



SOUTHERN  
OCEAN SEABIRD  
STUDY  
ASSOCIATION

**Special points of  
interest:**

- Twitching 1001  
bird species in  
2002!
- Albatrosses  
closer to extinc-  
tion
- New format for  
'The Albatross'

**Inside this issue:**

- Band recoveries 2
- A wonderful 3  
beaked whale!
- SOSSA AGM 4  
2003
- 1001 in 2002 5
- In search of the 6  
Fiji petrel
- Albatrosses 7  
closer to ex-  
tinction
- Contacts and 8  
general informa-  
tion

# The Albatross

Issue No. 30

November 2003



*This is the last newsletter for 2003 so we would like  
to wish you a*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS  
NEW YEAR TO ALL SOSSA'S MEMBERS  
AND FRIENDS**

*From the Committee and Staff at SOSSA*

## **A great day for albatrosses and petrels**

Joint media release - Australian Federal Government—6th November 2003

### **NEW TREATY FOR PROTECTION OF ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS**

Australian Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Dr David Kemp, and Minister for Trade, Mark Vaile (on behalf of the Minister for Foreign Affairs), today welcomed South Africa's signing of the *Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels* – an international agreement to protect the world's rarest seabirds.

Australia is at the forefront in conserving Southern Hemisphere albatrosses and petrels, signing the Agreement in 2001. South Africa is the fifth country to become a Party, and follows New Zealand in 2001 and Ecuador and Spain earlier this year. The Agreement will enter into force on 1 February 2004.

South Africa is home to many populations of these seabirds. It is a world leader in research and conservation initiatives crucial to these species. The Ministers praised South Africa's key role in negotiation of the Agreement.

"The Agreement's entry into force will allow members to implement an action plan to protect critical habitat, control non-native species detrimental to albatrosses and petrels, introduce measures to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds in long-line fisheries, and support research into the effective conservation of albatrosses and petrels," Dr Kemp said.

"The Agreement also provides a central point for the collection and analysis of data that will be used to develop a comprehensive record of albatross and petrel populations globally."

Mr Vaile added: "The action taken under the *Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels* will help to conserve and protect these seabirds from extinction. Australia urges all States and fishing nations that interact with albatrosses and petrels to work with Parties to ensure the survival of these important species."

Mr Vaile said Australia will continue to act as the Interim Secretariat for the Agreement until the first meeting of the parties next year, when the location of the permanent secretariat is determined by the Parties.

"Ratification of this important conservation Agreement delivers on a Howard Government election commitment to provide more effective protection for these magnificent wanderers of the ocean," he said.

Albatrosses and petrels are threatened globally at sea and on land. Direct contact with fishing operations, eating or being entangled in marine debris, pollution and over-fishing of their prey are major threats. In breeding colonies, they are threatened by predators, habitat damage and competition with other animals for nest space, parasites and disease.

"The greatest threat is ensnarement in long-line fishing operations", Dr Kemp said. "Scientists estimate that thousands of seabirds have been killed from long-line fishing practices in the Southern Hemisphere in the last three years.

South Africa signed the Agreement today at a ceremony at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra.

## Wollongong highlights Summer/Autumn 2003 & Around the Globe



**White-necked petrel off Wollongong (Dave Mitford)**

25/1/03: An adult SOOTY TERN and 2 LONG-TAILED JEAGERS were identified amidst large numbers of the usual summer seabird species.

22/2/03: A WHITE-NECKED PETREL and a LONG-TAILED JAEGER were identified amidst large numbers of the usual summer seabird species.

22/3/03; Excellent views of a TAHITI PETREL in worn plumage were the highlight of the days birdwatching, with the FALSE KILLER WHALE and PANTROPICAL SPOTTED DOLPHINS providing additional excitement.

