

PEREGRINE BIRD TOURS
AUSTRALIAN BIGHT CRUISE

2nd - 10th December 2012

TOUR REPORT

LEADER: Chris Doughty

Our cruise across the Australian Bight began in Albany, Western Australia, aboard 'The Spirit of Enderby'. We sailed around 6pm for our journey to Hobart, Tasmania. The main focus of the voyage was to see as many seabirds and marine mammals as possible.

Monday 3rd December

This morning we had our standard mandatory safety briefing, followed at midday by the lifeboat drill. During the afternoon, Chris gave us his talk about 'Cetaceans of the Australian Bight'. For this first full day at sea it was very quiet with the highlight being the sighting of a Little Shearwater.

Tuesday 4th December

We began our day with a BBC documentary about the ocean entitled 'Blue Planet'. While some of the group watched this in the Lecture Room others were birding on the outside deck. During the afternoon Samuel presented his lecture about the rarest albatross in the world, the Amsterdam Albatross. Thanks to recently compiled data we now know that some birds spend time in South-west Australia. Just as this talk ended, an announcement was made on the PA system that a group of about a hundred Southern Right Whale Dolphins were playing around ship. After a delightful 10 minutes they left us but provided some great entertainment during their visit. The birding highlight of the day was a good number of Gould's Petrels.

Wednesday 5th December

This morning we did some chumming from the back deck of the ship. Indian Yellow-nosed and Wandering Albatrosses were spotted and the highlight for the day was probably the number of Sooty Albatross and thousands of Short-tailed Shearwaters. In the Lecture Room, the second part of the documentary was screened and Doctor Pat gave his presentation 'Seals and the Scientist'.

Thursday 6th December

Another quiet day with a low pressure system following us, but fortunately at the moment we don't feel its effect. Those who spent lots of time outside looking for birds were amazed by the number of White-faced Storm Petrels. An Antipodean Albatross was also spotted this morning. The presentation programme today started with Samuel's lecture on his life at the French station Dumont d'Urville in Antarctica. After dinner we watched a documentary about the work of a scientist on Macquarie

SYSTEMATIC LIST

ALBATROSSES DIOMEDEIDAE

- Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans*
09 01 016 34 57S 120 42E to 34 49S 123 07E, Western Australia
- Antipodean Albatross *Diomedea antipodensis*
- Southern Royal Albatross *Diomedea epomophora*
09 01 014 Off Southwest Cape, Tasmania
- Sooty Albatross *Phoebastria fusca*
09 01 012 34 24S 129 33E to 35 05S 131 41E South Australia
- Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris*
09 01 009 34 19S 125 22E to 34 02S 127 24E Western Australia
- Campbell Albatross *Thalassarche impavida*
- Shy Albatross *Thalassarche cauta*
09 01 006 Albany Harbour, Western Australia
- Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche carteri*
09 01 002 34 57S 120 42E to 34 49S 123 07E, Western Australia

SHEARWATERS AND PETRELS PROCELLARIIDAE

- Southern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes giganteus*
09 02 001 39 29S 141 59E to 41 01S 143 47E Tasmania
- Northern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes halli*
09 02 002 Off Southwest Cape, Tasmania
- Cape Petrel *Daption capense*
09 02 006 Off Southwest Cape, Tasmania
- Great-winged Petrel *Pterodroma macroptera*
09 02 009 34 57S 120 42E to 34 49S 123 07E, Western Australia
- Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis*
09 02 018 34 19S 125 22E to 34 02S 127 24E Western Australia
- White-headed Petrel *Pterodroma lessonii*
09 02 023 34 24S 129 33E to 35 05S 131 41E South Australia
- Gould's Petrel *Pterodroma leucoptera*
09 02 037 34 19S 125 22E to 34 02S 127 24E Western Australia
- Fairy Prion *Pachyptila turtur*
09 02 044 39 29S 141 59E to 41 01S 143 47E Tasmania
- White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis*
09 02 053 34 19S 125 22E to 34 02S 127 24E Western Australia
- Flesh-footed Shearwater *Puffinus carneipes*
09 02 061 Albany Harbour, Western Australia
- Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*
09 02 065 Off Southwest Cape, Tasmania
- Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris*
09 02 066 34 57S 120 42E to 34 49S 123 07E, Western Australia
- Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*
09 02 076 34 57S 120 42E to 34 49S 123 07E, Western Australia

STORM-PETRELS HYDROBATIDAE

- Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*
09 03 001 39 29S 141 59E to 41 01S 143 47E Tasmania
- Grey-backed Storm-Petrel *Garrodia nereis*
09 03 004 39 29S 141 59E to 41 01S 143 47E Tasmania
- White-faced Storm-Petrel *Pelagodroma marina*
09 03 005 34 57S 120 42E to 34 49S 123 07E, Western Australia

DIVING-PETRELS PELECANOIDIDAE

- Common Diving-Petrel *Pelecanoides urinatrix*
09 04 002 Off Southwest Cape, Tasmania

GANNETS AND BOOBIES SULIDAE

Australasian Gannet *Morus serrator*

12 02 010 Albany Harbour, Western Australia

CORMORANTS PHALACROCORACIDAE

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

12 03 007 Albany Harbour, Western Australia

Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax varius*

12 03 017 Albany Harbour, Western Australia

Black-faced Cormorant *Phalacrocorax fuscescens*

12 03 018 Off Southwest Cape, Tasmania

OSPREY PANDIONIDAE

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

14 02 001 Albany Harbour, Western Australia

GULLS LARIDAE

Silver Gull *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*

22 16 013 Albany Harbour, Western Australia

Pacific Gull *Larus pacificus*

22 16 034 Albany Harbour, Western Australia

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

22 16 056 Hobart Harbour, Tasmania

TERNS STERNIDAE

Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus*

22 16 065 34 57S 120 42E to 34 49S 123 07E, Western Australia

Great Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*

22 16 096 Albany Harbour, Western Australia

JAEGERS AND SKUAS STERCORARIIDAE

Brown Skua *Stercorarius antarcticus*

22 17 004 37 15S 138 03E to 38 13S 140 22E South Australia

Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus*

22 17 005 Albany Harbour, Western Australia

Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*

22 17 006 Albany Harbour, Western Australia

Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus*

22 17 007 34 57S 120 42E to 34 49S 123 07E, Western Australia

SWALLOWS HIRUNDINIDAE

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*

35 63 050 Albany Harbour, Western Australia

38 SPECIES