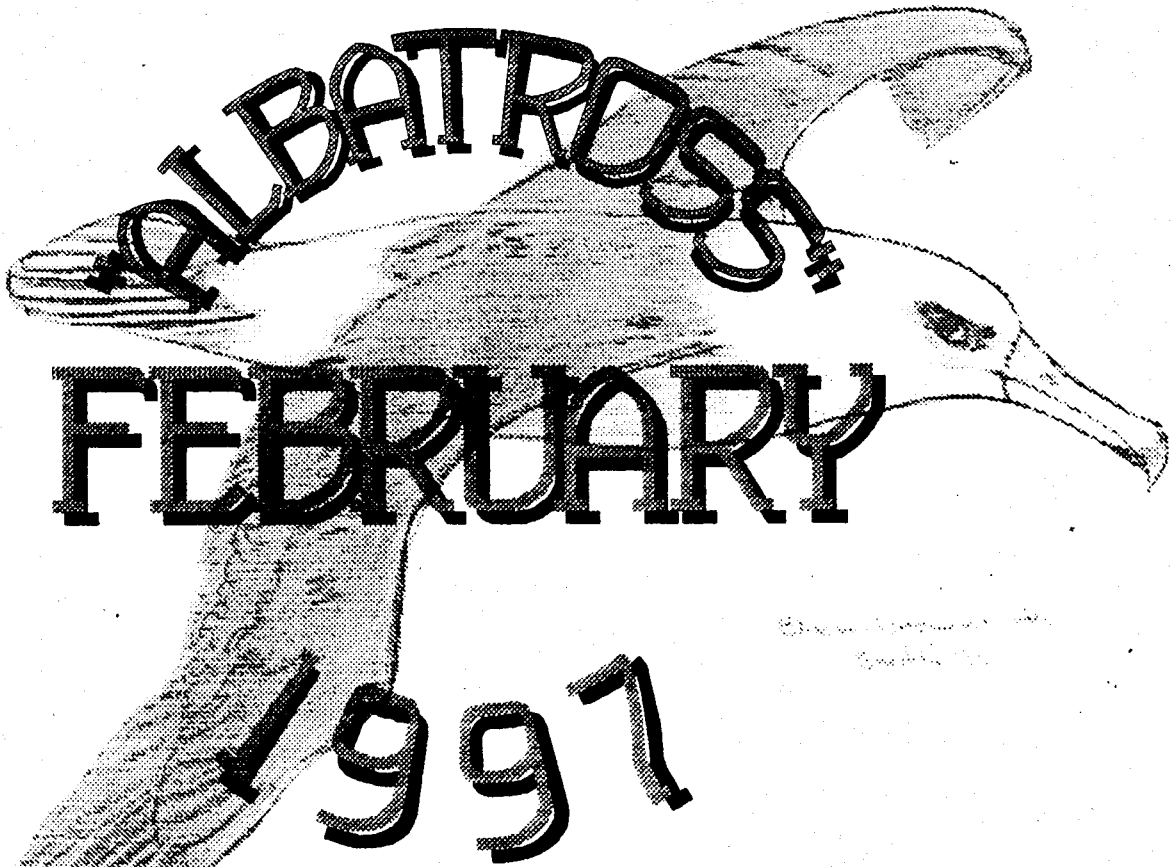


Southern Oceans Seabird Study Association Inc.

" Wildlife Research "



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EDITORIAL

Once again so much has happened over the past few months, it shows how dynamic the world of SOSSA is. Harry Battam, Richard Swanson (South Australian Representative) and I were invited to attend the Threat Abatement Plan (TAP) of Seabird by-Catch, within the Long line fishing industry. This meeting was held in Canberra at ANCA House and was attended by representatives of government and several, non government organisations including the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union (Hugo Phillips), The Humane Society (Michael Kennedy). Particular attention being focused on the Endangered Wandering Albatross breeding on Macquarie Island.

At the request of Hugo Phillips, Conservation Officer Royal Ornithologists Union (RAOU) and Michael Kennedy International Humane Society (IHS). A submission was prepared by SOSSA and sent to the International Union for the Conservation Conference, hosted by Canada in Montreal. SOSSA in conjunction with the Environmental Defence Fund (California, U S A) prepared a submission depicting what is being done here in Australia in regard to the problem of By-catch, including all non targeted species, not only birds!.

The congress was attended by representatives from many nations. This was to be the largest conference of its type, since the Rio Earth Summit.

Since then SOSSA has been called to give evidence and supply a submission to the Commonwealth Government of Australia Joint Standing Committee on Treaties in regard to the Japanese longline fisheries in Australian waters and the incidental by-catch of seabirds.

Unfortunately this meeting took place before we had the results of the IUCN Congress in Montreal. It is my opinion that the members of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties are to be congratulated on their efforts. I would like to thank them and all those who had input into such an important issue.

The submissions, Three volumes which were from a broad spectrum of people including, Medical and Dental Practitioners, Fisherman both recreational and commercial, industry workers, biologists and others who were just interested or concerned. It reminded me of my fellow members in SOSSA a very diverse and interesting gathering of people working together to achieve a greater understanding of our oceans and their diverse biota. Whilst enjoying the experience.

It is worth reflecting on the comments of Harry Battam (SOSSA) in the winter issue of Nature Australia 1995. The claim is that 50,000 seabirds had been killed in Australian and New Zealand waters by the Longline fishing industry.

