



SOUTHERN OCEAN
SEABIRD STUDY
ASSOCIATION INC.

Special points of interest

- More wanderers killed in Australian waters
- SOSSA band recoveries
- ACAP

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The Albatross

Issue No. 32

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More albatross deaths in Australian fisheries

Text and information supplied by the Humane Society International

A recent press release from the Humane Society International (HSI) reported yet more albatrosses and other seabirds killed in Australian longline fisheries. Seven wandering albatrosses were recently hooked by pelagic longline fishermen targeting the swordfish, while two shy albatross and eight petrels have been killed by a method of fishing called auto-longlining used to target ling.

"The iconic ocean wanderers are facing extinction with numbers worldwide in decline due to longline fishing. Australia's only breeding colony for the wandering albatross has just 10 breeding pairs", said HSI's Nicola Beynon.

Six of the wandering albatross were hooked north of 30° latitude, where pelagic longliners are not required to use seabird mitigation measures, as they are required to do south of this line. The HSI now hopes the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) Board would now insist on immediate mitigation measures north of 30°.

Also, two shy albatrosses and eight petrels have been killed by an auto-longline vessel which are currently not required to use seabird bycatch mitigation measures. HSI now expects the AFMA Board to put them in place as a matter of urgency.

HSI called for pelagic longliners north of 30° and auto-longliners to be required to set their lines at night when the chance of albatross bycatch is greatly reduced.

The Australian Government takes the lead on seabird bycatch in longline fishing at international fora and recently hosted the first Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (see page 10). *"However, while Australia is an excellent champion of the cause internationally, urgent measures are still required to solve the problem in our own waters",* said Ms Beynon.



Australia has had a Threat Abatement Plan for Longline

Fishing in place since 1998. It was due for revision in 2003 and negotiations between the Government, industry and conservationists over the new plan have been badly delayed. HSI welcomed the commitment from Senator Campbell to complete the new Threat Abatement Plan.

SOSSA is now seeking further information from both HSI and AFMA. We would like to know how this bycatch information was obtained by HSI, if observers were on board these vessels, what happened to the carcasses of the killed seabirds, and what species of wandering albatross were involved in these incidences. *Photo by G. Robertson*

Five Islands Report text by Lindsay Smith, photos by Inger Vandyke

With most welcome assistance from the crew from the Shellharbour and Hill 60 Volunteer Coast Guard we were able to access Big Island to conduct our seasons work on the Wedge-tailed Shearwater (WTSW) Project. Our task was to band or recapture as many WTSW as possible.



The timing of our visits were not random, but rather carefully planned to obtain the greatest amount of data, with the least amount of disturbance. This visit was to coincide the return of the birds to the islands. It would give us the maximum exposure to established breeding pairs and to the newly arrived birds seeking mates, in order to breed for the first time.

This hopefully will give us some indication as to the demographics of the breeding population at the Five Islands Nature Reserve.

A visit at this time of the year also gave us the opportunity to survey the numbers of other species also breeding there this season. These include the little penguin, Australian pelican, sacred (Australian white) ibis, crested tern, silver gull, kelp gull and sooty oystercatcher.

Team 1 (16 & 17th October 2004).

Lindsay Smith Leader SOSSA.

Darryl McKay SOSSA

Inger Vandyke SOSSA (Photographer)

Cici Legoe NSW PWS (Sacred Ibis Study)

Sally Weekes NSPWS & SOSSA

See 'A Five Islands Foray' Page 3

Team 2 (20 & 21st November 2004)

Mike Jarman NSW PWS Shorebird Recovery

Darryl McKay SOSSA

Jillian Keating Shorebird Recovery Team

Nick Murray Field worker / assistant

Cici Legoe NSW PWS

Big Island - November 20th 2004

Michael Jarman reported that the expedition was a great success, recapturing five previously tagged little penguins and 12 previously banded wedge-tailed shearwaters.

A survey of Big Island 1&2 indicates that numbers of Australian pelican are flourishing with a large number of young chicks. These have been joined by an ever increasing sacred ibis colony. Crested terns were also breeding in substantial numbers.

