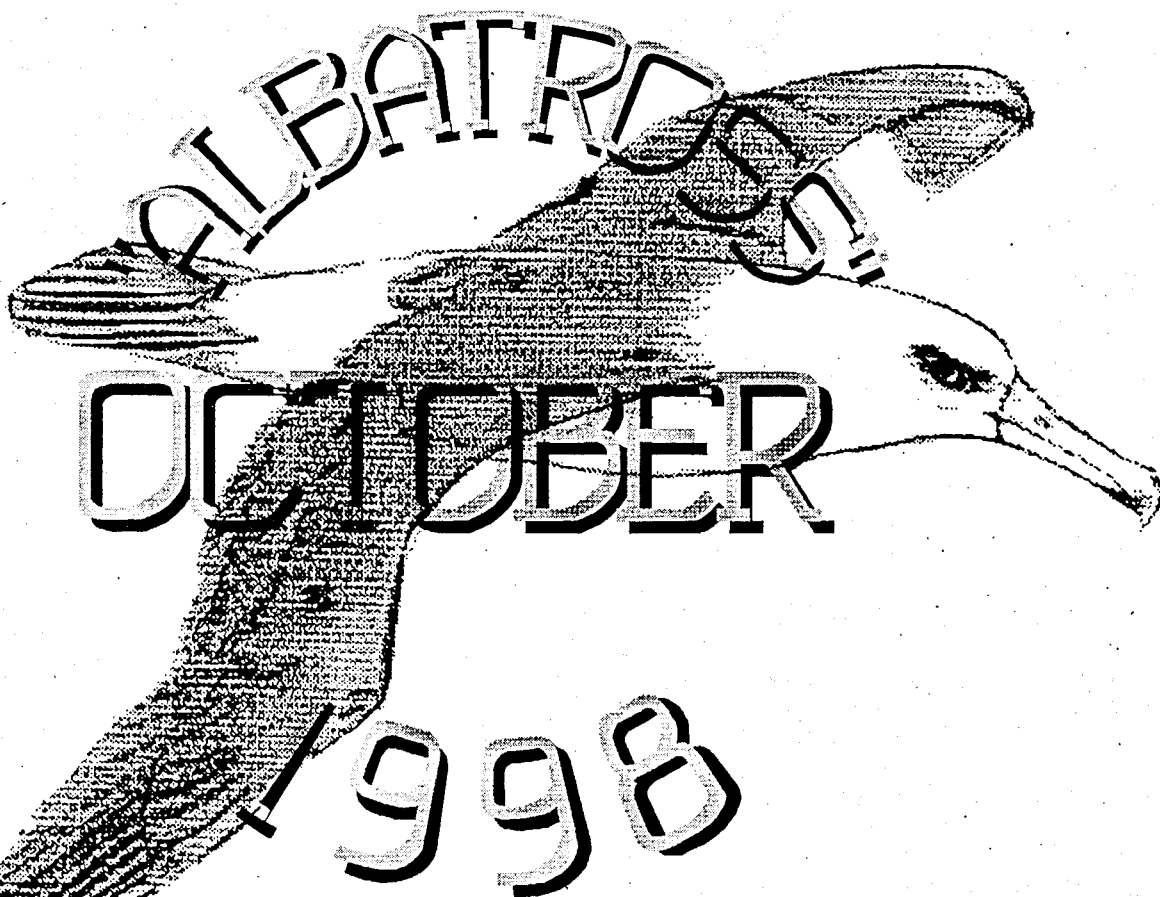


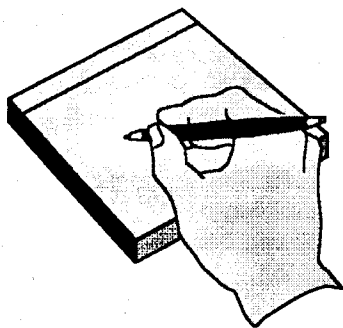
# Southern Oceans Seabird Study Association Inc.

## " Wildlife Research "



As this is the final newsletter for 1998 we would like to wish you  
***A MERRY CHRISTMAS & A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR***  
***TO ALL MEMBERS & FRIENDS***  
***FROM THE COMMITTEE & STAFF AT SOSSA***





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## **A note from the editor**

No doubt all will be aware that this Newsletter is late. For this I apologise. This is due to the repairs to our Five Islands boat (Little Penguin) having taken priority in readiness for this breeding season. Unfortunately I am also the boat builder and outboard motor mechanic as well as newsletter editor.

You may also notice that we have revised the Boat Trip Data Sheets to include the new taxonomy of the albatrosses and to include the species numbers of all seabirds known to have occurred in Australian seas. The species list and numbers are now up to date with the list maintained by Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme (ABBBS), Environment Australia Bio-diversity Group, who are now responsible for species lists.

Copies of the complete seabird list are available on request from SOSSA H.Q.

## **THREAT ABATEMENT PLAN**

### **The Incidental Catch (Or By -Catch) Of Seabirds During Oceanic Longline Fishing Operations RELEASED August 2nd 1998**

The release of this document and the actions there in described, have been met with a mixed reaction by industry and environment groups alike.

It is not perfect, however it is a start in the right direction. It is up to all concerned to endeavour to make it work!

A major risk to of by-catch in the past has been the Japanese fishing fleet. This threat has recently been excluded from the Australian Economic Zone, which covers only an area of 200 nautical miles to sea around the Australian coast and territories.

There appears to be a major difference in the numbers of birds killed / captured by the larger vessels of the Japanese fleet, than that of the smaller vessels of the Australian domestic fleet.