****As an expanding world population demands more from the ocean's resources, the task of protecting vulnerable species will not become easier. Our inadequate knowledge of albatross populations, their great dependence on resources in international waters and their insignificant economical value result in complex political issues and no funds for research. Knowledge is an essential ingredient in arguments for albatross by-kill reduction. Usually no knowledge means a decision unfavourable to albatrosses. Various forms of tracking technology such as satellite systems, which can provide vital information in a much shorter time frame than was previously possible, are now available for use on albatrosses. Raising funds to apply this technology is an urgent task as a diminishing population increases the difficulty of acquisition of knowledge essential for their survival.

"SHORE LINES"

"PELICANS"

Australian Pelicans (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*) are on the increase. The population trend at the Five Islands NSW is possibly indicative of the increase in numbers along east coast of NSW. The population explosion began locally in 1983 when on December 31st Richard and Peter Fackender discovered two (2) nests each containing two (2) Eggs on Big Island No.1. In 1984 a visit to Martin Islet in the group, a further 7 nests were located, H Battam, A. J. Leishman and L. E. Smith.

On January 26th 1987 a total of 106 nests containing eggs and young were recorded on the islands L. E. Smith pers obs.

Monday October 21st 1996 over 375 nests containing eggs and chicks were counted on Big Island No 2 and Martin Islet No 3. By November 14th 1996 450 pairs were breeding on Big Is 1&2 with another 50 pairs estimated breeding on Martin Is (No 3). L. E. Smith. pers obs.

In the past 10 years the rapid expansion of the Pelican population, has seriously and adversely affected the local breeding populations of Crested Tern (*Sterna bergi*). In 1976 H. Battam estimated the Breeding population at 2000 pairs on Big Island No 2. Stating also that the birds sometimes bred also on Martin Islet (No 3) and Bass Islet (No 5).

Since 1994 Pelicans have bred on all the islands in the group, with the exception of Flinders Is (No 4). In the process of colonising the islands, Pelicans have in past years displaced over 70 % of the breeding Crested Tern pairs from the Reserve.

This season 1996-97 the breeding population of Crested Terns were estimated / counted at 650-700 pairs in October. By December this had increased to approximately 1700 breeding pairs. Smith pers obs. This is by far the most successful season for almost 20 years.

4ARE PELICANS THE SEAGULLS OF TOMORROW?

Like the Sacred Ibis in Hyde Park Sydney, if they want your lunch, you will gladly feed them, you will excitedly encourage young children to "feed the BIRDIE". We all at one time or another have fed the "Pigeons" the "Seagulls" if not the Pelicans!. Such is the nature of the beast!. Birds are endearing animals, not cute and cuddly but tame and inquisitive even becoming bold. Once an animal loses its fear of man, it can become dangerous!. Pelicans have a very large hook on the tip of their bill. Designed for catching and holding fish, it also forms a formidable weapon in attack or defence. Believe me, when I say "if a Pelican wants your lunch," You will GLADLY give it or it will TAKE IT. After all Pelicans can be far more menacing than Seagulls, particularly if you are a Crested Tern!.

PLEASE DO NOT FEED PELICANS

At expense of our other shore birds Ed.

NB. Adult birds are now feeding at RUBBISH TIPS, boat ramps, and Fish co-ops right along the east coast of Australia. Ed.

A Pelican Named Sweet P

Bronwyn Jarman

My egg came from a work site on the shores of Lake Illawarra. When I picked it up it was sitting in Lindsay Smiths fruit bowl. With his offer of "Blowing" it for me, going in one ear and out the other, my mind was racing, trying to think, where I could get it incubated?. After a visit to Cannon and Ball veterinary surgery, I was put in touch with local aviculturist Robert Draper, who specialises in the incubation of priceless parrot eggs. Fortunately for me he saw it as a challenge!. After washing, weighing and entering data on his computer Robert placed it in the incubator along side those priceless parrot eggs.

It was definitely a case of the "Ugly Duckling" the other eggs were small and delicate in comparison with mine, which was very large, rough, thick and somewhat irregular in shape.

Robert warned me not to get my hopes up, he would ring in a day or so to report on it's progress. I however, ran off to find all the things I felt I would need for the impending birth. Lindsay and Janice's words, " You wouldn't want to rear a Pelican chick", Smelly, Messy, not easy to feed, still ringing in my ears! and a bit of a nervous feeling in the pit of my stomach. After 10 days of careful weighing and calculating Robert rang with the good? news "It's a Goer!".

Robert worked hard to get my chick out. It was difficult, regulating temperature and humidity to ensure the egg would loose just the right amount of weight each day and no more. At first it was too slow and Robert had to file the shell to reduce it's thickness. On day 29, Robert made a small hole above the air sack in the egg, to ensure that all fluid would be absorbed before the BIG DAY. On day 31 Robert rang and announce that I was about to become a mother, he could hear the baby through the shell it was actually pipping just below the hole in it's shell.