Several pairs of sooty oystercatchers appear to be having a more successful season than the birds on the islands further south.

The Ibis Team lead by Cici, Darryl and Nick were successful in colour marking (using powder coated bands) 25 ibis chicks.



**Top left: a family of little penguins
Below: a newly hatched Australian pelican**

A Five Islands Foray Text and photos by Inger Vandyke

Landing on Big Island in great weather is precarious at best but the swell on Saturday 16 October 2004 didn't deter a group of SOSSA members from going ashore to continue with the group's research activities on Wollongong's Five Islands.

The good daytime weather afforded almost all of the group the chance to assist Cici Legoe with her Australian white ibis banding program. Traversing the island, we noted a significant increase in the numbers of ibis nests. Banding the chicks was an absolute group effort involving five people encircling nests before effectively ambushing chicks and bagging them up in cloth bread bags ready for banding. The banding of ibis on the Five Islands is part of a coordinated cohort colour banding study whereby birds at any one site are all given the same colour band. The aim is to find out where the ibis go once they leave the breeding site, where they feed, where they breed and at what age. Ultimately this project will determine the origins of ibis on the mainland, and how their numbers can increase so rapidly. Her work will also contribute towards better waste management, the control of ibis numbers and hopefully change the public's perceived "flying wheelie bin" image of the ibis.

The little penguins breeding on Big Island seemed to be successfully fledging chicks in their first round of breeding this summer. Many nests had two adult chicks. Notwithstanding the overwhelming growth of kikuyu, the amount of chicks present was a positive indicator of the success of little penguins on the island.

Heading back to the "Big Island Hilton" for dinner, we sat on the balcony watching the sun set over Port Kem-



**Above: crested terns with chick
Below: white ibis chick on nest**



bla while a penguin growled at us from underneath the floorboards. No time for dessert, we prepared ourselves with head torches, nets and banding sheets before heading off with Lindsay Smith to band the island's shearwaters.

Spending their daylight hours foraging at sea, the shearwaters return only after sunset to nest. As part of SOSSA's ongoing shearwater program a total 114 wedge-tail and 2 short-tailed shearwaters were banded. We also re-trapped 57 wedge-tailed shearwaters and these birds provided some interesting data on the age of the shearwaters visiting Big Island to breed. The oldest bird re-trapped was 24 years old with several others ranging in age from 17 to 24.

After a long night of shearwater banding, I ventured out early to photograph the island's colony of approximately 200 breeding pairs of crested terns. Australian ravens and silver gulls regularly patrol the perimeter of this colony waiting for something to disturb the adults long enough to prey on their chicks. Despite these risks, most nests seemed to have at least one chick.

Photographing Big Island's nesting seabirds was definitely a challenge. Dodging the strategic defecation and screaming of 40,000 nesting silver gulls, sitting on cold stones for hours watching the nesting activities of crested terns and being bitten and scratched while photographing the banding of birds required a certain amount of stealth and agility. All of the nesting birds had to be approached with extreme caution in order to avoid too much human disturbance forcing adults to abandon their nests or young to fledge too early. It was certainly a rare glimpse into a world that not many people would see and a great opportunity to document the life cycle of many breeding seabirds in their natural environment.

SOSSA's work on the Five Islands will continue throughout the summer months.

Survey results of sooty oystercatchers breeding on Murramarang District islands 1st to 5th November 2004 by SOSSA / NSW NPWS

Site	Comments	Notes ^a
Toll Gates Islands	6 pairs with eggs 1 additional pair holding a known nesting territory	1 nest on north island contained two eggs. Two nests on rock stack mid way between main islands on western side contained two eggs each. Two nests on the south island contained 2 eggs. One nest contained 1 egg.
Wasp Island	Not surveyed	Unfavourable weather and sea conditions prevented access.
Grasshopper Island	Not surveyed	As above unable to land safely
Belowla Island-south point	No nests containing eggs other than a single nest on western end of island that contained 1 predated egg.	30 birds present on island, some appeared to be holding breeding territories. Recent very heavy rains and rough seas may have destroyed nests or delayed breeding attempts.
Brush Island	No nests containing eggs were found during survey.	30+ birds present on island, some appeared to be holding breeding territories. Recent very heavy rains and rough seas may have destroyed nests or delayed breeding attempts.