Perhaps the proposed studies, to be carried out in October by the (CSIRO) and the Tuna Boat Owners Association will conclude this issue.

Cheers Ed.

**Remarkable Fishing Industry  
Conservation NGO cooperation**

**LONGLINE FISHERIES INFORMATION**  
CLEARING THE INTERNATIONAL SOUTHERN OCEANS HOUSE, (or **ISOFISH** for short) was set up following the last meeting of **CCAMLR** (the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources) in Hobart, Tasmania, in November 1997. The concept grew out of discussions between Australian fishing industry and conservation NGO representatives with a view to helping CCAMLR member governments get Southern Oceans toothfish poaching under control, an alliance built on strong mutual interest.

A preliminary budget for 1998 of \$A100,000 was based on \$50,000 from the fishing industry underwritten by Perth based fishing company, Kailis & France, and \$40,000 from the Australian Government with local conservation group, the Tasmanian Conservation Trust, providing administrative and logistics support in Hobart. Hobart was chosen for the location of ISOFISH to take advantage of the existing institutional investment in Antarctic and Southern Oceans issues in Hobart (already home to: the CCAMLR Secretariat, the IASOS centre at the University, seabird expertise at the State Parks & Wildlife Service, CSIRO's Marine Division, and Australian Antarctic Division, to mention but some).

The principle objective of the 'ISOFISH' centre is to develop the capacity to report on the activities of unlicensed longline fishing vessels within the CCAMLR area in co-operation agencies monitoring the trade in fish caught by these vessels and in any fish products derived from that catch. The information outputs are designed primarily to assist CCAMLR member governments to adopt and ensure the ecologically sustainable management of Southern Oceans fisheries.

The sense of urgency behind the push to create ISOFISH was driven by the information presented to the 1997 CCAMLR meeting revealing the extent to which illegal (within EEZs), unregulated (within the CCAMLR area) and unreported longline fishing had broken out throughout the Southern Ocean, targeting Patagonian Toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*) on continental shelves.

Illegal catch rates were estimated as more than 100,000 tonnes of toothfish in the last 1996/97 year while legal operators were only licensed to catch

18,000 tonnes in CCAMLR waters and a further 20,000 tonnes or so in Chilean and Argentinian coastal EEZs. At this level of unlicensed over fishing, the smaller fish stocks of (*D. eleginoides*) around tiny sub -Antarctic islands can be expected to start crashing to commercial extinction with in two or three years.

Meanwhile, seabird deaths were estimated to have increased by more than a magnitude to horrifying levels in excess of 100,000 deaths a year, including several IUNC listed threatened species of albatross as a result of illegal fishing effort which were estimated to be responsible for more than 90% of these seabird deaths.

**The ISOFISH Centre:**

The plan is to produce three different types of outputs: reports to CCAMLR governments, government agencies, interested companies, groups and individuals; material for distribution to media and maintenance of web -site.

Two reports have already been published - the Mauritius Report and the Norway Report with a third, the Chile Report due out for CCAMLR '98'. (See articles elsewhere in the Newsletter for extracts from these reports).

The synergy of being able to access licensed fishers' first hand knowledge of and capacity to observe what is actually happening in the fishery with conservation groups' media and organisational net works, facilitated by cutting edge electronic communications, is already delivering genuinely novel media material, opportunities and success - ISOFISH is a dangerous liaison indeed!

*Extracted from ISOFISH Newsletter No 1 Oct 1998.*

**SHORE LINES****Terns**

Terns are generally found in estuaries, harbours, and along beaches. It has come to our attention that shore based sightings of terns are seldom reported to **shore lines**.

Sightings of these birds are vital to our understanding of the marine environment. We urge all "shorebird" watchers to join the Australian Bird Atlas and encourage them to get out there and experience the beauty of Terns and other shore birds. Who knows it might be fun! or at least adventurous.

Join a wader study group and learn more about our amazing migrants!

**You can Help Save !**  
The "Endangered" Little Tern

**Rotamah Island Bird Observatory**

Is conducting studies into the Little Tern (*Sterna albigrons*) at Crescent Island. They will be developing the nesting site in the hope that the Little Tern will breed at the site this season. To start the season, they are organising a working bee to clear the site at Crescent Island. Little Terns like open sites, and the vegetation has increased so that last year the terns moved to a different and less suitable site. (apologies: due to other commitments, this news is late for this season.) Perhaps you could assist next season. It also allows time for better organisation. Ed.

**Further information contact . Peter and Barbara**  
**Rotamah Island Bird Observatory**

P.O.Box 75, Paynesville 3880

Ph / Fax (03)5156 6398. Email rotamah@i-o.net.au

**Red footed Booby (*Sula sula*) ashore in NSW**

Those North Coast people are on the ball, when it comes to something new turning up! Dallas Johnson (WIRES) contacted SOSSA H.Q. with the news that a Red-footed Booby was found ashore in an exhausted condition at Warnervale on the central NSW coast on 22/06/98. This is only the third known record of the species from NSW.

**PRIONS EVERYWHERE**

The winter of 1998 is proving to be a boom year for prions along the east coast of Australia. There have been many reports of very large numbers, from southern Queensland to southern NSW. The majority of birds appear to be Fairy Prions (*Pachyptila turtur*), with occasional sightings of Slender-billed Prions (*Pachyptila belcheri*).

The origins of these birds, is at present unknown. Beach washed birds may give some clue as to which population the birds belong.

¥ Slender-billed Prion collected at Rotamah Bird Observatory Feb 13th 1998, confirmed by museum? Rotamah Network News letter No. 14. May 1998.