26/4/03; Very good views of a TAHITI PETREL and a MURPHY'S PETREL in worn plumage were the peak excitement of the day's birdwatching, with a snapshot view of MINKE WHALE providing equal excitement for the cetacean aficionados. Although BULLER'S

SHEARWATER is considered an uncommon summer visitor to Wollongong waters it has been over 18 months since the last record and, consequently, it was great to see at least 2 individuals one of which followed the boat for half the day! The MURPHY'S PETREL is the second record for the Wollongong Pelagic Trip (previously observed in October 1996) and the MINKE WHALE was the third record.

24/5/03; Brief but excellent views of a sub-adult MASKED BOOBY and three species of albatross. The former being the first record for Wollongong (only the second for NSW) and the latter being the first of 2003.

**Salvin's albatross off Wollongong (Carl Loves)**

## Around the Globe

### Short-tailed Shearwaters on vacation in Alaska

Paul Lehman reported a high concentration of Short-tailed Shearwaters (*Puffinus tenuirostris*) to the US eDiscussion Group BIRDCHAT

(<http://listserv.arizona.edu/archives/birdchat.html>) recently.

"Here at Gambell, Alaska the past week has been the amazing concentration of Short-tailed Shearwaters right off the point, in feeding swarms like gnats right along the beach to well offshore and extending for several miles. I estimated 1.2 million birds on 20th September 2003. There are huge numbers of the small needle-like fish Sand Lance present, which is what is attracting what is even a huge numbers of birds for here, which is a normal STSH hot-spot in late summer and early fall, with numbers often in the 500,000 to 700,000 range in other years."



## Band recoveries by Lindsay Smith

### 14th September Pelagic Trip: Australian Bird Study Assoc.

A total of 61 wedge-tailed shearwaters were caught, 16 of which were re-traps. The eldest bird for the day was first banded at the Five Islands by S.G. (Bill) Lane on the 11th December 1983 as a breeding adult. (Wedge-tailed Shearwaters are not known to breed till at least 4 years old). This would indicate that this bird was at least 24 years old at the time of recapture.

The most recently banded bird for the day was banded in one of our study sites on Big Island No.1 at the Five Islands on October 1st 2000 as an adult of unknown age. The only control bird (caught elsewhere) for the day was first banded by Nick Klomp at Montague Island as an adult on March 22nd 1998. The youngest known-aged birds for the day were both 12+ banded at Five Islands on February 10th 1991.

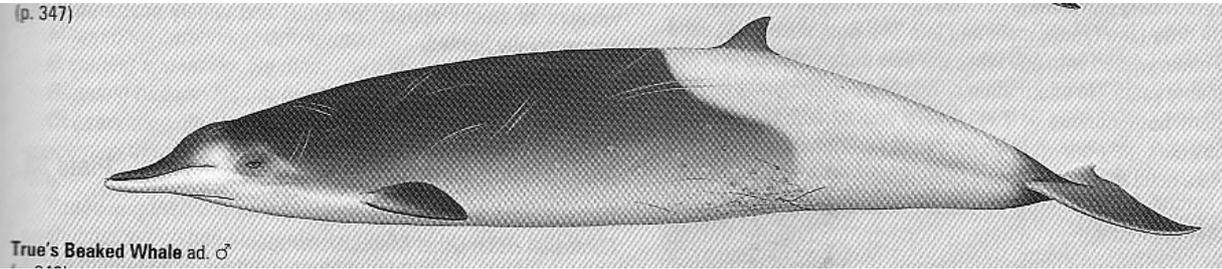
### A Gibson's albatross that had seen it all before!

A female Gibson's albatross was also caught on this trip some 33 years since it was first banded and 10 years since it was last caught. This bird (140-37322) was originally banded at Malabar by S.G.(Bill) Lane on Sept 25th 1970 and was caught exactly a year later at Cape Solander by Harry Battam. It was caught again at Malabar on the 27th August 1972 and then went unrecorded for twenty years until it was recaptured at Adams Island NZ on the 14th February 1993.