SOSSA's new members:

Alex Farias
Kaye Varlow
Sally Weekes
Inka Veltheim
Cici Legoe
David Hair
Jacky Lawes
Vanessa Allen
James Woodford
Johan Stallberg
Robert Thorne
Terrill Nordstrom
Rosemary Birch
Matt Hughes

Next SOSSA meeting ...

26TH February 2005
7.00 pm

10 Jenkins Street - Unanderra.
NSW.

Tea and coffee supplied

**Hope you can
join us!**

Wollongong boat trips on the Sandra K

2004

18th DECEMBER*

Sandra K boat trip dates cont...

2005

22ND JANUARY
26TH FEBRUARY
26TH MARCH
23RD APRIL
28TH MAY
25TH JUNE
23RD JULY
27TH AUGUST
24TH SEPTEMBER
22ND OCTOBER
26TH NOVEMBER
17TH DECEMBER**

*December trips bought forward to avoid Xmas.

The Ups and Downs of City Breeding Penguins by Nicholas Carlile

Threatened Fauna Ecology from DEC (formally NPWS) has been monitoring the Manly penguin colony in Sydney Harbour for the last three seasons for the Little Penguin Recovery Team. When birds disappear from the data books we rarely get an insight into what has happened to them. This season, and one nest in particular, was an exception.

We had known of this breeding pair for the last couple of years and they seemed pretty dependable. They had a nest in a deep crevice among sandstone boulders in the damp shade of a towering block of flats. There usual

neighbours were other penguins and the odd homeless person seeking shelter during the warmer months of the year.

Their view from their front door was towards Middle Head, disrupted only by the odd passing ferry (and of course seabird biologists!). They had a knack for collecting plastic bags for nesting material and the lack of the absorption quality of this nesting platform made for some very unpleasant days checking on this pair and their various offspring. One of the birds was once in the care of Taronga Zoo, then banded and released into the wild at Curl Curl Beach back at the end of the 2001 breeding season. The other had been banded in the nest a couple of years back and, by its bill-depth measurement, was probably a male.

This season started normally for the pair with two eggs being laid in late June (after pulling in the usual marine debris!) and incubation progressing onto the hatching of young in late July with both birds sharing duties, as usual. Come the beginning of August (the 5th) the larger of the adult pair (considered the male) was found brooding the week-old chicks. With the check in the following week all that was found was one of the chicks dead (see image) and the other missing (either too far back in the cavity to be

detected or presumed to have wandered and perished). We thought it was a pretty strange end for the clutch as most Penguins at Manly that proceed to hatching then go onto fledging successfully. As far as we were concerned it was a failed nest and

what happened to the parents was anybody's guess.

About 10 days later we received a letter from the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme (ABBBS) informing us that the male had been found dead on Shark Island in Sydney Harbour on August 9th 2004. While the cause of death was unknown, to get that piece of information was most welcome.

The nesting attempt had failed over the loss of one of the parents - a terminal impact on

any chick raising for penguins.

We watched with interest in the following weeks when the female was again found on the nest with fresh nesting material ('new' plastic bags!). By the end of September she was again found incubating eggs. It took us several weeks of monitoring to determine that the new male was a bird previously unknown to us. Obviously the 'grieving' period for the female over her lost mate was not too deep or too disturbing for her to be back on the job of incubating within 6 weeks of his disappearance. That period would have included courtship and egg formation, so she was not mucking around. When you're in your breeding prime it is hard to hold those forces back! Unfortunately this new partnership also proved unsuccessful when their eggs were found abandoned shortly after the normal period of incubation had expired.

But hopefully, for this new couple, there is always next season!



Above: Two-week old little penguin chick found dead at the nest site.