**Australian National University**  
**Supports Seabird Research**

The recent interest shown by the students and staff of the Zoology Department of the Australian National University and members of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, has aided SOSSA in its research off Wollongong. Members of the above organisations chartered the SOSSA research vessel Sandra K on two very successful surveys, many thanks for your support. Ed.

**Boomerang Bird**  
Grey-faced Petrel E 188020

Mon, 3 Aug 1998, From: Hugh J Clifford

Yes! The bird we sent to you has come back home, like a true boomerang. Imagine my surprise and delight while banding birds on Motuotau Island on 28/7/98, to find we had caught Grey-faced Petrel E188020. But we found the rascal had been accepting jewellery from its new friends in Australia, and had band 082-94376 on its other leg! As you know, Motuotau Island is where we originally banded this bird, on 04/05/95. Catching it there again certainly increases the chances that that is where it belongs (rather than at some, other colony), but unfortunately our study is not intensive enough to find which birds are actually breeding. That makes it more difficult to speculate whether it was breeding last year when you caught it. If it was breeding, then in October it would be feeding its chick at about weekly intervals, so it would have been fascinating to know whether a bird could, and would want to, make the trip to Australia and back in about a week, though it seems perhaps rather unlikely.

I will report this recapture to our NZ Banding Office, and they will no doubt advise the ABBBS which will in turn notify you officially, eventually. But in the meantime I thought you need not wait to hear, and in any case I couldn't wait to tell you!  
Regards, Hugh.

**Grey-headed Albatross (*Thassasarche chrysostoma*)**  
V

**Campbell Albatross (*Thalassarche impavida*)**

Recent sightings of Grey-headed albatross off Wollongong have us asking the following questions? Where have they come from? Have we been missing them in the past years?

Beware! research has shown that there is a great deal of confusion between the "Plumage" of some Black-browed and Grey headed Albatrosses. Most notably, first and second winter Campbell Albatross (*Thalassarche impavida*) and the second winter Grey-headed albatross (*Thalassarche chrysostoma*). The underwing pattern of both species is quite similar at this stage of plumage development and the Grey-headed Albatross may have a white head and grey collar similar to that of some first winter Black-browed albatrosses.

The best key to identification of either species at this stage is bill colour, Black in the Grey-headed Albatross and greyish horn with a dark tip in the Black-browed Albatross.

Data from above surveys is available on request..

## Some Senior Citizens

On 12 July 1998, among 11 Wandering Albatross encountered off Bellambi NSW, were two of special interest. Both were fitted with their first band on 29 August 1959, one by S.G.(Bill) Lane (14039664) off the Malabar sewer outlet just south of Sydney and the other by J.D.(Doug) Gibson (14033164) off Bellambi NSW. 14039664 has been a regular visitor over the 39 year period, having been encountered on 20 occasions, while 14033164 has been a less regular frequent visitor, with just 7 visits. Our data suggests that both are female and of species *Diomedea exulans* (following new nomenclature). 14039664 is of approximate age 50 and 14033164 is possibly 5 years younger. As both were found off Bellambi in 1997 (again on the same day), they either have had a failed breeding attempt this year or are having a year off. It is possible that these two are from the same breeding colony and have some form of non breeding relationship. We do have other evidence suggesting non-breeding relationships among albatrosses, but this requires a lot of processing before it is formally released.

## Resources for Sea Creatures

On 8 July 1998, the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG), responded to an initiative by the state of Oregon (US) to control the world's largest breeding colony of Caspian Terns. The PSG sought information (globally) about this colony and Caspian Terns generally that could be used to form an argument to defend this colony of 8000 pairs breeding in the Columbia River estuary. It represent 25% of the North American population and is accused of taking smolts of remnant populations of salmon, trout and steelheads (some being endangered species). The Columbia River is equipped with 4 massive dams and is now but a trickle. No thought for migratory fish populations ever went into the dam designs and to correct this oversight would cost money and minimally reduce the output of the associated hydroelectric schemes, thus it is not a popular solution. There is even conflict within the agency accountable for the well being of the tern colony, among those who prefer fish to birds and vice-versa. The argument against the birds is apparently based on opinions not facts and evidence is available to show that salmon smolt have gone to sea before the terns start feeding chicks and that the dams are the fundamental cause of the low fish numbers.

Caspian Terns have a similar problem to Little Terns with breeding locations. They like shelly sandbars in locations where human activity tends to be high. For this colony their sandbar is also threatened. We can but hope that the PSG argues successfully for the tern colony.

On the east coast in New York State, the blame for declining fish catches in the Saint Lawrence estuary has been assigned to Double-crested Cormorants, and moves are afoot to remove many of these with an open season. While the cormorant populations have increased dramatically in recent years, no-one seems to have investigated the cause, or what is likely to replace "removed" cormorants. Possibly estuarine bird populations increase when competitors for forage (which are likely to be fish of various species and of a size preferred by people) are removed by the local fishing communities!

In situations like these it is common for a single highly visible species (such as cormorants) to be targeted. Yet marine food webs are extremely intricate and solar energy captured by the primary producers in the sea may flow through a variety of pathways and up to 7 trophic levels before some becomes available to the top predators (typically seabirds, cetaceans, seals and the larger fish). When populations of fish are mined out by inappropriate practices (and the majority of the world's fisheries have reached this state) it is possible that in some regions, a substantial component of species occupying a particular trophic level are removed. This can only result in diversions of food web energy flows through alternative pathways. Some species reliant on energy flow from altered trophic levels will undergo decline while others will get access to energy in greater quantities and expand their populations.