**An old friend. A Gibson's caught five times since 1970 (D.Drynan, Dept. Env. & Heritage)**

## A Wonderful Beaked Whale off Wollongong by Peter Milburn



**A True's (Wonderful) Beaked whale  
*Mesoplodon mirus*  
(Brett Jarrett - Complete guide to Antarctic Wildlife)**

On the 19th October 2003 while cruising close to the continental shelf, east of Stanwell Park, near Wollongong many pelagic enthusiasts, including myself, saw a group of up to four beaked whales very close to the starboard side of the MV Sandra K. After yelling out, the coloration of the nearest whale was such that I stared silently, shocked and amazed - it was immediately obvious that it was a species of beaked whale I'd never seen before. The animal was around 5 metres long, lying motionless, at the surface, and facing away from the side of the boat. This orientation emphasized its most characteristic feature, a very pale tail stock (or peduncle - part between dorsal fin and tail flukes) which contrasted starkly with its dark back and keel of the tail. Also the transition from the very pale tail stock to the dark back was distinct, forming a obvious s-shaped pattern down the flank of the whale. The other whales in the group had the same markings and were approximately the same size as the individual nearest to the boat.

Although our initial view of the closest animal was excellent, it was brief, and unfortunately no-one on board was quick enough to take a photograph. Stunned, we blankly looked at each other hoping that someone would make a suggestion of what we'd just seen. It soon became obvious that we were all stumped and someone suggested that it looked like the back end of a dugong (and I too could see the similar-

ity!). We immediately consulted with the field guides on board and without question we had just seen a True's (Wonderful) Beaked Whale (*Mesoplodon mirus*). There is no other beaked whale in the field guides that even came close! I've seen vaguely similar beaked whale species off Wollongong such as the Strap-toothed (*Mesoplodon layardii*) and Shepherd's (*Tasmacetus shepherdi*) but the creature we saw could not be confused with either of these species.

Very little is known about the True's Beaked Whale and one field guide suggests that its only known in Australia from the occasional stranding of dead animals - no living specimens have ever been seen! Another field guide states that the species' 'white tailstock is distinctive and permits even underwater identifications' and that this whale is most common in the North Atlantic but has been recorded off South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Interestingly, there are thought to be northern and southern populations and the members of the northern population 'lack the contrasting pale rear third of the body.' Because so little is known about this species it is listed on CITES Appendix I.

With so few positive sighting of this species our record off Wollongong is extremely significant and identifies the south-eastern coast of Australia as part of this truly wonderful whale's natural distribution.

### SOSSA's new members ...

- Graham Ross
- Darryl McKay
- Peter Chapman
- Glen Howard
- Brook Whyllie
- Stephanie Naigh
- Narelle Swanson
- Tania Duratovic
- John Diggin



**Campbell albatross off Wollongong - October 2003 (Inger Vandyke)**

**Black petrel caught off Wollongong October 2003 (Inger Vandyke)**



## SOSSA AGM 2003 - President's Report by Peter Milburn

At the close of its ninth year, SOSSA continues to be sound financially and robust organisationally. Our principal activities are to study the seabirds of the Southern Ocean and raise public interest in these wonderful animals with the ultimate aim of contributing to their global conservation.



**Humpback whale & crested tern (Carl Loves)**

SOSSA has been very active in raising public awareness at a local level as detailed in the publicity and presentation report. The success of this activity are manifestly evident in the busy schedule of upcoming public presentations and the dramatic increase in those participating in the pelagic boat trips that are not from the hardcore birding community. As we all know, close encounters with marine life require both fortitude and stamina and the capacity to endure the unpredictable nature of the ocean. Consequently, it is very rewarding to see people joining us for subsequent voyages even if their first experience has not been the best!

"The Seabirds of our Coast" Community Conservation and Education project, funded by a grant from the Illawarra Mutual Building Society Community Foundation, has been a major focus of the year's activities. This very important initiative will see the establishment of an Interpretive Resource for local schools and will engage the local community and tourists with seabirds and the marine environment.



