Atlantic Odyssey 2017 - WildWings voyage summary

Most of the passage from Ushuaia to South Georgia was in thick fog but a number of exciting species were seen: Southern and Northern Royal Albatross, Grey-backed Storm-petrel, Slender-billed Prion, Soft-plumaged and Grey Petrels and King Penguin. Cetaceans were brief but exciting: Hourglass Dolphin, Long-finned Pilot Whale (some were spy-hopping) and Fin Whale - the spout from one blasted a Black-belied Storm-petrel up into the air!

Mixed weather at South Georgia hampered activities but several off-ship excursions were made. The highlights were Salisbury Plain, for the large King Penguin colony and nearby Prion Island for numerous SG Pipit and SG Pintail, plus nesting Wandering Albatross. Other birds included Wilson’s Storm-petrel, Antarctic Prion, Antarctic Tern, White-chinned Petrel, Light-mantled Albatross and SG Shag. Colonies of Macaroni, Gentoo and Chinstrap Penguin were noted, both species of Giant-Petrel were seen at very close range ashore, as was Pale-faced Sheathbill and Brown Skua. A female and calf Humpback Whale were seen along the coast.

The passage to Gough Island took several days so numerous exciting/unexpected species were encountered along the way, despite more fog. Birds on board (becalmed on the ship in the night and seen in the hand in the morning before release) included Grey-backed Storm-petrel, Antarctic Prion, Common & SG Diving-Petrels and both Cape and Kerguelan Petrels.
On the first day at sea, it was cetaceans that pre-dominated: Hourglass Dolphins, very close Humpback Whales, Fin Whales, Antarctic Minke Whales and at least six massive Blue Whales. Some of the latter were alongside the ship and even dived under it! Other noteworthy species seen en route to Gough included White-bellied Storm-petrel, Grey, Soft-plumaged, Atlantic, White-headed and Great-winged Petrels, Sooty Albatross, Sub-Antarctic Little Shearwater, MacGillivray’s Prion and a mixed pod of 80-100 Long-finned Pilot Whales and, even better, 60-70 Southern Right Whale Dolphins. Totally unexpected was an Eared Dove, which was some 1,800 miles east of Argentina! At Gough, Spectacled Petrel and Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross were added, a Broad-billed Prion was found aboard and a zodiac cruise produced very close Sub-Antarctic Fur Seals and Northern Rockhopper Penguins.

On the way to Tristan da Cunha a Cattle Egret came aboard and disembarked even before the zodiacs were lowered; it was later seen with some cattle! The main island had a single penguin, Tristan Thrush and the introduced Gough Moorhen, whilst ship and zodiac cruising elsewhere in the archipelago added Salvin’s Albatross, Inaccessible Finch, Short-beaked Common Dolphin and several rarely seen and very close Shepherd’s Beaked Whales. A landing on Nightingale Island was made so more tame thrushes, Nightingale Finch and the rarer Wilkins Finch were added to the tally. Great Shearwaters and the last few juvenile Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatrosses on their nests were also seen.

Leaving most of the southern tubenoses behind, we next set course for St. Helena. The number of species seen declined rapidly but there were still new things to note: Strap-toothed Whale and Flying Squid among them. The approach to the island and trips on a local boat rewarded us with a Whale Shark, Pantropical Spotted and Bottlenose Dolphins, Red-billed Tropicbird, Brown and Masked Booby, Brown and Black Noddy, a few Sooty Terns and White Tern. The soon-to-be-named “St. Helena” Storm-petrel was seen in large numbers at Egg Island and many St. Helena Plovers were on Deadwood Plain. The short passage to Ascension Island yielded more of interest – numerous False Killer Whales, Sperm Whales, White-faced Strom-petrel and the first Ascension Frigatebirds. Ashore were the Sooty Terns at their colony and egg-laying Green Turtles. At Boatswainbird Island we saw thousands of frigatebirds and Masked, Brown and Red-footed Boobies as well as two species of noddies, White-tailed Tropicbirds and “St. Helena” Storm-petrel again. The spectacle of all these birds was hugely impressive and as we left
for the Cape Verde Islands Common Bottlenose and Rough-toothed Dolphins accompanied us briefly.

Another long sea passage followed, to the port of Praia, on the Cape Verdean island of Santiago. Cetaceans included Short-finned Pilot Whale, Bryde’s Whale, Pantropical Spotted, Risso’s and White-bellied Spinner Dolphins whilst birds included Cory’s Shearwater, Leach’s Storm-petrel, Arctic Tern, Pomarine & Long-tailed Skuas, Red-necked Phalarope and Barn Swallow. Turtles, however, stole the show - 2 Leatherbacks, several Loggerheads, a Hawksbill and a probable Olive Ridley Turtle.