The creatures at the highest level are at the greatest risk of being affected, and the massive decline in coastal seabird populations off the south American coast following the demise of fish populations is a classic example.

For marine food webs, models are virtually non-existent (compare with the millions spent on modelling weather systems), ecological studies are few and limited; marine biologists work often with single species. We know little about the resource requirements of sea creatures, but we are concerned that in the future we may have to work hard to ensure that they hold a share that will ensure their survival and diversity.

# Sea Crossing on MV Obo Chief between Port Moresby and the Fly River

by Antonio Salvadori  
Guelph, Ontario, Canada

On the 2nd June 1998 the MV Obo Chief was at sea between Port Moresby and the Fly River travelling at approximately 8.6 Knots on a 286° course. The observer kept a constant watch in the bow of the ship just in front of the wheelhouse approximately 20 meters above the water line. A break for lunch was taken between 12:30 and 13:15. The sea leg was part of a five day voyage between Port Moresby and Kiunga along the Fly river. Observations are listed in Table 1.

**Table 1**

Location	Species	Notes
9° 07.173' S 146° 14.670' E	Tahiti Petrel	2; gliding.
9° 06.620' S 146° 12.790' E	Sooty Shearwater(?)	Single bird flying;
9° 06.138' S 146° 11.079' E	Tahiti Petrel	2; gliding.
9° 05.140' S 146° 07.759' E	Streaked Shearwater	2; gliding.
9° 04.918' S 146° 06.974' E	Tahiti Petrel	1
9° 04.387' S 146° 05.253' E	Brown Booby	1; flying.
9° 03.612' S 146° 02.732' E	Unid Shearwater / Petrel	White body and underwing; gliding.
9° 02.331' S 145° 58.735' E	Unid. Prion	One bird sitting then flying.
9° 01.440' S 145° 56.069' E	Tahiti Petrel	Single birds.
	Brown Booby	
9° 00.029' S 145° 51.843' E	Tahiti Petrel	2
8° 59.178' S 145° 49.561' E	Wedge-tailed Shearwater	1
8° 57.571' S 145° 45.355' E	Wedge-tailed Shearwater	2
	Tahiti Petrel	1
	Brown Booby	4 on palm.
	Brown Booby	1
8° 56.345' S 145° 40.739' E	Tahiti Petrel	1
8° 55.854' S 145° 38.860' E	Brown Booby	1
8° 54.291' S 145° 32.840' E	Wedge-tailed Shearwater	1
	Pomarine Skua	Dark patch on head; heavy build.
8° 53.741' S 145° 30.783' E	Red-footed Booby	Immature.

**Table 1 (continued)**

Location	Species	Notes
	Tahiti Petrel	2.
8° 53.366' S 145° 29.488' E	Streaked Shearwater	10
	Tahiti Petrel	1
8° 53.078' S 145° 28.497' E	Unid Shearwater	2
	Pomarine Skua	1 immature.
8° 50.004' S 145° 18.510' E	Unidentified Storm-Petrel(?)	1 very small & black
8° 48.' S 145° 14.' E	Flesh-footed Shearwater	>1
	Wedge-tailed Shearwater	
	Tahiti Petrel	
	Streaked Shearwater	
	Common / Black Noddy	Large flock > 200 birds.
	Sooty / Bridled Tern	
	Flesh-footed Shearwater	>1
	Streaked Shearwater	
	Common / Black Noddy	Large flock >200 birds.
	Sooty / Bridled Tern	
	Unidentified sp.	3 large white birds
8° 46.852' S 145° 08.047' E	White-tailed Tropicbird	1, yellow bill; striking back markings
8° 42.304' S 144° 52.134' E	Brown Booby	3.
Exact location not noted	Brown Booby	3
	Brown Booby	7
	Common / Black Noddy	1
	Common Noddy	2 on ship.

## Acknowledgments

The author wishes to thank Captain David Simpson for inviting him on the trip; all the crew of the MV Obo Chief for their courtesy during the voyage; Steamships PNG Ltd. and OK Tedi Mines Ltd. for permission to be aboard the Obo Chief; Will Glynn for accompanying me on the voyage; and last but not least Bob Lock of Kiunga Stevedoring for his hospitality and help.

## NSWASG - "MOLLIES" & "ODD JOBS"

The recent changes to the taxonomy of albatrosses in the southern hemisphere has many people more than a little confused. We are frequently asked, what is happening ?

The Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme (AAABS) has allocated "RAOU" numbers to the following species of Albatrosses occurring in Australian waters

Species No	Scientific name	Common name
86	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	Wandering Albatross
845	<i>Diomedea dabbenena</i>	Tristan Albatross
846	<i>Diomedea antipodensis</i>	Antipodean Albatross
847	<i>Diomedea gibsoni</i>	Gibson's Albatross
973	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>	Northern Royal Albatross
974	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	Royal Albatross
88	<i>Thalassarche melanophrys</i>	Black-browed Albatross
859	<i>Thalassarche impavida</i>	Campbell Albatross
931	<i>Thalassarche bulleri</i>	Buller's Albatross
860	<i>Thalassarche nov.sp.(Platei)</i>	Pacific Albatross
91	<i>Thalassarche cauta</i>	Shy Albatross
861	<i>Thalassarche steadi</i>	White-capped Albatross
862	<i>Thalassarche salvini</i>	Salvin's Albatross
863	<i>Thalassarche eremita</i>	Chatham Albatross
89	<i>Thalassarche chlororhynchos</i>	Atlantic yellow-nosed Albatross
864	<i>Thalassarche bassii</i>	Indian yellow-nosed Albatross
90	<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>	Grey-headed Albatross
92	<i>Phoebastria Fusca</i>	Sooty Albatross
93	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>	Light-mantled Albatross

The Southern Oceans Seabird Study Association (SOSSA) has adopted these changes and will be using these numbers and common names in our standard data sheets etc.