**Yellow-nosed albatross off Wollongong (Inger Vandyke)**

The Wollongong Boat Trips have been very successful over the last year with a high participation rate. Regular enthusiasts have been rewarded with views of several species previously unseen over the preceding 18 years. This pelagic trip continues to be one of the most popular in the world for seabird enthusiasts. Despite international events that might have discouraged travel, the number of participants from overseas continued at a high level. I have the strong impression that the ability of all observers, both local and from overseas, continues to improve and that this has translated directly into the enjoyment and success of these trips.

The <http://www.sossa-international.org/> web site plays a major role in supporting the activities of SOSSA locally and, especially, internationally. The site continues to develop and I encourage all of our members to contribute ideas, text and images.

As usual, our various research projects have been heavily influenced by weather conditions and seasonal species abundance, both of which are influenced heavily by climatic cycles. The details of our highlights and disappointments are detailed in the specific reports.

This year we have been fortunate enough to have enjoyed the company of Allen Keast (Canada ) Ed Melvin (U.S.A.) and Noel Linehan (Ireland) who made a major contribution to



**Black-browed albatross off Wollongong (Inger Vandyke)**

our field work efforts in the spring.

I thank all our financial benefactors, volunteers, committee members and executive officers for their essential contributions. In particular I wish to thank Lindsay Smith upon his departure from the SOSSA executive. Lindsay has worked tirelessly on SOSSA's behalf for a decade and is taking time out to concentrate on seabirds for a change!  
SOSSA Executive Committee 2003/2004

President: PJ Milburn  
Vice President: Harry Battam  
Secretary: Janice Jenkin-Smith  
Assistant Secretary: Pamela Willetts  
Treasurer Chris Brandis  
Assistant Treasurer John Boness

Publicity Officer: Mike Double  
Assistant Publicity Officer: Peter Andrea

## The Tale of One Thousand and One Birds by Golo Maurer

My 2002 birding opus began in a Canberra backyard. There, on New Year's Eve, I waited for the date to tick over to 01.01. 2002 and to reset my birding year-lists to zero. Stories of shearwaters, storm-petrels and albatrosses and a nauseating swell of alcoholic beverages let the hours until midnight pass quickly. Too quickly, as it turned out, for me to think of a sensible New Year's resolution. The best I could come up with was the bold pledge to see 1001 different bird species in 2002!

The full extent of what I had done became painfully clear when a "friend" rang early the next morning to check how many species I'd seen already. I leant out the window and ticked **galah**, **starling**, and **pigeon** just to avoid saying I hadn't started. Three species without trying - if I kept birding at this daily rate then I would be at 1001 by the 30th of November - this was going to be easy! Unfortunately with only 800 or so species in Australia, it was rather unlikely that all the 1001 species I needed would be kind enough to fly past my kitchen window in the ACT. Some strategic planning was called for...

I devoted the next couple of days to reading "Where to watch birds" books for places I didn't even know how to spell and decided that visits to Peru, Java, Germany (home) and a few places in between could do the trick - I set out to visit 15 countries on 4 continents, most of which were nicely clustered around the equator. The route, however, was not as random as it may seem. In fact like an expert migratory bird I carefully planned my trip around some important rest areas, where friends and family would help me replenish my fat stores and fill me up with information on where to find the local rarities.

The first two months I spent in Canberra getting ready for the great trip. All too soon I had depleted the ACT'S reservoir of birds (except for the elusive **spotted pardalote!**) and was forced to start my migration north. I scrutinised Queensland's central coast and even dived the Great Barrier Reef, just to make sure I didn't overlook anything. When I resurfaced a migrating **streaked shearwater** reminded me that it was time to move on and so I quickly ticked it off my list and boarded a plane going north.