I raced over to see it. Robert had by this time removed the small part of the shell around where the break was breaking through, even at this stage all curled up in it's shell, "Sweet P" was watching us. I was amazed to see it's eye staring at us. It took all that day for Sweet P to come out, but by day 32, I had my baby. Unlike parrots which start off on re-hydrating fluid, Sweet P rejected the fluid totally so we decided to try fish. This tiny pink bird which fitted comfortably into my hand at 1110 grams, tracked the spoon and eat 1 teaspoon of blended fish fillets right away. When it was not feeding it layed prostrate, it's head and neck stretched out in front looking for all the world as if it had expired. Some thought it was ugly, perhaps so but it's mother loved it. One we had established it would eat, it was left in Robert's brooder with it's temperature and humidity closely monitored from day 1. On day 2 I took Sweet P Home..

I had my hospital box complete with brand new high tech digital thermostat and blender ready to go, and go we did. Every 1½ hours for the first 2 weeks all day and night until about 11.00 pm and starting again at 6.00 am. For the first couple of nights I also fed it around 2.00 am. As fast as I put it in one end it can out the other with great gusto. Up wall over the floor, me and anything within firing range. The smell was something else, the warm fish that went in was bad enough, but that which came out into the box heated at 37°C, really had to be smelt to be believed. The stench fill my home, it was quite overpowering. For the first 2 weeks Sweet P lived in my kitchen, after that the box complete with baby was moved to the garage, I couldn't stand the smell any longer.

Sweet P thrived, it's weight doubled then tripled. By day 2 he would eat 3 spoonfuls a meal, day 5, 10 spoon fulls and so on. His pink flabby body grew rapidly and soon outgrew his ice cream container bed and was given a larger container. The he graduated to a bread box and finally had to leave the heat box and live in a children's play-pen, all in the space of 4 weeks. He was thermo-regulating by 3 weeks, so his transition to the play-pen without heat did not prove to be a problem. His body became covered with a thick luxurious white down. He learnt to hold his head up for linger periods of time. He was very bright and alert at feed times, with the most beautiful eyes that

would watch everything that you did. By week 5 he was beginning to stand up, his body was very big and heavy for his legs. Week 6 saw him running around the lawn following me and performing the most unusual ritual dance. It almost looked as though he was taking fits. The behaviour that had been observed in the wild. He grovels on the ground honking noisily swinging his head around and often biting himself, wings out and flailing the air. It had been suggested that this behaviour was from lack of oxygen at feeding time, but Sweet P was definitely not lacking with oxygen and has done this from the time he was a little thing in the heat box.

At the time of writing, Sweet P is 9 weeks old and 8½ Kilos, a great ball of fluffy white down with wing and shoulder feathers coming through, he eats 1½ kilos of fish a day and spends his time on the lawn under a specially constructed canopy and his nights in the play-pen with a rubber matting floor and a towel over his head.

He is very bonded to me now and tends to snap at others, he performs his dance for me when he wants his food when I arrive home in the afternoon. I have now raised a very bonded bird and have to face the dilemma of what will happen to him in the future. I have 1 week before he is fully fledged and probably a further 2 weeks before he can fly. It has been an interesting and rewarding experience, but it is something I shouldn't have done really, and wouldn't do it again for the sake of the bird and it's future.

At 12 weeks he was fully fledged and a beautiful Pelican, Lindsay even had to admit he wasn't a bad specimen. At about 14 weeks of age and 10 kilos in weight, I packed Sweet P into a crate and transported him to a location for the next phase of his rehabilitation.

Leaving him was one of the hardest things I've had to do. It was reported back to me that he had refused to eat the first week and had to be tube fed, but after that he improved and by week 3 was eating for himself and was about to be introduced too other Pelicans. It has now been a month and I feel he should have forgotten me. I am going to see him next week, I will certainly never forget him, I have 100 odd photos to help me remember.

Sooty Oystercatcher Project

Lindsay Smith and Michael Jarman

The total population of Sooty Oystercatchers in NSW is thought to be in the order of 100 individuals, (Lane 1987).

The Five Islands Nature Reserve is the single most important breeding sight for the Sooty Oystercatcher in NSW, currently 16 pairs have been recorded breeding locally.

Little is known of the biology of the Sooty Oystercatcher (*Heamatopus fuliginosus*). For the past several years the authors have been studying the breeding biology and post breeding dispersal of the Sooty Oystercatcher at the Five Islands Nature Reserve Port Kembla NSW.

Access to the islands is not always possible due to the difficulties of landing on the islands in any but the calmest of weather. This coupled with the small number of breeding pairs, has meant that any studies into the breeding biology of the Sooty Oystercatcher will have to be a long term one.

The authors have been colour marking individual Oystercatcher chicks before fledging. It is hoped that these birds will enable us to better understand the mortality and dispersal of the birds from the Five Islands.

Sightings of colour marked Sooty Oystercatchers can be sent to SOSSA HQ or the Australian Bird & Bat Banding Scheme, GPO Box 8 Canberra. ACT 2601.

Thankyou for your assistance Ed.

OUR FIRST GRANT

THIS IS THE MOST EXCITING GRANT WE COULD HAVE RECEIVED.

It is interesting to note that this grant has come to us from our piers!!!

The Cumberland Bird Observers Club have given SOSSA this grant to assist in the continuation of our **SOOTY OYSTERCATCHER PROJECT**. Many thanks to the members and the committee of Cumberland Club. It is hoped that this project will give us the opportunity to better understand the Sooty Oystercatcher, it's breeding biology and behaviour. The species has a dependence on offshore islands for breeding and the post breeding dispersal of birds from the "Five Islands" Nature Reserve.