As the ship approached Praia Boyd’s Shearwater, Cape Verde Shearwater and Fea’s Petrel were finally seen so they were the highlights. Once ashore and within a few miles of Praia we were very pleased to see Cape Verde (CV) Swift, Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark, Bar-tailed Desert Lark, several superb Cream-coloured Coursers, Spanish and Iago Sparrow, CV Warbler plus, at the reservoir, Intermediate Egret, Glossy Ibis and CV Purple Heron. Birders who remained on Santiago after most had flown home also saw CV Buzzard and CV Barn Owl.

By Simon Cook.
Atlantic Odyssey 2017

Wildlife List Part I – Ushuaia to Ascension Island

This is the list of wildlife seen on the voyage from Ushuaia, Argentina to Ascension Island via South Georgia, Gough Island, the Tristan da Cunha archipelago and St. Helena, 26th March – 21st April

Birds

King Penguin --------------- Aptenodytes patagonicus
Gentoo Penguin --------------- Pygoscelis papua
Chinstrap Penguin --------------- P. antarctica
North. Rockhopper Penguin --- Eudyptes moseleyi
Macaroni Penguin ------------- E. chrysolophus
Magellanic Penguin ----- Spheniscus magellanicus
Wandering Albatross ------------- Diomedea exulans
Tristan Albatross --------------- D. dabbenea
Southern Royal Albatross ----- D. epomophora
Northern Royal Albatross ----------- D. sanfordi
Salvin’s Albatross -------------- Thalassarche salvini
Black-browed Albatross ------------ T. melanophris
Grey-headed Albatross ---------------- T. chrysostoma
Atlantic Yellow-nosed Alb. ---- T. chlororhyncchos
Soott Albatross ----------------- Phoebetria fusca
Light-mantled Sooty Albatross ---- P. palpebrata
Southern Giant Petrel ----- Macronectes giganteus
Northern Giant Petrel ----------------- M. halli
Southern Fulmar----------- Fulmarus glacialisoides
Cape Petrel (Pintado) -------------- Daption capense
Great-winged Petrel ----- Pterodroma macroptera
Atlantic Petrel ------------------ P. abrota
Kerguelen Petrel --------------- P. brevirostris
White-headed Petrel --------------- P. lesoni
Soft-plumaged Petrel --------------- P. mollis
Blue Petrel --------------------- Halbaena caerulea
Broad-billed Prion ! Pachyptila vittata
MacGillivray’s Prion -------------- P. macgillivrayi
Antarctic Prion ----------------- P. desolata
Slender-billed Prion --------------- P. belcheri
Fairy Prion --------------------- P. turtur
Bulwer’s Petrel --------------- Bulveria bulwerii
White-chinned Petrel -- Procellaria aequinoctialis
Spectacled Petrel ----------------- P. conspicillata
Grey Petrel ------------------- P. cinerrea
Cory's Shearwater -------- Calonectris diomedea
Great Shearwater --------------- Puffinus gravis
Sooty Shearwater --------------- P. griseus
Sub-Antarctic 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 -- Pelecanoides urinatrix
Common Diving-Petrel --- Pelecanoides urinatrix
South Georgia Diving-Petrel -------- P. georgicus
Red-billed Tropicbird -------- Phaethon aethereus
White-tailed Tropicbird ----------- P. lepturus
Masked Booby ------------------ Sula dactylatra
Red-footed Booby ------------------ S. chrysaetus
Brown Booby ---------------------- S. leucogaster
Imperial Shag ------------------- Phalacrocorax atriceps
South Georgia Shag ------------- P. georgianus
Ascension Frigatebird ----------- Fregata aquila
Cattle Egret --------------------- Bubulcus ibis
South Georgia Pintail ------------ Anas georgia
Gough Moorhen ------------------- Gallinula comeri
Pale-faced Sheathbill --------------- Chionis alba
St Helena Plover -------------- Charadrius sanctaehelenae
Brown Skua ------- Catharacta antarctica lonnbergi
Tristan Skua ------------------------------------------ C. a hamiltoni
Chilean Skua ------------------------ C. chilensis
Dolphin Gull ------------------- Larus scoresbii
Kelp Gull ----------------------- L. dominicanus
Antarctic Tern ------------------ Sterna vittata
South American Tern -- S. fuscata
Sooty Tern ------------------------ S. hirundinacea
Arctic Tern ------------------- S. paradisaea
White Tern ----------------------- Gygis alba
Black Noddy ---------------------- Anous minutus
Brown Noddy ------------------------ A. stolidus
Eared Dove ---------------------- Zenaidea auriculata
South Georgia Pipit -------- Anthus antarcticus
Nightingale Finch ------------ Neosipha questi
Grosbeak Finch ----------------- N. acuniae
Inaccessible Finch ----------------- N. wilkinsi
Tristan Thrush -------------- Nesocichla eremita

Birds on board

Cape Petrel
Kerguelen Petrel
Blue Petrel
Antarctic Prion
Grey-backed Storm-petrel
Common Diving-Petrel
South Georgia Diving-Petrel
Cattle Egret
Broad-billed Prion

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ATLANTIC ODYSSEY
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Introductions