In Indonesia I joined a friend working to establish a National Park for the **Nordmann's greenshank**, the **white-winged duck** and about half the world population of the **Asian dowitcher**. Apart from those species I also got to know an interesting stomach bug which gave me the opportunity to do a few nocturnal trips to the long drop of an Indonesian fishing village. The locals assured me that the tigers and salties only take dogs and humans if they are weak or sick individuals. It was time to move on...

... to Venezuela, a country that abounds with birds, oil and military rebellions. Besides the **Tepui parrot**, the **Guinean cock**

**of the rock**, the **large-billed tern** and the **scarlet ibis**, I saw 30,000 **oilbirds**, using deafening echolocation to leave their cave and start their nocturnal search for fruit. I was also treated to an attempted coup d'état. Funnily enough the U.S. government denied any involvement before it even got going ... nonetheless I read the writing on the wall and left for Peru.

With the incredibly productive Humboldt Current chilling its coast, Peru has some of the biggest seabird colonies in South America - a spectacle I did not want to miss. One of the easiest to reach are on the Ballestas Islands that have innumerable **guano cormorants** plus **Humboldt penguins** and the breathtaking **Inca tern**. Even condors glide down the slopes of the Andes to watch birds there and snack on the afterbirths of sea lions. But reading the "Where to watch birds in South America" I quickly realised that Peru has more exciting things to offer than just seabirds - for example the stunning small brown **Inca wren** which is most easily seen around the ruins of Macchu Picchu. There I took stock: so far my journey had yielded about 950 species and it was only the end of October - I could relax and return to Australia. There I was sure to pick up the remaining 50 species with a trip out west and a weekend at the coast - no worries!

Unfortunately the drought spoilt my glorious plans and instead of the stream of birds I had hoped to see out west I only got a trickle. By the middle of December I had 993 species and I was getting desperate. Would I miss the 1001 by an embarrassing 8 birds? My last hope was a SOSSA (Seabird Ornithologists Showing Scarce Albatrosses!) cruise off the 'Gong - but would a summer trip do the trick?



Celebrating 1001 species in 2002 on the Sandra K Lindsay, Golo, Mike, Nadeena & Milburn

I bit the Kwells and got on the boat, - after all nobody said seeing 1001 species in a year would be fun. What followed was my best seawatching trip ever. Less than an hour out at sea, I fired the champagne cork over the starboard bow and celebrated my one-thousand-and-first species in 2002. It turned out to be a **long-tailed jaeger**, a species which has eluded me ever since I failed to see it as a 15 year old on a family holiday in Norway. And then, with the help of a mixture of kwells and alcohol, the 1001st species was quickly followed by **sooty terns**, a **white-necked petrel** and even a **light-mantled sooty albatross** chewing on a banana! Exhausted from the year-long quest I spent the way back sleeping in the hull with a big smile on my face that would probably have earned me a full body search on Sydney airport. But as it turned out I was not the only person that was overwhelmed by my achievement. The whole of Australia rejoiced with me on New Year's Eve and celebrated my birding trip around the world with fireworks in the shape of a dove on the harbour bridge!

## Report on an expedition to Gau Island, Fiji, to search for the Fiji Petrel *Pseudobulweria macgillivrayi*, June 2003 by Nicholas Carlile (NSW Dept. Environment and Conservation)

### Background

The Fiji Petrel *Pseudobulweria macgillivrayi* is one of the world's most critically endangered birds and for many years was thought to be extinct. It was first described in 1855, when a single bird was collected at sea by HMS Herald. This specimen currently resides in the British Museum of Natural History, London. A recent inspection of this skin by Mike Imber, Department of Conservation, New Zealand determined it to be a fledgling (Mike Imber, pers. comm.). Only five subsequent sightings of this species at sea have been reported, none of which has been corroborated or confirmed. There are eight documented records of the Fiji Petrel on land, all on the island of Gau, Fiji, between 1960 and 2002. One bird was deliberately caught by Dick Watling (Environmental Consultants Fiji) in 1984, the others accidentally crashed onto the roofs of buildings, presumably disorientated by moonlight reflecting on metal roofs or unshielded electric lights. Two birds landed in the village of Nawaikama, one at the nearby Gau Secondary School, and four in the village of Nukuloa. Birds that were capable of flying were released, those that were incapacitated soon died. One dead specimen, collected by Kolinio Moce in 1985, was lodged with the Fiji Museum.