The importance of this revised taxonomy, can not be over stressed. As a conservation tool it is vitally important to determine the origins of albatrosses occurring in Australian seas in an effort to determine the impact of long line fishing operations on discrete populations.

The NSW Albatross Study Group has since 1956 been working on this group (albatrosses) and others in an endeavour to determine origins of seabirds known to occur in our waters. To date our findings support this revised taxonomy. We are currently using morphometric data, moult regimes and recoveries of banded birds of known origin and/or age, to determine species and their origins. Blood samples are being taken for future DNA analysis should funding become available. Note that field identification of several species is still a problem, particularly when birds cannot be trapped and examined.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lindsay, I know that you have had some extensive chats with Ken Singleton of Kempsey, about a boat trip off South West Rocks N.S.W. 30° 53'S ,153° 02'E. We did get out on the **16th of August**, unfortunately Ken was a bit sick the week prior and missed the trip. You may be interested in the birds that were seen. (Numbers are approximate). Gannet 10, Fluttering Shearwater 30, Fairy Prion 4, Arctic Jaeger 1, Wedge-tailed Shearwater 6, Providence Petrel 60, Cape Petrel 1, Shy albatross 1, Black-browed Albatross 1, Wilson's Storm petrel 5. The day was overcast with some showers, swell 2.5 metres which made life interesting! Fortunately only a moderate southerly breeze. Sea temperature about 19-21° c, We went out 23 kilometres off the coast. I was surprised to by the **Arctic Jaeger** and **Wedge-tailed Shearwaters**, thinking that they arrive about September. I have one question about a "mystery bird", which I believe was a White-headed Petrel (*Pterodroma lessoni*). It had an all white head, neck and chest. There was a dark eye patch upper wings dark grey, under wing not seen. It flew with stiff wings that were bowed downwards when gliding along the water surface. Wing span similar, maybe slightly longer than Providence which were also present. It was seen 23 kms off shore, about 2kms past the shelf break. The problem is that it was 100-150 metres from the boat and seen for only 30 seconds!. I am unable to find any birds that resemble this description except for the White-headed Petrel. Could you throw a bit of light onto it?. Hope to hear from you soon.

David Secomb.

## SPONSORS & DONATIONS

**Roland & Julia Seitre (France)** have sent us 9 boxes of slides to use for our talks. When Roland said he would send some slides we were not expecting this number and we are very grateful and overwhelmed. Thank you so much Roland & Julia. We are looking forward to seeing you all and your new baby early next year.

**ENZED -Dave Stanford**, We feel lucky to have their **\$300.00** again this year for fuel.

**EMU TOURS -Richard Jordan**, EMU TOURS to the rescue Richard has kindly donated **\$350.00**.

**Others who have made donations of \$100.00 !**

**Tony Palliser, Tony Ashby, Peter Milburn, Ross Hunter, Gordon & Mollie Campbell.**

**Thanks for all the donations & helping us out.**



## BIG FISH & BIGGER TALES - ROSS HUNTER

Dear Birdbrains,

Have just spent more time fishing in 34° than on "Terra FIRMA". I thought a story or two are justified. Since mid July we have encountered many superb seabirds. I have also recorded sea water temps of 21°C which is very hot for mid-winter. As a result of the warm clear currents, yellow-fin tuna, Albacore Mako and Blue Sharks have been quite thick and quite hungry. July and August we have seen many birds including Yellow-nosed Albatross, Black-brows both adult and juvenile. One only Light-mantled Sooty 6 Grey-heads and probably only 12 Wanders including a superb white bird of enormous size (3.2 m Wingspan) one of the largest I have seen. However the Wanderers and the Shy Albatross numbers have been very low to date. Late July and early August the current was lightly draining to the south in 400 Fathoms and the birds were thick. I noticed however when the current pushed southward, at 4 knots the birds thinned over night, probably following the Saurie and Pilchard schools, which in turn would have been carried south ward in the current. During the month of mild current the ocean was alive Hump-backed and Minkie whales, acres of Bottle-nosed Dolphins. A typical day at sea would be an encounter with a feeding frenzy of Fluttering Shearwaters in 40 Fathoms, flocks of up to 1000 birds foraging both on the oceans surface and below. These birds were possibly feeding on a hatch or sprat of Slimy Mackerel (*Scomber australasicus* Cuveie).

At 60 fathoms (125m) Australasian Gannets and Yellow-nosed Albys foraged for Saurie and Mackerel and of course the odd Black-brows and Giant Petrels, both Northern and Southern would be spotted, mainly 1st year birds? all dark birds, some with reddish brown bill tips (*Northern*).or greenish tips (*Southern*)?

At the continental shelf many more Yellow-nosed, Black-browed Albys, however all the Wanderers have been spotted from 250 Fathoms out. Acres of Fairy Prions the odd Storm-petrel (Wilson's) and Cape Petrel. All dark shearwaters have been noticeably absent, however a few Providence Petrels were spotted. We had a Great Skua persecuting some Yellow-nosed Albys as we burleyed for tuna. I pointed out the bird to my crew just in time to observe a Blue Shark do a remarkable job of removing the skua's tail feathers. It is quite efficient how these sharks stalk the birds from behind, quite slowly and deliberate never allowing the bird to see them. I am convinced that these birds have a blind-spot directly behind them

and the sharks are very aware of this. In this instance the skua lived, a wiser bird.

