



**WILDWINGS**

## **The Atlantic Odyssey 2014**

Wildlife summary by Simon Cook, Tour Leader.

From Ushuaia, Argentina to the Cape Verde Islands  
19<sup>th</sup> March – 29<sup>th</sup> April

The Atlantic Odyssey is one of the best ocean voyages in the world for wildlife, as the ideally-suited expedition cruise ship *MV Plancius* repositions from Antarctica to Europe. There are outstanding opportunities to see over 40 species of tubenoses, plus many cetaceans and the chance of endemic landbirds on the remote islands that are visited. This was the sixth Atlantic Odyssey for leader Simon Cook.

The Drake Passage, between Tierra del Fuego and the Antarctic Peninsula, provided many good seabirds – **Kerguelen Petrel**, **Black-bellied Storm-Petrel** and albatrosses including **Black-browed**, **Grey-headed**, **Wandering**, **Southern Royal** and **Light-mantled Sooty**. Exceptionally, there was a sighting of **Rockhopper Penguin**. Cetaceans were noted too – **Peale's Dolphin**, **Antarctic Minke Whale**, **Fin Whale** and **Southern Bottlenose Whale**. Antarctic sightings were sometimes hindered by poor weather but **Leopard Seal**, **Chinstrap**, **Gentoo & Adelle Penguin**, **Antarctic Shag** and **Snow Petrel** were added to the trip list. Exceptionally, a **Southern Fulmar** and an **Antarctic Petrel** came onto the ship on the same day. Many more minke and fin whales were seen plus **Humpback** and **Orcas (Killer Whales)**.

A shortened visit to spectacular South Georgia didn't disappoint, with dramatic land and icescapes providing a backdrop to **King** and **Macaroni Penguins** and the **South Georgia Shag**. A large fall of birds onto the ship itself included **Antarctic** and **Fairy Prions**, **Wilson's** and **Black-bellied Storm-Petrels**, **Common** and **South Georgian Diving-Petrels** and a **Kerguelan Petrel**.

The long journey to Tristan da Cunha via Stanley, Falkland Islands\* (**Cattle Egret**, **Magellanic Penguin**, **Turkey Vulture**, **Southern Caracara** and **Variable Hawk**) brought many more seabirds, including our first **Sooty**, **Atlantic Yellow-nosed** and **Tristan Albatrosses**, **Great**, **Sooty** and **Sub-Antarctic Little Shearwaters**, **Slender-billed Prion**, **Atlantic**, **Soft-plumaged**, **Grey**, **Spectacled** and **Great-winged Petrels**, **Broad-billed Prion**, **South Polar Skua**, **White-faced** and **White-bellied Storm-Petrels** plus **Long-tailed Skua**. Marine mammals included **Hourglass**, **Dusky** and **Peale's Dolphins**, **pilot whale sp.**, **Gray's Beaked Whale**, **Hector's Beaked Whale** and a **Blue Whale**.

Ship and Zodiac cruising plus two landings at the Tristan archipelago produced all the breeding seabirds plus **Killer Whales**, probable **Shepherd's Beaked Whales**, **Sub-Antarctic Fur Seal**, **Northern Rockhopper Penguin**, **Salvin's Albatross**, **Tristan Thrush**, **Nightingale Bunting** and the critically endangered **Grosbeak Bunting**. **Great Shearwaters** and almost ready-to-fledge **Yellow-nosed Albatross** chicks were also seen on Nightingale Island.

On the way to St. Helena the southern, cool-water species were rapidly left behind. They were replaced by warmer water ones such as **Bulwer's Petrel**, **Madeiran Storm-Petrel**, **Black** and **Common Noddies** and **Masked** and **Brown Boobies**. In the water there were plenty of flying fish plus **Rough-toothed** and **Pantropical Spotted Dolphins**. Once ashore on the island we soon had excellent views of the endemic **St. Helena Plover**.

Two days at sea and two days at Ascension Island added **Sperm Whale**, **Common Bottlenose** and **Rough-toothed Dolphins**, **Cory's Shearwater** and **Leach's Storm-Petrel**. The offshore Boatswainbird Island was packed with seabirds; thousands of **Masked Boobies**, **Black Noddies** and endemic **Ascension Frigatebirds** were noted, along with small numbers of **White-tailed Tropicbird** and both **Brown** and **Red-footed Booby**. Egg-laying **Atlantic Green Turtles** were seen ashore and a visit was made to the large **Sooty Tern** colony, where there were both eggs and chicks.