At What age does the Sooty Oystercatcher Breed?. How long do they live?. What are the constraints on the breeding population?. Why is it a threatened / vulnerable species?. What is the local populations age structure?. How many birds are we talking about?. These are some of the questions we would like to find answers to.

There's An "ALBATROSS" In The Garden

On December 16th, a flurry of phone calls came in from the Shoalhaven Volunteer Coast Guard, The Shoalhaven WIRES group and the NSW Parks and Wildlife Service at Nowra. The result of these calls was the rescue, this time of a Shy albatross (*Diomedea cauta*). This bird was taken to a vet at Bomaderry (Neil Johnston), when we contacted him he felt that the albatross may have had it's wing broken in two places, however this could only be confirmed by x-rays. In order to successfully x-ray these very large birds, it is necessary to anaesthetise the bird. Albatrosses and possibly other petrels, do not appear to take well to anaesthetic.

Our veterinary expert on albatrosses, (Mike Cannon) uses the latest available technology. The bird was anaesthetised, using the same gas as that given to heart / lung transplant patients. Iso-fluorane. The birds take some time to recover, even when given very light doses. Recovery time can vary from 10 mins - 2 Hours. Great care is required.

On our arrival home, we contacted Mike who came to the surgery immediately. Even missing out on his evening meal to assist the injured bird.

The good news was that the x-ray revealed the lower (*carpal*) section was badly bruised and swollen. The elbow had been dislocated. With careful manipulation the joint was reset and a figure 8, bandage applied.

In no time at all the albatross had settled in and became very tame, feeding and recovering well. We were more than a little surprised, when she took to the plants in the garden and began building a nest on the edge of the rainforest section. It appears she may be intending an extended stay!

Every visitor deserves a name and as usual Janice found one for this girl!

"SHEILA"
(or was that Sheila be right?)
The Shy Albatross

PS. We had Mike surgically sex her using an optical endoscope just to be certain of her gender. Surprise! surprise! SHEILA the Shy is a MALE!!!! oops.

CAPTAIN CARL'S BIT

Whales (cetaceans fish birds etc). Boat trips, other than organised bird watching trips.

On the "SEABIRD FRONT" 1996 was a "Vintage", one of the best years for seabirds off eastern Australia ever on record. In many ways it was similar to 1985 at least for the Wollongong boat trips. The October trips off both Wollongong and Sydney have been exceptional. **"THE BAROMETER RULES OK."**

It all started with Yellow-nosed Albatross (*D. chlororhynchus bassi*) turning up early 30th of April 1996, then came the Herald petrels (*Pterodroma aminjoniana*) and South Polar Skua (*Catharacta maccormicki*) pers observation. Ed.

The sightings of the Procellaria petrels, Westland black petrel (*Procellaria westlandia*) White-chinned petrel (*Procellaria aquinoctalis*) and the Black-petrel (*procellaria parkinsoni*).

*Most sightings supported by photographs, video tape and historic records. Six (6) species of Albatross in one (1) day Off Wollongong.!!.

Wandering Albatross *D.e. gibsoni* White-chinned petrel *Procellaria aquinoctalis*, Mottled petrel *Pterodroma mollis*, and Soft plumaged petrel *Pterodroma inexpecta*, off the Gold Coast!.

The sightings of large numbers of Mottled Petrels (*Pterodroma mollis*) off Sydney and Wollongong in late October have been without precedent.

Unusually large numbers of Wandering albatross reported off Sydney and Wollongong during late September/November. See boat trip reports on back page.

Many sightings of cetaceans of several species, including Dolphins & Whales Re. Paul Walbridge Qld Representative and Mick Kilp Central coast NSW fisherman and member. Have reported large numbers of Melon headed and Pilot whales, possibly long-finned.

THE GREY-HEAD ALBATROSS

An unusual capture in 1996

There had been several reported recent sightings of a juvenile Grey-headed albatross (*Diomedea chrysostoma*) off Wollongong, it had been observed inshore feeding on Cuttlefish with Black-brows and Shys. Its presence confirmed when a Grey-headed Albatross was caught and banded by Captain Carl Loves. The bird was bought ashore to be part of the energetics study before being released. This study is currently being conducted by Harry Battam, SOSSA. The results will be known on these studies soon? (we hope). The bird was released at sea the next day off Wollongong. Complete measurements and plumage characteristics have been taken along with several photographs.

An Unusual Wandering Albatross On Macquarie Island

Bob Tomkins forwarded a series of three photographs of an unusual Wandering albatross that was photographed by Alan Wiltshire at Petrel Peak Macquarie Island on March 19th 1996. Bob had asked me to identify the bird in the photographs. The bird is clearly a Wandering albatross of the race *Diomedea exulans antipodensis*.

From the plumage characteristics, it is most likely a female, as a young male in this plumage would be unlikely to return to land or a breeding colony.

To my knowledge this is the first recorded occurrence of this race of the Wandering albatross from Macquarie Island. A search of the literature has also failed to indicate otherwise. I contacted Alan Wiltshire, asking for further information on the bird. Alan advised that as he was due to leave Macquarie Island the following day, he had packed all his gear away and so was unable to supply any measurements. Fortunately he did have a single White Darvick band 057 and this was fitted to the bird.