I have however seen shearwaters and petrels eaten by Mako and Blue Sharks in the same manner. I observed a school of Yellow-fin Tuna making a mess of a bunch of sauries, if you want to see efficiency in rounding up food and feeding these blokes are experts. No sauries can reach speeds of 65-80 Kilometres/hour like the tuna reaches as they hit the schools. They leap up to 4 metres in air with a dozen or so sauries hanging out of their mouths. The Black-brows and Yellow-nosed Albys would be circling and ever so elegantly cruise low and simply snatch up the excess sauries the tuna had stunned, naturally the Gannets too were in on the action, Terns too, were working the areas. It never ceases to amaze me how, when Mother Ocean is in her quieter moods with her inhabitants the fishes, dolphins and birds all having a siesta, until someone hits the switch, as if by "Coconut Telegraph" the tuna are feeding, the birds appear from nowhere and the ocean is alive again. Mother nature is indeed amazing!

Cheers, Rossco.

**Ross Hunter, "Broadbill Charters"**

1 Over the years I have collected the odd beach-washed seabird with the rear end including feet missing, no doubt as a result of shark attack, as described above Ed.

## FIVE ISLANDS REPORT

While the Albatross Study is well under way, it is time to turn our attention back to the Five Islands in preparation for the return of the Penguins and Shearwaters. The Silver Gulls have returned and the "Ruckus" is about to begin. Fortunately the "Little Penguin" (SOSSA's Island boat) has undergone major repairs, many thanks to the Department of Technical and Further Education (TAFE) Shellharbour. With your valuable assistance, it is hoped that this year we will be able to train interested people to become seabird researchers. All working to a standard that we can all adhere to, this will give us all a greater insight in to the biology of our near-shore Islands.

Recently SOSSA in conjunction with the Coomaditchie Aboriginal Union and NSW National Parks Service, obtained some funding from "Coast Care" to re-establish native vegetation on the "Five Islands". This it is hoped this will allow us to develop better breeding sights and reduce the effects of the introduced weeds on our seabirds. Unfortunately the grants did not include funding for the introduction of artificial nest burrows. These would have allowed greater surveillance (Non-intrusive) of breeding activities and requirements.



## BOOKINGS INFORMATION FOR BOAT TRIPS



SANDRA "K" -

### SEABIRD BIRD WATCHING BOAT TRIPS

4th Sunday Of The Month

24th January 1999, 28th February 99,  
28th March 99, 25th April 99, 23rd May 99

### New additions to the Australian Seabird list

From Tony Palliser

#### Birds Australia Rarities Committee (BARC)

Laysan Albatross	( <i>Diomedea immutabilis</i> )
Fulmar Prion	( <i>Pachyptila crassirostris</i> )
Snow Petrel	( <i>Pagodroma nivea</i> )
Newell's Shearwater	( <i>Puffinus aricularis newelli</i> )

### THREE DAY WA PELAGIC

from PERTH (6-9 March 1999)

Tony Palliser is organising a 3 day pelagic from Perth that will head SW into deep waters up to 100 NM from shore in search of rare seabirds. This will be an exploratory NON PROFIT trip with all costs divided equally. The intention is to charter the Jodi Anne (the same yacht used for the Ashmore Reef trips). The potential for some exciting birds and photography are limitless. All food accommodation will be provided with the full trip likely to cost around the AU\$600.00. Ex Perth.

If you are interested contact Tony for more information: **Tony Palliser** (SOSSA).

Ph wk.... 02-99001678 fx wk..... 02-99001669  
Ph mb..... 0416 095875 Ph hm..... 02-94277563  
Email:tpallise@au.oracle.com or palliser@zip.com.au  
web..... <http://www.zip.com.au/~palliser>

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### Next Meeting

Saturday 27th February 99 & 27th March 99

held at HQ. 7.30 pm. 10 Jenkins Street - Unanderra.  
NSW. We only supply the Coffee, Tea and Biscuits !!!



NEXT NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 1999  
(providing there are no major hold ups)

Illawarra Boat Charter. Ph: -018-423 555

Captain. Carl Loves (SOSSA) (Sandra K)

Mobile: -61-18-423 555-International

P.O. Box. 148 Fairy Meadow NSW 2519

Email: Bookings for Sandra K:

[fishing@wollongong.starway.net.au](mailto:fishing@wollongong.starway.net.au)

Wollongong or Sydney: Ph wk..... 02-9900 1678

Tony Palliser (SOSSA) Ph hm..02-9427 7563 Ph

mb..... 0416 095875 fx wk.. 02-9900 1669

Email: Bookings for [palliser@zip.com.au](mailto:palliser@zip.com.au)

Pelagic Reports On Home Page Website

Address: <http://www.zip.com.au/~palliser>

Brisbane Trip Bookings: Ph: 073- 3918 839

Paul Walbridge. (SOSSA) Fax: 073- 3918 839

135 Lytton Road East Brisbane QLD 4169

Email: Bookings for Brisbane:

[prion@powerup.com.au](mailto:prion@powerup.com.au)

Portland Trip Bookings: Ph: 03- 9787 7136

Mike Carter. (SOSSA)

30 Canadian Bay Road Mt. Eliza VIC 3930

Busselton Information: Ph: 089 7553 263

Ross Payton.(SOSSA)

P.O. Box 410 Dunsborough. W.A. 6281

Perth Information: Ph: 08-9386 5694- H

Ph: 08-9167 1445- W

Frank O'Connor.(SOSSA)

8c Hardy Road, Nedlands. W.A. 6009

Email: Bookings for Perth:[foconnor@iinet.net.au](mailto:foconnor@iinet.net.au)

Eden Information: Ph: (02) 6495 7390

Barbara Jones Email Bookings for Eden

[dbjones@acr.net.au](mailto:dbjones@acr.net.au)

Tasmanian Information: Ph: 03-6233 6018

Tim Reid Marine Ecosystems Unit

Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service

P.O. Box 44a Hobart Tasmania

Email Bookings for Tasmania

Tim. Reid@delm.tas.gov.au.