In 2002, David Olson, Wildlife Conservation Society, Fiji, and Dick Watling, discussed the possibility of initiating a conservation program for the Fiji Petrel. Meanwhile, David Priddel and Nicholas Carlile, New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service, Australia, were looking to extend their successful recovery programs for rare and endangered seabirds in Australia to a broader regional context. Accordingly, in June 2002 Priddel and Carlile attended a meeting of the Oceania Bird Conservation Working Group of the South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP). Participants at the 2002 meeting, held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, identified the Fiji Petrel as a regional conservation priority. The workshop in Rarotonga provided the opportunity for Watling, Olson, Priddel and Carlile to discuss the possibility of initiating a program to conserve the Fiji Petrel. The first step in any such program would be to locate the bird's nesting grounds on the island of Gau. Contact was maintained during the following 12 months, and the expedition conceived and planned.

### Summary of the Expedition

In June 2003, an expedition was mounted to the island of Gau, Fiji, to search for the Fiji Petrel *Pseudobulweria macgillivrayi*. This critically endangered petrel is known from only a handful of documented sightings and its nesting grounds have yet to be discovered.

A total of nine days were spent on the Island, seven of

these were spent searching the hinterland around Mount Delaco, the highest peak on the island. Collared Petrels *Pterodroma brevipes* were heard, seen and captured, but no Fiji Petrels were recorded. We conclude that either the Fiji Petrel

does not occur within the area searched, or it breeds at a time other than June. A nocturnal call, emanating from the ground, was heard from the ridge overlooking Gau Secondary School. This unidentified call was similar to a petrel call, but not that of a small *Pterodroma* such as the Collared Petrel. It may have been made by a Fiji Petrel, but as there is no record of the vocalisations made by this species verification was not possible.

Threats to the Fiji Petrel include introduced rats (Pacific Rat *Rattus exulans*, Black Rat *R. rattus*, and Brown Rat *R. norvegicus* are all purported to be present), cats and feral pigs. As far as could be ascertained, there is nowhere on the island where petrels could nest and be safe from these potential predators. Cliffs or mountainous, inaccessible ledges are not present on Gau.

A previously undocumented record of a Fiji Petrel at sea in August 1986 was gathered and corroborated. While most islanders understand that two species of seabird breed on the Island—the Fiji Petrel (known locally as *Kacau loa*) and the Collared Petrel (*Kacau vula*)—not all can differentiate between these species and misidentification is likely.

A race of Island Thrush *Turdus poliocephalus hades* is endemic to the island of Gau. The female of this race has yet to be described by science. An adult female, adult male and juvenile male were collected during the expedition and lodged in the Fiji Museum. A paper describing the species will be prepared in due course.

We believe that further searches for the Fiji Petrel are unlikely to be successful until a greater body of information is available regarding the timing of the breeding cycle of the species. This information can best be gathered by documenting all groundings and by increasing the amount of data obtained from each grounded bird. In addition, the rate of data acquisition may be accelerated by deliberately attracting birds to a designated location using a high-power (240 volt) spotlight with the possible addition of broadcasted seabird calls.