Mixed Season for Muttonbirds: wedge-tailed shearwater study 2003-2004, Mutton Bird Island Coffs Harbour by Narelle Swanson

The visits started on 8th August 2003 before the birds came back and we made our last visit on 28th April 2004. With over 20 regular, occasional and guest helpers, we made 75 visits, in fair weather and foul.

The total number of wedge-tailed shearwaters banded was 348, included 41 chicks. There were 571 individuals recovered from previous seasons. The most interesting were: a seven year old bird that was one of only four chicks banded in the extremely poor year of 1997; two birds at 23 years; and four others between 18 and 22 years since banding.

The fragile soil condition limited data collection so most visits were restricted to walking the path for the length of the island.

There was a roster of helpers for 3 to 4 nights per week and from August to early October. We weighed the birds which takes more time but is certainly very interesting. The first arrivals were above average weights later arrivals were lighter. There were peaks in arrivals numbers occurring on 22nd August, 30th August and 12th September. The greatest numbers were present in early October.

As usual the there were very few birds in mid November and this year the first females back carrying eggs were a bit late on 24th November and numbers peaked at around 27th to the 3rd December. We also had a number presumed females with swollen cloacas, but no detectable egg. The average weights at egg laying were up on previous seasons, but the eggs were lighter. On the 8th December there must have been a seafood banquet on somewhere as we collect the heaviest bird we have recorded weighing 520 grams. There were also three birds examined that were very heavy but also appeared to have growths or some sort.

Because of the extreme dry and lack of vegetation,

heavy rain just prior to egg laying dissolved many burrows. A large number of eggs were abandoned on the surface, and gulls and crows fed well in the mornings.



Wedge-tailed shearwater—Wollongong November 2004 (M. Double)

Over the summer holidays we avoid the tourists and leave the birds to incubate. On 24th January we found our first newly hatched chick with adult.

The vegetation was slow to re-establish. At the beginning of March we had a Year 11 Biology students from Toormina High do a path edge vegetation survey. The amount of bare soil after two months of rain and growth was an indication of how extensive the reduction of vegetation was. A comparison with a survey by students in

2002 showed the main burrow vegetation, types had declined by 12%.

Burrows continued to breakdown after heavy rains periods from February to early April. Some chicks were found exposed, stuck in the mud from what was left of their burrow. We created temporary covers for these chicks and monitored their progress. They appeared to be regularly fed and made good weight gains.

On the 16th April the first chicks were out on the surface. One fully feathered chick was found on 19th April. Non-Breeding birds were active particularly on 29th January and again on 13th February.

In early March three sections of the Coffs Harbour ocean outfall pipeline were floated in the harbour awaiting joining. Then bad weather stranded them on the beach for weeks. Unfortunately the final removal happened on the week the chicks were leaving. For two nights there were massive floodlights on the beach. Only one beach stranding was reported on 21st April. Had it been a normal good season for chick there would have

Mixed Season for Muttonbirds continued...

been quite a disaster.

When the birds start to leave the local wildlife rescue group called WIRES swing into action and do night patrols collecting live stranded birds and returning them to the island. They collected the first stranded bird on the 22nd April and the last stranding on 13th May. Healthy stranded birds are released on the island. Over the years we have had a number of banded stranded fledglings recovered as adults. In the 2003/4 season WIRES recovered 41 stranded birds compared around 240 the previous year.

There were no sightings of short-tailed shearwaters on the island this season, but stranded weak birds were found and collected on beaches in early December. A brief petrel sighting occurred in September but could not be identified.

Rats continue to be a problem except for one sighted in August they appeared to be absent till the 21st November, just after several days of rain after a long dry period. From this date one and two rats were sighted on most visits. Cats, both feral and domestic, are also a problem.

I must thank and acknowledge the assistance of my regular helpers, in particular my oldest helper Cynthia Floyd who has helped by recording for last seven years. Members of the Floyd family have been helping me since I started work on this island in 1969.