Bob Tomkins is currently conducting further research into the possible past occurrence of birds of the New Zealand races at Macquarie Island. This research will be based on historic photographs and unpublished notes. Bob Tomkins pers com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lindsay and Janice.

I have thoroughly enjoyed reading the newsletters, which you have sent. It reminds me of that very special day spent with Lindsay on the Island (Big Island No 1). The photographs turned out perfectly. These I have been hawking about and showing anyone who may be vaguely interested. Thought you may like to see how the group is run in the Isle of Wight. As a member, we can go to any group in the society, we pay \$50 Au per annum, because we all pay one society it helps keep costs down. There are less office expenses to pay. If you would like any further information, I would be pleased to assist.

Diane Wilson - Green
Isle of Wright
England.

This Poem about Gentle Annie, written by Alison Styles, was in the November Newsletter, this poem is in again with an apology to Alison, as I had left one line of the poem out, so here it is again, (ENJOY)!!.

GENTLE ANNIE

....and so with wings abroad she climbed to greet the sun and rain ~
determined now with given strength to beat the skies again.
Below the upturned faces of the friends who loved her well...
They gave her food and saved her from a fate she near befell.
A bird of glory ~ white with age ~ Two wars seen in flight.
Worldly medals due to her, for many storms she'd fight.
This rare beauty hardly seen. ~ The Auckland Island race.
A century or more has put the triumph on her face.
The sea and cliffs she'll sail above. These are her estate.
We hope she won't be lonely there ~ that others do await.
Sweeping high we'll picture her. Sunset close at hand.
May a gentle wind guide Annie's final time to land.....

30th September 1996

A Possible follow up of "Gentle Annie"

Dear Lindsay, Janice and Harry,

Casually flicking TV channels last night and suddenly there was Janice, Lindsay & Annie on "Animal Hospital". Great to see you all. Well done!. We've got a team of super fit people on the Auckland Islands this year (Not Me!). They will be doing a full island census if possible. We'd like to keep a real sharp eye out for Annie, or do you think she's past breeding?. What is her band number?. Would be nice if you could finish off that story with a happy end. So if we see her we will let you know ASAP!.

We are back on the Antipodies, ourselves for two months, (leaving December 27th) and are trying to perfect the PTT (transmitter) harness attachment through lots of trials. Also the usual census, adult survival stuff. We'll be banding 500 Wanderer chicks on both Adams and Antipodies Islands. We did 450 on Adams and 2000 on Antipodies last year!! This year we will be using both Metal and Darvik bands, so keep a look out for Orange-footed Wanderers!!

Best wishes & keep up the good work.

Graeme & Kath Nelson New Zealand.

WORK EXPERIENCE

As part of SOSSA's commitment to the education of young people, interested in learning more about the marine environment and its inhabitants. A busy two weeks, was spent assisting several local high school students interested in doing work experience in Wildlife Research. All the students expressed an interest in becoming Marine Biologists.

They were as follows:

Monday 21.10.96 to Friday 25.10.96

Catherine Townsend & Lyndle Belancic Year 10, Berkeley High School.

Monday 04.11.96 to Friday 08.11.96

Melanie Walsh, Kylie Hoss & Tim Hewitt Year 10, Illawarra Christian School.

Comments:

All the students were very interested, punctual, and appropriately dressed to conduct field survey work, all were very polite and attentive. We enjoyed having them. Unfortunately due to poor weather conditions, Melanie, Kylie and Tim were unable to assist in our field research on the Five Islands as initially planned. This includes research into the breeding biology of Little Penguins, Shearwaters and Oystercatchers. We may contact them for a future trip to the island and a possible trip out to sea on the Sandra K for Whale and Bird watching as soon as weather and convenience permits.

We managed to keep them interested in a few of our projects and asked if they would like to write a few words sharing their SOSSA work experience with the members. You can read their pieces below.

Lindsay Smith & Janice Jenkin-Smith. SOSSA

My Work Experience with SOSSA

Lindle Belancic

Being part of the Southern Oceans Seabird Study Association, was an excellent experience. I learned a lot about seabirds, Sooty Oystercatchers, Silver Gulls, Kelp Gulls, Shearwaters and Little Penguins, their habitats, what they feed on, how and when they feed. Travelling around the local beaches was great. Studying the different species of birds from afar, watching their way of living, and taking field notes for further research. By recording those birds which were colour marked, (coloured bands fitted to their legs), I was later taught how to retrieve and enter data into the computer for later analysis. It was great to see how the systems work.

The islands, Flinders (Toothbrush) and Big Islands 1 & 2 were really fascinating. Toothbrush was very quite, when compared to Big Island. On Toothbrush Island we found a lot of Sooty Oystercatchers nests and recorded our findings. On Big Island there were thousands of Silver Gulls and a large number of Little Penguins. Reaching my arm down into the penguin burrows was really dirty and slimy, but it was an experience I'll never forget!. Holding the baby penguins to weigh them was great.

Travelling to The Australian Museum and looking through the "Bird Department" with Walter Boles (Curator) gave me the opportunity to see and learn a lot about the different groups of birds and how and where the museum stores them.