**The latest of only fourteen recorded sightings of a Fiji Petrel—December 2002**

**“A nocturnal call ... heard from the ridge ... may have been made by a Fiji Petrel”**

## Albatrosses move closer to extinction by Birdlife International

[http://www.birdlife.net/news/news/2003/09/six\\_albatross\\_species.html](http://www.birdlife.net/news/news/2003/09/six_albatross_species.html)

[http://www.birdlife.net/action/campaigns/save\\_the\\_albatross/index.html](http://www.birdlife.net/action/campaigns/save_the_albatross/index.html)

New research has revealed that six species of albatross now face a greater threat of extinction than previously thought - largely as a result of longline fishing. All of the planet's 21 species of albatross are now considered to be globally threatened. The six species that have had their threat status upgraded are:



Wandering (Gibson's) albatross - Tony Palliser

- Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross has been upgraded from Near Threatened in 2000 to Endangered in 2003 due to population declines recorded at long-term study colonies on Gough and Tristan da Cunha islands, indicating a 58% reduction over three generations (71 years). If threats do not abate, population models suggest that the species may need to be classified as Critically Endangered, the final category before becoming Extinct;
- Black-browed Albatross listed as Near Threatened in 2000 and Vulnerable in 2002, now becomes Endangered, with new census information from the Falkland Islands showing that the species is likely to be declining by more than 50% over three generations (65 years);
- Black-footed Albatross, listed as Vulnerable in 2000, now becomes Endangered, with new information and modelling from Hawaii revealing that declines are more serious than previously thought. The species is likely to be declining by more than 50% over three generations (56 years);
- Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross, listed as Vulnerable in 2000, also now becomes Endangered with declines being more serious than previously thought, particularly at the stronghold population on Amsterdam Island in the French Southern Territories, and now at more than 50% over three generations (71 years); the disease avian cholera is strongly implicated in this decline.

- Laysan Albatross, listed as Least Concern in 2000, now becomes Vulnerable, with new information from the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands showing declines of at least 30% over three generations (84 years);

- Sooty Albatross, listed as Vulnerable in 2000, now becomes Endangered (2003), with new information from breeding islands in the south Atlantic and Indian Oceans showing very serious declines of more than 75% over three generations (90 years). The most threatened species, the Amsterdam Albatross, already classified as Critically Endangered, is threatened by disease, with the population

now reduced to some 20 pairs breeding annually and increasing chick mortality.

"The number of seabirds killed by longlines is increasing" —Dr Michael Rands, Director, BirdLife

Dr Michael Rands, BirdLife International's Director and Chief Executive, says: "The number of seabirds killed by longlines is increasing, as is the number of albatross species in the higher categories of threat due to their continued use. One such species, now seriously at risk, is the Laysan Albatross, which was previously considered abundant and safe. Longline fishing, especially by pirate vessels, is the single greatest threat to these seabirds."

BirdLife's new research is particularly relevant to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) (under the Convention on Migratory Species or Bonn Convention) as the number of countries to ratify this new agreement will soon reach the necessary five for it to enter into force. Australia, Ecuador, New Zealand and Spain have fully ratified ACAP, and either South Africa or the UK (although the latter unfortunately not covering the island territories where the albatrosses breed) will be the next to do so.

\* Currently Birdlife International do not formally recognise:

Gibson's albatross  
White-capped albatross  
and the Pacific albatross

**"All of the planet's 21 species\* of albatross are now considered globally threatened"**

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Silver gulls behind the Sandra K (Inger Vandyke)

## The Albatross - SOSSA's newsletter

The Albatross is published about four times a year (Feb, May, Aug & Nov). The editor welcomes (is desperate for!) articles from members and friends on issues relating to pelagic seabirding, seabird research and marine conservation. Please advise the editor if you intend to submit an article and submit the piece at least two weeks before the start of a publication month.

### Please send us your email address

If you'd like to save SOSSA postage costs and receive this and later issues of 'The Albatross' as a colourful pdf or web file then please send your email address to the current editor of 'The Albatross':  
[Mike.Double@anu.edu.au](mailto:Mike.Double@anu.edu.au)



Australian pelican (Inger Vandyke)