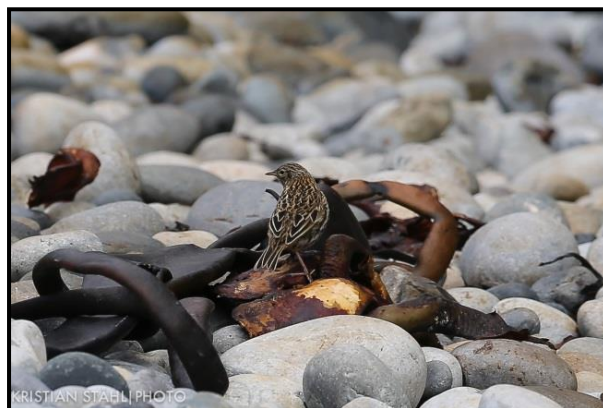
Austral Wren (*Cistothorus. (hormensis). falklandicus*)
12-03, Carcass Island-2

Thrushes(*Turdidae*)



Austral Thrush (*Turdus falcklandii*)
12-01 Ushuaia-1, 12-03 – 04, Falklands-30

Pipits and Wagtails(*Motacillidae*)



South Georgia Pipit (*Anthus antarcticus*)
12-10, Coopers Island-3

Buntings and New World Sparrows(*Emberizidae*)

Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*)
12-01, Ushuaia-3

Troupials, American Blackbirds and Allies(*Icteridae*)



Long-tailed Meadowlark (*Sturnella loyca*)
12-03, Carcass Island-15

Tanagers(*Thraupidae*)



Black-throated Finch (*Melanodera m. melanodera*)

12-03, Carcass Island-5

Siskins, Crossbills and Allies(*Fringillidae*)



Black-chinned Siskin (*Spinus barbatus*)

12-03, Carcass Island-5

Old World Sparrows(*Passeridae*)

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

Noted in Ushuaia and Stanley

MAMMAL LIST

Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Antarctica

1-19 December 2014

In the mammal species list we have followed the systematics and nomenclature of Shirihihi/Jarret 2011.

Fur Seals of northern/mid-latitude



Antarctic Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus gazella*)

Very common on South Georgia

Subantarctic and Antarctic true seals

Leopard Seal (*Hydrurga leptonyx*)

12-05, 1 seen off Trinity Island



Weddell Seal



Weddell Seal (*Leptonychotes weddellii*)

12-15, Mikkelsen Harbour-6, Portal Point-3, 12-16, Deception Island-11



Crabeater Seal (*Lobodon carcinophaga*)

12-14, Brown Bluff-1, 12-15, Portal Point-2



Southern Elephant Seal (*Mirounga leonina*)

12-03, Carcass - Saunders Island-1, 12-07, Right Whale Bay-30, 12-08 - 9, Common



Rorquals with streamlined bodies

Antarctic Minke Whale (*Baleoptera bonaerensis*)

12-18, Drake Passage-1

Blue Whale (*Baleoptera musculus*)

12-01, Close to Shag Rocks-1 seen once



Fin Whale (*Baleoptera physalus*)

12-11 - 13, South Georgia – Elephant Island-33 with highest numbers 15 approaching Elephant Island

Humpback Whale



Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)

Noted during six days between 6 and 17 Dec. Highest numbers off Antarctic Peninsula and the southern part of Drake Passage, 10-15 individuals per day.

Short-beaked oceanic dolphins



Peale's Dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus australis*)

12-03, Carcass Island – Saunders Island-2, 12-18, Drake Passage-7

Commerson's Dolphin (*Cephalorhynchus commersonii*)

12-04, Port Stanley, a small group showing beside the vessel

Killer Whale



Killer Whale (*Orcinus orca*)

12-14, Approaching Antarctic Continent-7