In addition to studying seabirds we also went "Fishing". This was really great fun!. It was during the night, so it was very dark. We used torches and small hand nets to catch the fish. In the torch light we could see several "VERY LARGE SPIDERS" floating on the water. Lindsay said that they were completely harmless, this made me feel a lot better, I think?. We managed to see and catch several different types of fish. That night, fishing I learned a whole lot more about the fish that inhabit our local freshwater creeks.

Overall work experience with Janice, Lindsay and the association was an excellent experience. I learned a great deal about the birds and other animals, with which we share our environment. I would especially like to thank Lindsay and Janice for their help and effort throughout the work experience programme. Thank you very much. It was great to know what it is like to work with the Southern Oceans Seabird Study Association.

My Work Experience with SOSSA Cathy Townsend

During October I had an exciting week discovering the Five Islands off Port Kembla and visiting the Australian Museum in Sydney and the University of Wollongong. It was a delight to work on the islands especially with the Little Penguins. At first I was a little cautious, but by the end of the day I was comfortable handling the Penguins, even up to the point of putting my arm down the burrows, (after Rob had taken out the adult). The penguins were weighed and measured and the same was done to any eggs or chicks in the burrows. The results were recorded on the field data sheets for entry into the computer on our return to the office. Rob Webb showed us how to measure and weigh the birds and eggs. I was amazed to see the large numbers of Pelicans nesting in colonies on the Islands. On our second trip to the islands we visited Flinders Island, (Toothbrush). Here we recorded the number of eggs, their size and weights in six out of the seven Sooty Oystercatcher nests that we located on the island. We were fortunate enough to be able to hold a White-faced Storm petrel, which Lindsay had taken from it's burrow to check for eggs. Lindsay explained that this tiny delicate bird was very closely related to the Giant Wandering albatross.

Lindle and I were horrified, to see the remains of a Little Penguin which had been torn apart, most likely by a White-bellied Sea Eagle, although this is a natural occurrence. Lindle and I both acquired a penguin foot left behind by the sea eagle. We decided to leave the island before conditions became too rough for our frightfully small boat. It was a difficult process as Lindle and I were inexperienced rowers leaving Lindsay to restart the motor.

On Thursday we visited a friend of Lindsay's in the bird department at the Australian Museum, where we were shown numerous species of birds. This area was of special interest to me as it is not usually seen by the public. On Friday we visited the University of Wollongong, where we were shown around the areas of interest by SOSSA members Alexander Watson and Matt.

I really enjoyed going fishing at Marshall Mt. Creek and Macquarie Rivulet at night. We caught several species of freshwater fish and shrimps. The very large Nursery web spiders were a surprise as they ran across the water in which we were wading!. We used small nets to catch the fish and were shown how to do so by Peter Andrea and Lindsay.

I very much appreciated the interest in us taken by both Lindsay and Janice and all the time and effort they expended in looking after us. I hope to be involved with SOSSA in the future.

VISITORS TO THE SOSSA HILTON

Rob Field returning to England via Hong Kong after working on the Chatham Islands, he gladly assisted us working on the Five Islands, Banding and processing Little Penguins, Wedge-tailed Shearwaters and Sooty Oystercatchers. From all accounts it appeared that he enjoyed the experience, we of course appreciated the help. He has promised a note for the newsletter on his stay on the Chatham's. We look forward to reading it.

Peter Prince (British Antarctic Survey) arrived from England on Thursday 23/01/97 for five days before departing for Tasmania and New Zealand. Peter is off to Campbell Island (NZ) to conduct some studies into the New Zealand Black-browed albatross and the Grey-headed albatross. These studies are being undertaken in collaboration with Heri Weimerskirch (CNRS) France and Susan Waugh of the NIWA (New Zealand).

We are looking forward to seeing Peter on his return in about 5 weeks, I am sure that he will have a few interesting stories to tell.

SANDRA " K "

Organised SEABIRD WATCHING BOAT TRIP DATES ARE:

THE 4TH SUNDAY EACH MONTH

COST: from \$ 50.00 PER PERSON

Private charter enquires welcome

Scheduled Boat Trips For 1997

23rd February 97, 23rd March 97, 27th April 97,
25th May 97, 22nd June 97, 27th July 97, 24th August 97, 28th September 97,
26th October 97, 23rd November 97.

Email: Bookings for Sandra K: fishing@wollongong.starway.net.au

or Phone: International to Australia 61-18-423 555 - Mobile

Phone: within Australia 018-423 555- Mobile

Email: Bookings for Wollongong or Sydney:

palliser@zip.com.au

Pelagic Reports On Home Page Website Address:

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

**Data on some of the boat trip report on the back page is with compliments of
Tony Palliser's website home page, Thanks Tony!!.**

Boat Trip data sheet is at the back.

CORRECTION

Please note that in the last Boat Trip Data sheet (Newsletter No 12) The Black Petrel (*Procellaria parkinsoni*) sightings off Busselton Western Australia are incorrect. The numbers stated (11) should be in as the Grey Petrel (*Procellaria cinereus*). Also listed was 2 Southern Fulmars and should be 2 Southern Giant Petrels. Please correct these typo errors on your sheet. Ed.

NEW MEMBERS

96-97 new memberships only

Neil Hermes, Angela Paltridge, Ernest Zillmann, Tony Palliser, Tony Smith,
Carlo Pisanu, Kirsten Benkendorf, Matthew O'Donnell, Jenny O'Donnell &
Michael Kennedy (Humane Society).