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 flavigiventris
Tristan Donkey  -------------- Donkeyensis tristanus
Helenan Donkey  --------------- D. helanus
Ascension Donkey  -----------D. ascensionus
(Cape Verdean Donkey  ------ D. verdeanis)

Marine Mammals

Long-finned Pilot Whale ------- Globicephala melas
False Killer Whale  ------------ Pseudorca crassidens
Hourglass Dolphin  ----------- Delphinus delphis
Southern Right Whale Dolphin  – Lissodelphis peronii
C Bottlenose Dolphin  --------- Tursiops truncatus
Pantropical Spotted Dolphin  -- Stenella attenuata
Sperm Whale  ----------------- Physeter macrocephalus
Strap-toothed Beaked Whale  -- Mesoplodon layardi
Shepherd’s Beaked Whale ---- Tasmacetus sheperdi
Land Crab  ------------------- Gecarcinus lagostoma

Antarctic Minke Whale ------------ B. bonaerensis
Blue Whale  ------------------- B. musculus
Fin Whale  --------------------- Balaenoptera physalus
Humpback Whale  --------------- Megaptera novaeangliae
Antarctic Fur Seal  ----------- Arctocephalus gazelle
Sub-Antarctic Fur Seal  ------- A. tropicalis
Weddel Seal  ------------------ Leptonychotes weddellii
Southern Elephant Seal  ------- Mirounga leonine

Butterflies

Africa Monarch  -------------- Danaus chrysippus
Southern Painted Lady  ------- Vanessa brasiliensis

Selected other Wildlife

Atlantic Green Turtle  --------- Chelonia mydas
Leatherback? Turtle  --------- Demochelys coriacea
Blackfish  ------------------- Melichthys niger
Flying Fish species
Flying Squid
Whale Shark  ------------------ Rhincodon typus
Java Gecko (St Helena)  ------- Hemidactylus frenatus
Portuguese Man-o-war  -------- Physalia physalis
Atlantic Odyssey 2017

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

This is the list of wildlife for the second part of the 2017 Atlantic Odyssey expedition cruise (from Ascension Island, South Atlantic to the Cape Verde Islands, off West Africa). The list covers Ascension Island, the five days at sea and those species seen ashore during the last day of the expedition on the island of Santiago. 22nd – 28th April 2017.

**Birds**

- **Cream-coloured Courser** — *Cursorius cursor*
- **Ringed Plover** — *Charadrius hiaticula*
- **Greenshank** — *Tringa nebularia*
- **Green Sandpiper** — *Tringa ochropus*
- **Common Sandpiper** — *Actitis hypoleucos*
- **Pomarine Skua** — *Stercorarius pomarinus*
- **Long-tailed Skua** — *S. longicaudus*
- **Arctic Tern** — *S. paradisaea*
- **Sooty Tern** — *S. fuscata*
- **White Tern** — *Gygis alba*
- **Brown Noddy** — *Anous stolidus*
- **Black Noddy** — *A. minutus*
- **E. Collared Dove** — *Streptopelia decaocto*
- **Cape Verde Swift** — *Apus alexandri*
- **Grey-headed Kingfisher** — *Halcyon leucocephala*
- **Bar-tailed Desert Lark** — *Ammomanes cincturus*
- **Barn Swallow** — *Hirundo rustica*
- **Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark** — *Eremopterix nigriceps*
- **Cape Verde Warbler** — *Acrocephalus brevipeennis*
- **Spectacled Warbler** — *Sylvia conspicillata*
- **Blackcap** — *S. atricapilla*
- **Brown-necked Raven** — *Corvus ruficollis*
- **Spanish Sparrow** — *Passer hispaniolensis*
- **Iago Sparrow** — *P. iagoensis*
- **Common Waxbill** — *Estrilda astrild*
## Marine Mammals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sperm Whale</td>
<td>Physeter macrocephalus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwarf/Pygmy Sperm Whale</td>
<td>Kogia species</td>
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<tr>
<td>False Killer Whale</td>
<td>Pseudorca crassidens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short-finned Pilot Whale</td>
<td>Globicephala macrorhynchus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Risso’s Dolphin</td>
<td>Grampus griseus</td>
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<tr>
<td>White-bellied Spinner Dolphin</td>
<td>Stenella longirostris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rough-toothed Dolphin</td>
<td>Steno bredanensis</td>
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<tr>
<td>C Bottlenose Dolphin</td>
<td>Tursiops truncatus</td>
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## Other Wildlife

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Portuguese Man-of-war</td>
<td>Physalia physalus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atlantic Blue Marlin ?</td>
<td>Makaira nigricans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hammerhead Shark</td>
<td>Sphyrna species</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green Turtle</td>
<td>Chelonia mydas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leatherback Turtle</td>
<td>Demochelys coriacea</td>
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<td>Loggerhead Turtle</td>
<td>Caretta caretta</td>
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<td>Hawksbill Turtle</td>
<td>Eretmochelys imbricata</td>
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<td>Blackfish</td>
<td>Melichthys niger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flying Fish</td>
<td>Unidentified</td>
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