Our time sailing to the Cape Verde Islands included a transit over the Equator at the Romanche Fracture Zone, an area that combined submarine seamounts (one rising to within 100 metres of the surface) with a trench that at its deepest point was 24,575'/7,728 metres below the surface! The wildlife on this leg was exciting and varied: **Portuguese Man-of-war (jellyfish)**, a **Manta Ray**, **Long-tailed Skuas**, more **Leach's** and **White-faced Storm-Petrels** and **Cory's**, **Cape Verde** and **Boyd's Shearwaters**. One evening a **House Martin** flew around the ship but the biggest surprise was a **Trindade Petrel**! There were many cetaceans too, such as **Gray's Spinner** and **Clymene Dolphins**, **Short-finned Pilot Whale**, a male **Orca (Killer Whale)**, unidentified **beaked whales** plus **Cuvier's Beaked** and **Gervais' Beaked Whales**.

During a short excursion on the island of Santiago the endemic **Iago Sparrow**, **Cape Verde Warbler** and **Cape Verde Swift** were seen, as well as local birds such as **Brown-necked Raven**, **Spanish Sparrow** and **Grey-headed Kingfisher**. Surprisingly, a **Bourne's Purple Heron** was seen out in the countryside and the reservoir was very productive for other long-legged birds too, with **Spoonbills**, **Great White Egret**, a vagrant **Black Heron** and a second **Bourne's Purple Heron** being present.

By any standards the voyage was an outstanding success and it comes highly recommended from past participants to all potential future participants.

(NB: The ship was diverted to the Falkland Islands due to a medical emergency, she then went back onto planned itinerary with the exception of Gough Island. \*)

A separate, full species list is also available.

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## Atlantic Odyssey 2014 –Wildlife List Part I – Ushuaia to Ascension Island

This is the list of all wildlife seen on the voyage from Ushuaia, Argentina to Ascension Island via the Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia, the Falkland Islands, Tristan da Cunha & Nightingale Island and St. Helena.

### Birds

King Penguin ----- *Aptenodytes patagonicus*  
Gentoo Penguin ----- *Pygoscelis papua*  
Adelie Penguin ----- *P. adeliae*  
Chinstrap Penguin ----- *P. antarctica*  
Rockhopper Penguin ----- *Eudyptes chrysocome*  
North. Rockhopper Penguin ----- *E. moseleyi*  
Macaroni Penguin ----- *E. chrysolophus*  
Magellanic Penguin ----- *Spheniscus magellanicus*  
Wandering Albatross ----- *Diomedea exulans*  
Tristan Albatross ----- *D. dabbenena*  
Southern Royal Albatross ----- *D. epomophora*  
Salvin's Albatross ----- *Thalassarche salvini*  
Black-browed Alb. ----- *T. melanophris*  
Grey-headed Albatross ----- *T. chrysostoma*  
Atlantic Yellow-nosed Alb. ---- *T. chlororhynchus*  
Sooty Albatross ----- *Phoebetria fusca*  
Light-mantled Sooty Albatross ---- *P. palpebrata*  
Southern Giant Petrel ---- *Macronectes giganteus*  
Northern Giant Petrel ----- *M. halli*  
Southern Fulmar----- *Fulmarus glacialoides*  
Antarctic Petrel ----- *Thalassoica antarctica*  
Cape Petrel (Pintado) ----- *Daption capense*  
Snow Petrel ----- *Pagodroma nivea*  
Great-winged Petrel ----- *Pterodroma macroptera*  
Atlantic Petrel ----- *P. incerta*  
Kerguelen Petrel ----- *P. brevirostris*  
Soft-plumaged Petrel ----- *P. mollis*  
Blue Petrel ----- *Halobaena caerulea*  
Broad-billed Prion ----- *Pachyptila vittata*  
Antarctic Prion ----- *P. desolata*  
Slender-billed Prion ----- *P. belcheri*  
Fairy Prion ----- *P. turtur*  
Bulwer's Petrel ----- *Bulweria bulwerii*  
White-chinned Petrel -- *Procellaria aequinoctialis*  
Spectacled Petrel ----- *P. conspicillata*  
Grey Petrel ----- *P. cinerea*  
Cory's Shearwater ----- *Calonectris diomedea*  
Great Shearwater ----- *Puffinus gravis*  
Sooty Shearwater ----- *P. griseus*  
Subantarctic Little Shearwater ----- *P. elegans*  
Wilson's Storm-petrel ----- *Oceanites oceanicus*  
Grey-backed Storm-petrel ----- *Garrodia nereis*