Latest news on the 2004/5 season:

There was a feast and more for the early arriving wedge-tailed shearwaters of Mutton Bird Island Coffs Harbour. The first birds were back on the 13th August 2004 and for about two week we collected exceptionally heavy birds. On every visit the average weight was over 400g what we would expect at egg laying. The peak was an average 442g for 52 birds on the 24th of August. The heaviest 520g was an 18 year old banded by Bill Lane as a chick in 1987.

The average dropped back to 380g on the 27th when the oldies came in. In two nights we collected 6 birds over 19 years since banding. The oldest, a record for this island was 26 years since banding. It was a female banded December 1978 as an incubating adult which makes it a possibly 30 years or more.



Breeding like clockwork...

On the 21st of November 2004, during a regular pelagic trip on board the Sandra K, SOSSA's team of volunteer guides spotted a female Gibson's albatross with a red 'darvic' band. After careful observation the spotters read and subsequently photographed the number on the band: 808. We knew this type of band was used by Kath Walker and Graeme Elliott of New Zealand's Dept of Conservation and we soon received this email reply from Kath:

[Dear SOSSA]

Great to hear from you - the info and pictures made my day! Its always interesting to concentrate on an individual rather than just the summary numbers. Red-808 is a female Gibson's wandering albatross. She was banded in our study area on Adams Island in the Auckland Island group the first year of our study, 1991, and has led an exemplary life ever since. She is one of the few birds to have bred successfully with the same mate every second year, regular as clockwork, and been successful in all 7 nesting attempts (1991, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003).

She was banded as an adult in 1991, so as a minimum must be at least 25 years old, but is probably older. She was on her sabbatical year, moulting and regaining condition when you saw her, and by now is probably heading back towards Adams Island for the 2005 nesting season.

Graeme and I leave for Adams Id in 10 days time, so I'll look out for her and take a digital photo of her "at home" for you.

All the best, Kath.

Sexing wedge-tailed shearwaters on Muttonbird Island, Coffs Harbour

by Narelle Swanson and Neil Vaughan

Wedge-tailed shearwaters (*Puffinus pacificus*) have no plumage differences to distinguish males from females. Over the past eight years we have collected over 3000 weight records of over 700 individuals. These birds have been sexed using a combination of cloacal examination, weights and pair association. Sexing by cloacal examination as described by Seventy (1956) has been our primary method.

The best time to sex female birds occurs for a limited time during the egg laying from the 20th November to 5th December. At this time it is possible to observe the swollen cloaca of females and feel the unlaidd egg. Immediately after laying the cloaca is very wide and sometimes discoloured. Male birds have small cloaca and can be identified during this egg laying period if with a female in the burrow or incubating.

A few females may come in at night carrying eggs as early as 20th, and some eggs have been found laid on nights of 21st to 23rd November. Most egg laying activity is from the 24th November to 5th December with a peak around the 27th November. The 12th December is the latest a female carrying egg has been recorded.

There is usually a limited time to sex a female of only 2 or 3 nights just before and after egg laying. Some females have been recaptured on a 2nd consecutive night still with the egg unlaidd

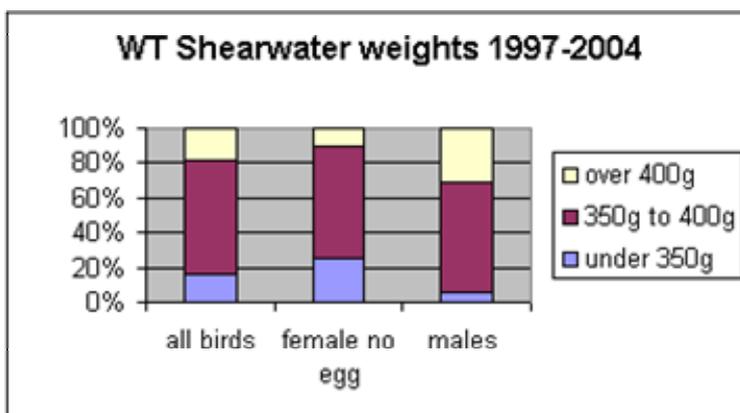
and after laying some females commence the incubation for one or two nights. One female that had laid was observed leaving early in the evening shortly after the male entered the burrow. Males may incubate for 5-10 days. Making a correct identification of males and females declines

rapidly after the first week of December. Some females examined that have returned to relieve the incubating partner still have enlarged cloaca's, possibly those that have laid larger eggs.