SPONSORS & OUTSTANDING DONATIONS

Donation of \$ 300.00 from our good friends at **EMU Tours**, thanks for your kind donation and support now as well as in the past. Thank you, Richard & Christine! and all those who have donated to SOSSA. Thanks to your generous support we have been able to purchase a modem, (communication device) which will enable us to go on to Email and thus make communicating far easier, if not more expensive!.

****Enclosed please find an EMU Tours Brochure!!!!!! Take a Trip with them great fun???**

A Good Friend Gave SOSSA \$100.00 Donation And He Wishes To Be Anonymous (Thanks Mate), We Respect Your Wishes !!, It Will Go A Long Way Towards Paying The Email Costs, For This Next Year.

NEXT NEWSLETTER SHOULD BE OUT IN MAY 97 ?

Till then Keep Well & Be Happy.

This is the same line:

If you have something to add to the newsletter, then please post or fax it. Better still on disk using Word for Windows (I will return your disk), this would save Janice lots of typing. 😊

NEXT SOSSA MEETING

General Meeting

Saturday 22nd February 97

Held At SOSSA HQ 7.30 pm at 10 Jenkins Street, Unanderra NSW.

We will provide Tea, Coffee & Biscuits.

(If you want alcohol for after the meeting then please bring it with you).

*******NEWS FLASH !!!!!*******

WE HAVE CONNECTED TO THE INTERNET !!!!!!

E-MAIL ADDRESS IS:

sossa@ozemail.com.au

(We just need to find out how to use it???) , so have patience, please!

BOAT TRIP DATA SHEET - DSOSSA-BTDS-V1.6-16101996

SOSSA - 042 - 716 004 - Fax: 042 - 724 626. PO. Box 142 UNANDERRA NSW 2526

Date:	Data recorded by:
Counting Method (circle): 360° 180° stern 180° bow Other (specify):	
Location: (enter name):	
Air temp:	Water temp:
Air pressure:	Cloud cover:
Wind speed and direction:	Sea conditions:

Seabird Records

1996/1997

WOLLONGONG BRISBANE PORTLAND SYDNEY BUSSELTON

Species	month →	Brisbane			Wollongong			Tas	Sydney			Busselton		
		Oct	Jan	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Jan	Oct	Nov	Dec	Oct	Nov	Dec
Little Penguin, <i>Eudyptula minor</i>				1		1	4	2						
***Murphy's Petrel (possible new oz bird)				1										
Common Diving Petrel, <i>Pelecanoides urinatrix</i>								15						
Southern Giant-Petrel, <i>Macronectes giganteus</i>														
Northern Giant-Petrel, <i>Macronectes halli</i>										1?				
Southern Fulmar, <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>														
Cape Petrel, <i>Daption capense</i>	4		4						6	6				
Blue Petrel, <i>Halobaena caerulea</i>												20		
Great-winged Petrel, <i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>	2	1	20+	75+	500+	100+	8+	10+			100	55	53	
White-headed Petrel, <i>Pterodroma lessonii</i>							1					26	31	
Providence Petrel, <i>Pterodroma solandri</i>	7		20+						7	5				
Tahiti Petrel, <i>Pseudo bulweria rostrata</i>		7					1							
Kermadec Petrel, <i>Pterodroma neglecta</i>														
Herald Petrel, <i>Pterodroma arminjoniana</i>														
Kerguelen Petrel, <i>Lugensa brevirostris</i>													10	
Soft-plumaged Petrel, <i>Pterodroma mollis</i>	1		1									4	6	1
Mottled Petrel, <i>Pterodroma inexpectata</i>	37		55+	1			3	8						
Juan Fernandez Petrel, <i>Pterodroma externa</i>														
White-necked Petrel, <i>Pterodroma cervicalis</i>		1					1							
Black-winged Petrel, <i>Pterodroma nigripennis</i>											1			
Cook's Petrel, <i>Pterodroma cookii</i>			2											
Gould's Petrel, <i>Pterodroma leucoptera</i>		5	2					5+	1	4	5			
White-chinned Petrel, <i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>								3+	2			6	2	
Westland Black Petrel, <i>Procellaria westlandica</i>			1						1+					
Black Petrel, <i>Procellaria parkinsoni</i>									2	3				
Grey Petrel, <i>Procellaria cinereus</i>												3	8	3
Streaked Shearwater, <i>Calonectris leucomelas</i>						1								
Wedge-tailed Shearwater, <i>Puffinus pacificus</i>	347	259	100+	200+	500+	200+			200+	50+	60+			
Buller's Shearwater, <i>Puffinus bullerii</i>		1				3			1		4			
Flesh-footed Shearwater, <i>Puffinus carneipes</i>	2	5	5+	15+	15	20+			5+	2	20+		262	33
Pink-footed Shearwater, <i>Puffinus creatopus</i>														
Sooty Shearwater, <i>Puffinus griseus</i>			15+	3+	5+	1			20+	10+	6			
Short-tailed Shearwater, <i>Puffinus tenuirostris</i>	1363	5	5000+	800+	50	25+	500+	1000	1000	350				
Fluttering Shearwater, <i>Puffinus gavia</i>		4	15+	30+		30+	5+	100+	20+	10+				
Hutton's Shearwater, <i>Puffinus huttoni</i>		2	30+	3+		5+			2	1	4			
*Fluttering/Hutton's														
Manx Shearwater, <i>Puffinus puffinus</i>			1											
Audubon's Shearwater, <i>Puffinus lherminieri</i>			1											
Little Shearwater, <i>Puffinus assimilis</i>				3	3									
Antarctic Prion, <i>Pachyptila desolata</i>														
Slender-billed Prion, <i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>														
Fairy Prion, <i>Pachyptila turtur</i>								4+						
Salvins Prion, <i>Pachyptila salvini</i>														
Wandering Albatross, <i>Diomedea exulans</i>	1		7	12+						6	4			
Royal Albatross, <i>Diomedea epomophora</i>														
Black-browed Albatross, <i>Diomedea melanophrys</i>			2	4						1				
Shy Albatross, <i>Diomedea cauta</i>			2	2			40+		1	2				
Grey-headed Albatross, <i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i>														
Yellow-nosed Albatross, <i>Diomedea chlororhynchus</i>												17	8	
Buller's Albatross, <i>Diomedea bulleri</i>								3						
Sooty Albatross, <i>Phoebastria fusca</i>														
Light-mantled Albatross, <i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>														