Black-bellied Storm-petrel ----- *Fregetta tropica*  
 White-bellied Storm-petrel ----- *F. grallaria*  
 White-faced Storm-petrel -- *Pelagodroma marina*  
 Madeiran Storm-petrel ----- *Oceanodroma castro*  
 Leach's Storm-petrel ----- *O. leucorhoa*  
 Common Diving-Petrel --- *Pelecanoides urinatrix*  
 South Georgian Diving-Petrel ----- *P. georgicus*  
 Red-billed Tropicbird ----- *Phaethon aethereus*  
 White-tailed Tropicbird ----- *P. lepturus*  
 Masked Booby ----- *Sula dactylatra*  
 Red-footed Booby ----- *S. sula*  
 Brown Booby ----- *S. leucogaster*  
 Imperial Shag ----- *Phalacrocorax atriceps*  
 Antarctic Shag ----- *P. bransfieldensis*  
 South Georgia Shag ----- *P. georgianus*  
 Rock Shag ----- *P. magellanicus*  
 Ascension Frigatebird ----- *Fregata aquila*  
 Cattle Egret ----- *Bubulcus ibis*  
 Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*  
 Upland Goose ----- *Chloephaga picta*  
 Kelp Goose ----- *C. hybrida*  
 Falkland Steamer Duck *Tachyeres brachydactyla*  
 Turkey Vulture ----- *Cathartes aura*  
 Red-backed Hawk ----- *Buteo polyosoma*  
 Southern Caracara ----- *Caracara planus*  
 Pale-faced Sheathbill ----- *Chionis alba*  
 Magellanic Oystercatcher *Haematopus leucopodus*  
 Blackish Oystercatcher ----- *H. ater*  
 Rufous-chested Dotterel --- *Charadrius modestus*  
 St Helena Plover (Wirebird) - *Ch. sanctaehelenae*  
 Brown Skua ---- *Catharacta antarctica lonnbergi*  
 Tristan Skua ----- *C. a hamiltoni*  
 South Polar Skua ----- *C. maccormicki*  
 Chilean Skua ----- *C. chilensis*  
 Long-tailed Skua ----- *Stercorarius longicaudus*  
 Dolphin Gull ----- *Larus scoresbii*  
 Kelp Gull ----- *L. dominicanus*  
 Brown-hooded Gull ----- *L. maculipennis*  
 Antarctic Tern ----- *Sterna vittata*  
 South American Tern ----- *S. hirundinacea*  
 Arctic Tern ----- *S. paradisaea*  
 Sooty Tern ----- *S. fuscata*  
 White Tern ----- *Gygis alba*  
 Black Noddy ----- *Anous minutus*  
 Brown Noddy ----- *A. stolidus*  
 Tristan Thrush ----- *Nesocichla eremita*  
 Nightingale Bunting ----- *Neospiza questi*  
 Grosbeak Bunting ----- *N. wilkinsi*  
 House Sparrow ----- *Passer domesticus*