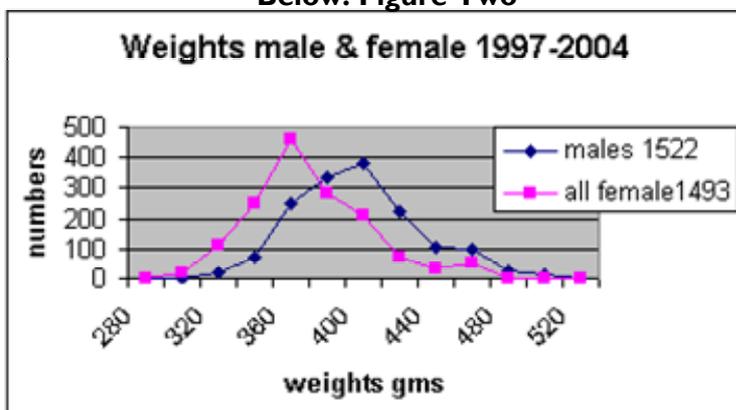
Non-breeding birds which are present during egg laying nights can be confused with breeding males. The weights of presumed non-breeding birds are often lower than breeding birds. Some non-breeding females have been found with clean swollen

cloaca, but with no evidence of eggs. One female carrying an egg one year, in a later year had a clean swollen cloaca and no egg. Most of these non-breeding females were found in 2002 and 2003 seasons.

Sexing male birds by matching with known female partners or marked burrows, is not always accurate early in the season as the same burrow can be used by a number of individuals and pairs. Two females have been found occupying the same burrow at the same time. Ultimately one pair will be the successful occupant. When two birds are repeatedly recaptured together they



Above: Figure One
Below: Figure Two



Sexing wedge-tailed shearwaters continued...

are assumed to be a pair.

Weight can be used as one indicator of sex, with males being mostly bigger and heavier than females. Weights collected throughout the breeding season from August to April ranged from 270g to 520g with 65 percent from 350g to 400g. There have been more female weights at 350g and below and more male weights at 400g and above. (Figure One). When pairs have been captured together after returning from foraging the male is usually heavier than the female. Of 22 pairs found in September 18 males were heavier than their female partners, 3 pairs were identical weights and only in one pair was the female heavier than the male.

After long incubation shifts and when establishing burrows and territory birds progressively lose weight and males can be lighter than their female partners. Multiple recaptures of some individuals some over several season shows weight losses of 100g to 160g. With our regular handling of birds we can often feel the bigger bodies of male birds.

In summary we determine the sex of birds by a combination of cloacal examination, pair association and weight from multiple recoveries of individuals. While weight alone is not a single determinant we have found that in general outside the egg laying period, birds within the lower weight range tend to be females while birds in the higher weight range tend to be male.

References: Serventy D.L. "A method of Sexing Petrels in field Observations" (Emu vol 56.3 August 1956).

MV Banks: Ulladulla to Eden Whale Festival 7th to 10th October by Lindsay E Smith

SOSSA is looking to charter the MV. Banks to conduct pelagic trips to Lord Howe Island and the sea mounts of the Tasman Sea annually. With a overnight return trip 100 miles out to sea perhaps twice a year. So when the opportunity arose to join this ship for a four day cruise down to the Eden Whale Festival Janice and I along with friends Peter and



Marilyn Chapman jumped at the chance. This trip would enable us to thoroughly check out the vessel and its suitability for the proposed

charter.

Wow, what a great trip! The crew (below) were great and the food, well that was fabulous, although we think we put on some weight!! Every time you turned around the chef Jason had something else cooking and the quality was excellent. I mean who has King Prawns for afternoon tea ??? By the time we



(Left to right). Some of the crew with competition T-shirts which say ('D' Shef, Scarah, Big Al, Muz & Dang !

had those we had a hard time eating our steak or chicken for the evening meal!