Species	month →	Brisbane					Wollongong		Tas	Sydney			Busselton		
		Oct	Jan	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Jan	Oct	Nov	Dec	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel, <i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>		14		27	2		1	2	15+	20+	10+				
Grey-backed Storm-Petrel, <i>Nereis garrodia</i>								50+							
White-faced Storm-Petrel, <i>Pelagodroma marina</i>				1				250+	5	9	5+				
Black-bellied Storm-Petrel, <i>Fregetta tropica</i>								4+							
White-bellied Storm-Petrel, <i>Fregetta grallaria</i>															
<i>Fregetta</i> spp.															
Australasian Gannet, <i>Morus serrator</i>				14	6+	3	5	70+	40+	6+			178	130	12
Brown Booby, <i>Sula leucogaster</i>															
Masked Booby, <i>Sula dactylatra</i>															
Red-tailed Tropicbird, <i>Phaethon rubricauda</i>													10		
White-tailed Tropicbird, <i>Phaethon lepturus</i>		2													
														1	2
Great Skua, <i>Catharacta skua</i>															
South Polar Skua, <i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>						1									
Arctic Jaeger, <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		1		1	2	100	7	5+	1	2	4			7	
Pomarine Jaeger, <i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>				7	9	15	15+		3		8				
Long-tailed Jaeger, <i>Stercorarius longicauda</i>				1	3	1	4		3	2					
Silver Gull, <i>Larus novaehollandiae</i>			20	120+	60+	10	35+		60+	60+	30+	✓	✓	✓	
Kelp Gull, <i>Larus dominicanus</i>				6	4		1	5							
Sabine's Gull, <i>Larus sabini</i>															
Pacific Gull, <i>Larus pacificus</i>								2							
White-winged Tern, <i>Chlidonias leucoptera</i>															
Common Tern, <i>Sterna hirundo</i>		30		2					2	2					
Roseate Tern, <i>Sterna dougallii</i>															
Arctic Tern, <i>Sterna paradisaea</i>															
White-fronted Tern, <i>Sterna striata</i>				12				1	6						
Black-naped Tern, <i>Sterna sumatrana</i>															
Sooty Tern, <i>Sterna fuscata</i>															
Bridled Tern, <i>Sterna anaethetus</i>		3													
Crested Tern, <i>Sterna bergii</i>		48	41	20+	40+	5	3	150	15+	15+	5+	✓	✓	✓	
Grey Ternlet, <i>Procelsterna cerulea</i>							2								
White Tern, <i>Gygis alba</i>															
Caspian Tern, <i>Sterna caspia</i>														7	
Little Tern, <i>Sterna albifrons</i>		33													
Lesser-crested Tern, <i>Sterna bengalensis</i>															
Fairy Tern, <i>Sterna nereis</i>															
Common Noddy, <i>Anous stolidus</i>															
Black Noddy, <i>Anous minutus</i>															
Lesser Noddy, <i>Anous tenuirostris</i>															
Little Pied Cormorant, <i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos</i>				2							2				
Black-faced Cormorant, <i>Phalacrocorax fuscescens</i>								250+					✓	✓	✓
Pied Cormorant, <i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>									2						
Little black Cormorant, <i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>				1											
Great Cormorant, <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>											1				
Australian Pelican, <i>Pelicanus conspicillatus</i>				1+	6					2	2				
Great Frigatebird, <i>Fegata minor</i>															
Lesser Frigatebird, <i>Fegata ariel</i>															

Wollongong Boat Trip Bookings:

Illawarra Boat Charter. P.O. Box. 148 Fairy Meadow NSW 2519

Captain. Carl Loves (SOSSA) (Sandra K)

Email: Bookings for Sandra K:

Email: Bookings for Wollongong or Sydney:

Pelagic Reports On Home Page Website Address:

Brisbane Trip Bookings:

Paul Walbridge. (SOSSA) 135 Lytton Road East Brisbane QLD 4169

Portland Trip Bookings:

Mike Carter. (SOSSA) 30 Canadian Bay Road Mt. Eliza VIC 3930

Busselton Information:

Ross Payton. (SOSSA) 20 Bayview Crescent Dunsborough.WA 6281

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