### NEW MEMBERS

98-99 new memberships only

Darren Gladman, Cathy Miller, Jo Flynn, Karen  
Fildes, Leonard & Anna Glasser, Monica Swartz,  
Darrell Hutchinson.

# BOAT TRIP DATA SHEET - DSOSSA-BTDS-V1.9-04111998 SOSSA

SOSSA - (02) 4271 6004 - Fax: (02) 4272 4626. PO. Box 142 UNANDERRA NSW 2526

E-mail address: [sossa@ozemail.com.au](mailto:sossa@ozemail.com.au)

Seabird Records

1998

PERTH TASMANIA EDEN

Sp No	Species	Perth			Tas	Eden
		Jun	Aug	Sep	Sep	Aug
005	Little Penguin, <i>Eudyptula minor</i>				2	1
085	Common Diving-Petrel, <i>Pelecanoides urinatrix</i>				100	
929	Southern Giant-Petrel, <i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	3			1	4
937	Northern Giant-Petrel, <i>Macronectes halli</i>				3	
074	Southern Fulmar, <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>				1	
984	Cape Petrel, <i>Daption capense</i>	8+	1		2	
080	Snow Petrel, <i>Pagodroma nivea</i>					
073	Great-winged Petrel, <i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>	9+	5	80	1	6
935	Kerguelen Petrel, <i>Lugensa brevirostris</i>	2				
076	Soft-plumaged Petrel, <i>Pterodroma mollis</i>	61+	15	2		
083	Fairy Prion, <i>Pachyptila turtur</i>	1			300	16
069	Wedge-tailed Shearwater, <i>Puffinus pacificus</i>			15		
072	Flesh-footed Shearwater, <i>Puffinus carneipes</i>			1		
071	Short-tailed Shearwater, <i>Puffinus tenuirostris</i>				000's	
068	Fluttering Shearwater, <i>Puffinus gavia</i>				10	
913	Hutton's Shearwater, <i>Puffinus huttoni</i>		300	1		
067	Little Shearwater, <i>Puffinus assimilis</i>	1	1			
086	Wandering Albatross, <i>Diomedea exulans</i>				4	1sp
973	Northern Royal Albatross, <i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>				2	
974	Royal Albatross, <i>Diomedea epomophora</i>				2	
088	Black-browed Albatross, <i>Thalassarche melanophrys</i>		1		1	
859	Campbell Albatross, <i>Thalassarche impavida</i>				2	
091	Shy Albatross, <i>Thalassarche cauta</i>		4		200	150
862	Salvin's Albatross, <i>Thalassarche salvini</i>				1	5?
864	Indian yellow-nosed Albatross, <i>Thalassarche bassi</i>	61+	200+	40		1
063	Wilson's Storm-Petrel, <i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	5			1	
064	Grey-backed Storm-Petrel, <i>Nereis garrodia</i>				2	
065	White-faced Storm-Petrel, <i>Pelagodroma marina</i>		3	20	4	
104	Australasian Gannet, <i>Morus serrator</i>	10	80+	60	5	22
100	Little Pied Cormorant, <i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos</i>			20	✓	1
098	Black-faced Cormorant, <i>Phalacrocorax fuscus</i>				50+	4
099	Pied Cormorant, <i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>	2		100		
097	Little black Cormorant, <i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>			1		
096	Great Cormorant, <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				✓	3
106	Australian Pelican, <i>Pelicanus conspicillatus</i>				✓	4
980	Great Skua, <i>Catharacta skua</i>	3	10	4		4
126	Pacific Gull, <i>Larus pacificus</i>				60	17
981	Kelp Gull, <i>Larus dominicanus</i>				400+	
125	Silver Gull, <i>Larus novaehollandiae</i>	5	60	13	100	✓
111	Caspian Tern, <i>Sterna caspia</i>			3	✓	
115	Crested Tern, <i>Sterna bergii</i>	8	15	50	5	✓
118	Fairy Tern, <i>Sterna nereis</i>		4			
121	Bridled Tern, <i>Sterna naethetus</i>			2		

BOAT TRIP DATA SHEET - DSOSSA-BTDS-V1.9-04111998 SOSSA

SOSSA - (02) 4271 6004 - Fax: (02) 4 272 4626. PO. Box 142 UNANDERRA NSW 2526

E-mail address: [sossa@ozemail.com.au](mailto:sossa@ozemail.com.au)