The vessel handled the favourable conditions very well and proved to be a stable platform for bird and whale watching with plenty of good vantage points.

When we arrived at the Eden Whale Festival there was a slimy mackerel throwing competition and the crew from the MV Banks joined in.

Stay tuned for further information on proposed trips and costs. Trips will be depending on interest. Negotiations are continuing.

Band recoveries by SOSSA text and photos by Lindsay Smith

A wedge-tailed shearwater banded as a chick on Big Island No1. Five Islands Nature Reserve on March 8th 1980 Band No. 161-61375 was recently re-captured and released by Michael Jarman at Big Is.No1 on November 20th 2004 - 24 years later!

This not our oldest known (which was at least 27 years old), wedge-tailed shearwater but interesting none the less!

Wandering Albatross Band No 140-33110 was banded as an adult at Bellambi (Wollongong) NSW July 12th 1975. At that time the Gibson Plumage Score was 21 which indicated that it is as white as the oldest males get. This and a culmen (bill) length of 180mm indicates that this was a Snowy Albatross, *Diomedea [exulans] chionoptera*.

This species becomes whiter with age and only attains a GPI of 21 after more than 20 years. This would indicate that the bird was older than 20 years when first captured in 1975.

Sadly, the body of this bird was recently recovered from the surf by the Palm Beach Surf Life Saving Club members on October 1st 2004 (see photo below). The bird must have been more than 49 + years old at the time of its death and it was 12 years since it was last seen.

This bird was never recaptured at any known breeding sites and its origin remains unknown. However, its plumage characteristics and morphometric measurements, exclude it from the browner birds of the New Zealand breeding grounds, *D.antipodensis*., *D. gibsoni* and those from Gough Island *D.dabbenena* and Amsterdam Island *D.amsterdamensis*.



ACAP - First Meeting of Parties



The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, or ACAP, is a "multilateral agreement which seeks to conserve albatrosses and petrels by coordinating international activity to mitigate known threats to albatross and petrel populations".

Currently there are six nations 'Party' to this agreement (Australia, Ecuador, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain and the UK) and three signatory states (Argentina, Brazil and France) whose Parliaments have yet to ratify the Agreement.

This new international agreement only entered into force in February 2004 and the first 'Meeting of Parties' was recently held in Hobart from the 10-12 November following a two day informal scientific meeting. The meeting was attended by five of the six Parties (not Ecuador), the Signatory States, and also three Range States: Namibia, Norway and the USA.

At this meeting it was agreed that the permanent Secretariat for ACAP will be hosted by Australia in Hobart.

The meeting also established an Advisory Committee to provide scientific, technical and other advice to the Meeting of Parties and two working groups: one to review the status and trends of albatross and petrel populations covered by the ACAP; and the second to consider issues related to the taxonomy of albatrosses.

ACAP will now develop an Action Plan which with priority areas being the fisheries bycatch of albatrosses and petrels and the management and protection of breeding sites.

The next Meeting of Parties will be held late in 2006.



SOUTHERN OCEAN SEABIRD STUDY ASSOCIATION INC.

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We're on the web!
www.sossa-international.org

*This is the last newsletter
for 2004 so we would like
to wish you a
MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A PROSPER-
OUS NEW YEAR TO
ALL SOSSA'S MEM-
BERS AND FRIENDS*

*From the SOSSA
Committee*



Pelagic trips in Australia

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The Albatross - SOSSA's newsletter

The Albatross is published approximately four times a year (roughly Jan, Apr, Jul & Oct). 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. Thank you!

Please send us your email address

To save SOSSA postage costs and receive 'The Albatross' as a colourful pdf or web file then please send your email address and current membership number to the current editor of 'The Albatross':
Mike.Double@anu.edu.au



White-capped albatross off Wollongong 28.11.04
(Brook Whyllie)

Please help...

SOSSA membership fees remain unchanged even though costs have increased greatly across the board. We would really appreciate any donations from those whom may be able to afford it.

Thanks again for your support!!