Long-tailed Meadowlark ----- *Sturnella loyca*

*Introductions:*

Red-necked Francolin ----- *Francolinus afer*

Barred Ground-Dove ----- *Geopelia striata*

Common Waxbill ----- *Estrilda astrild*

Madagascar Fody ----- *Foudia madagascariensis*

Common (Indian) Mynah ----- *Acridotheres tristis*

Java Sparrow ----- *Padda oryzivora*

Yellow Canary ----- *Serinus flaviventris*

Marine Mammals

Fin Whale ----- *Balaenoptera physalus*

Blue Whale ----- *B. musculus*

Antarctic Minke Whale ----- *B. bonaerensis*

Sei/Bryde's Whale ----- *B. borealis/edeni*

Humpback Whale ----- *Megaptera novaeangliae*

Sperm Whale ----- *Physeter macrocephalus*

Southern Bottlenose Whale-Hyperoodon *planifrons*

Gray's Beaked Whale ----- *Mesoplodon grayii*

Hector's Beaked Whale ----- *M. hectori*

Shepherd's? Beaked Whale

Killer Whale----- *Orcinus orca*

Long or Short-finned Pilot Whale

Peale's Dolphin ----- *Lagenorhynchus australis*

Dusky Dolphin ----- *L. obscurus*

Hourglass Dolphin ----- *L. cruciger*

Pantropical Spotted Dolphin -- *Stenella attenuata*

C Bottlenose Dolphin ----- *Tursiops truncatus*

Rough-toothed Dolphin ----- *Steno bredanensis*

South American Sea Lion ----- *Otaria flavescens*

South American Fur Seal - *Arctocephalus australis*

Antarctic Fur Seal ----- *A. gazelle*

Subantarctic Fur Seal ----- *A. tropicalis*

Crabeater Seal ----- *Lobodon carcinophaga*

Leopard Seal ----- *Hydrurga leptonyx*

Southern Elephant Seal ----- *Mirounga leonine*

Butterflies

African Monarch ----- *Danaus chrysippus*

Long-tailed Blue ----- *Lampides boeticus*

Selected other Wildlife

Oceanic White-tip Shark

Atlantic Green Turtle ----- *Chelonia mydas*

Turtle sp.

Flying Fish sp

Blackfish ----- *Melichthys niger*

Java Gecko (St Helena) ----- *Hemidactylus frenatus*

Atlantic Odyssey 2014

**Wildlife List Part 2 – Ascension Island to the Cape Verde Islands**

This is the list of wildlife seen during the second part of the 2014 Atlantic Odyssey expedition cruise from Ascension Island, South Atlantic to the Cape Verde Islands, off West Africa, between 23<sup>rd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014. The list covers sightings on the second day at Ascension Island, during the five days at sea and those ashore during the last day of the expedition on the island of Santiago.

Birds

Trindade Petrel ----- *P. arminjoniana*

Bulwer's Petrel ----- *Bulweria bulwerii*

Cory's Shearwater ----- *Calonectris diomedea*

Cape Verde Shearwater ----- *C. edwardsii*

Boyd's Shearwater ----- *Puffinus boydi*

White-faced Storm-petrel - *Pelagodroma marina*

Leach's Storm-petrel -- *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Madeiran Storm-petrel ----- *O. castro*

White-tailed Tropicbird ----- *Phaeton lepturus*

Red-billed Tropicbird ----- *P. aethereus*

Masked Booby ----- *Sula dactylatra*

Brown Booby ----- *S. leucogaster*

Red-footed Booby ----- *S. sula*

Ascension Frigatebird ----- *Fregata aquila*

Black Heron ----- *Hydranassa ardesiaca*

Cattle Egret ----- *Bubulcus ibis*

Little Egret ----- *Egretta garzetta*

Great White Egret ----- *E. alba*

Purple Heron ----- *Ardea purpurea*

Grey Heron ----- *A. cinerea*

Eurasian Spoonbill ----- *Platalea leucorodia*

Common Kestrel ----- *Falco tinnunculus*

Common Moorhen ----- *Gallinula chloropus*

Black-winged Stilt ----- *Himantopus himantopus*

Greenshank ----- *Tringa nebularia*

South Polar Skua ----- *Catharacta maccormicki*

Long-tailed Skua ----- *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Arctic Tern ----- *S. paradisaea*

Sooty Tern ----- *S. fuscata*

White Tern ----- *Gygis alba*

Brown Noddy ----- *Anous stolidus*

Black Noddy ----- *A. minutus*

Collared Dove ----- *Streptopelia decaocto*

Cape Verde Swift ----- *Apus alexandri*

Grey-headed Kingfisher - *Halcyon leucocephala*

House Martin ----- *Delicon urbicum*

Cape Verde Warbler - *Acrocephalus brevippennis*

Blackcap ----- *S. atricapilla*

Brown-necked Raven ----- *Corvus ruficollis*

Common Waxbill ----- *Estrilda astrild*

Spanish Sparrow ----- *Passer hispaniolensis*

Iago Sparrow ----- *P. iagoensis*

### Marine Mammals

Cuvier's Beaked Whale ----- *Ziphius  
cavirostris*  
Gervais' Beaked Whale ----- *Mesoplodon  
europaeus*  
Beaked Whale -----  
unidentified  
Killer Whale -----  
*Orcinus orca*

Short-finned Pilot Whale - *Globicephala  
macrorhynchus*

Risso's Dolphin ----- *Grampus griseus*  
Gray's Spinner Dolphin ----- *Stenella longirostris*  
Clymene Dolphin ----- *S. clymene*  
Common Bottlenose Dolphin - *Tursiops truncatus*  
Rough-toothed Dolphin ----- *Steno bredanensis*

### Other Wildlife

Portuguese Man-of-war ----- *Physalia  
physalus*  
Manta Ray ----- *Manta  
birostris*  
Shark species

Green Turtle ----- *Chelonia  
mydas*  
Blackfish ----- *Melichthys  
niger*  
Flying Fish -----  
Unidentified