Seabird Records 1998

WOLLONGONG BRISBANE PORTLAND SYDNEY BUSSELTON PERTH TASMANIA EDEN

Sp No	Species	Brisbane			Wollongong			Sydney			Fortland			Busselton				
		June	July	Aug	Sep	July	Aug	Sep	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Apr	July	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
005	Little Penguin, <i>Eudyptula minor</i>					1	1	7	4	4								
085	Common Diving-Petrel, <i>Pelecanoides urinatrix</i>													1				
910	South Georgian Diving-Petrel, <i>Pelecanoides georgicus</i>																	
929	Southern Giant-Petrel, <i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	1	1	1			1sp			2	1sp			1				4
937	Northern Giant-Petrel, <i>Macronectes halli</i>					1							2					
984	Cape Petrel, <i>Daption capense</i>	3		2				1		3	3	13		1				
073	Great-winged Petrel, <i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>					2		7		1	10-15	50+	1	1	6	4	50	
077	White-headed Petrel, <i>Pterodroma lessonae</i>										28-30				3		1	
971	Providence Petrel, <i>Pterodroma sandwichensis</i>	29	37	5		10+	15-20	60	15-20	4	10-12	50+						
920	Tahiti Petrel, <i>Pseudo bulweria rostrata</i>			2														
935	Kerguelen Petrel, <i>Lugensa brevirostris</i>														6	2	1	
076	Soft-plumaged Petrel, <i>Pterodroma mollis</i>														26		20	
081	Blue Petrel, <i>Halobaena caerulea</i>														2			
082	Broad-billed Prion, <i>Pachyptila vittata</i>					2					4			4				
084	Antarctic Prion, <i>Pachyptila desolata</i>													2				
942	Slender-billed Prion, <i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>	1				1					25-30	1						
083	Fairy Prion, <i>Pachyptila turtur</i>	24	19			800+			10-12	20-30					5	1		
915	White-chinned Petrel, <i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>																	
069	Wedge-tailed Shearwater, <i>Puffinus pacificus</i>			110			20+	42			20+	300					1	
072	Flesh-footed Shearwater, <i>Puffinus carneipes</i>											3					41	
070	Sooty Shearwater, <i>Puffinus griseus</i>							1										
071	Short-tailed Shearwater, <i>Puffinus tenuirostris</i>							1				2		2				
068	Fluttering Shearwater, <i>Puffinus cavia</i>	6	1	4		1500	20K	350+	30+	50+	20+	25		30				
913	Hutton's Shearwater, <i>Puffinus huttoni</i>	3	1	24	3	2	100+	200+			5+							
	*Fluttering/Hutton's		8	5	3													

Sp No	Species	June	July	Aug	Sept	July	Aug	Sept	June	July	Aug	Sept	Apr	July	June	July	Aug	Sept
086	Wandering Albatross, <i>Diomedea exulans</i>									1								
846	Antipodean Albatross, <i>Diomedea antipodensis</i>							1										
847	Gibson's Albatross, <i>Diomedea gilsoni</i>							6			4	14						
088	Black-browed Albatross, <i>Thalassarche melanophrys</i>					55	4	3	3	15-20	10-15	7		50				4
859	Campbell Albatross, <i>Thalassarche impavida</i>					7	2	3	3	5-10		3						
931	Buller's Albatross, <i>Thalassarche bulleri</i>		1															
091	Shy Albatross, <i>Thalassarche cauta</i>		2			6	2			4			50					2
862	Salvin's Albatross, <i>Thalassarche salvinii</i>													1				
864	Indian yellow-nosed Albatross, <i>Thalassarche bassi</i>					12	1		7		10		1	46	34	37	73	
090	Grey-headed Albatross, <i>Thalassarche chrysoloma</i>										1							
063	Wilson's Storm-Petrel, <i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	2		20				3	4									
065	White-faced Storm-Petrel, <i>Pelagodroma marina</i>						10+			1					2			
066	Black-bellied Storm-Petrel, <i>Fregatta tropica</i>							1										
104	Australasian Gannet, <i>Morus serrator</i>	10		13	1	15	10+	200	20+	10+	10+	15		6000	252	170	70	200
100	Little Pied Cormorant, <i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos</i>						1				2							
098	Black-faced Cormorant, <i>Phalacrocorax fuscescens</i>													4				
099	Pied Cormorant, <i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>	1		4		3		1	1	1		1			✓	✓	✓	✓
097	Little black Cormorant, <i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>			3		1		1	3			1						
096	Great Cormorant, <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>							1	1	1	1							
106	Australian Pelican, <i>Pelicanus cor. spicillatus</i>					2	7		8	8	2							
980	Great Skua, <i>Catharacta skua</i>					2	2					2						
128	Arctic Jaeger, <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>						1					1			5	4	2	14
126	Pacific Gull, <i>Larus pacificus</i>														2			2
981	Kelp Gull, <i>Larus dominicanus</i>					1	4	2										
125	Silver Gull, <i>Larus novaehollandiae</i>	71	11	12	6	30+	50+	30+	20+	20+	25+	20		1	✓	✓	✓	✓
111	Caspian Tern, <i>Sterna caspia</i>																	
115	Crested Tern, <i>Sterna bergii</i>	38	12	17	27	10+	70+	10+	10+	10+	10-15	25+		12	✓	✓	✓	✓
114	White-fronted Tern, <i>Sterna striata</i>						10+		2					10				
953	Common Tern, <i>Sterna hirundo</i>			10				2										
952	Arctic Tern, <i>Sterna paradisaea</i>																	2
117	Little Tern, <i>Sterna albiglans</i>			150+														
118	Fairy Tern, <i>Sterna nereis</i>																	
120	Sooty Tern, <i>Sterna fuscata</i>		20+	5														

\*Note: Errors in last Newsletter No. 18 Boat Trip Report.

\*Common Diving Petrel (Should be in next row Southern Giant Petrel)

\*Little Tern (Should read (Caspian Tern) Please correct data sheets Ed