



# **WildWings**

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## **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-bellied 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 Storm-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, 26<sup>th</sup> March – 21<sup>st</sup> 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. dabbenena*  
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. chlororhynchus*  
Sooty Albatross ----- *Phoebastria fusca*  
Light-mantled Sooty Albatross ---- *P. palpebrata*  
Southern Giant Petrel ---- *Macronectes giganteus*  
Northern Giant Petrel ----- *M. halli*  
Southern Fulmar----- *Fulmarus glacialis*  
Cape Petrel (Pintado) ----- *Daption capense*  
Great-winged Petrel ----- *Pterodroma macroptera*  
Atlantic Petrel ----- *P. incerta*  
Kerguelen Petrel ----- *P. brevirostris*  
White-headed Petrel ----- *P. lessoni*  
Soft-plumaged Petrel ----- *P. mollis*  
Blue Petrel ----- *Halobaena 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 ----- *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*  
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 -- *Pelagodroma marina*  
Madeiran Storm-petrel ---- *Oceanodroma castro*

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*  
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. hirundinacea*  
Arctic Tern ----- *S. paradisaea*  
Sooty Tern ----- *S. fuscata*  
White Tern ----- *Gygis alba*  
Black Noddy ----- *Anous minutus*  
Brown Noddy ----- *A. stolidus*  
Eared Dove ----- *Zenaidura macroura*  
South Georgia Pipit ----- *Anthus antarcticus*  
Nightingale Finch ----- *Neospiza questii*  
Grosbeak Finch ----- *N. acunhae*  
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  
Broad-billed Prion  
Cattle Egret

## 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 flaviventris*  
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*  
Short-beaked Common Dolphin -- *Delphinus delphis*  
Hourglass Dolphin ----- *L. cruciger*  
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 layardii*  
Shepherd's Beaked Whale ---- *Tasmacetus sherperdi*  
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*  
Weddell 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

Fea's Petrel ----- *Pterodroma feae*  
Bulwer's Petrel ----- *Bulweria bulwerii*  
Cory's Shearwater ----- *Calonectris diomedea*  
Cape Verde Shearwater ----- *C. edwardsii*  
Boyd's Shearwater ----- *Puffinus boydi*  
Sooty Shearwater ----- *P. griseus*  
Leach's Storm-petrel - *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*  
"St Helena" Storm-petrel ----- *O. species*  
White-faced Storm-petrel -- *Pelagodroma marina*  
Red-billed Tropicbird ----- *Phaeton aethereus*  
White-tailed Tropicbird ----- *P. lepturus*  
Masked Booby ----- *Sula dactylatra*  
Brown Booby ----- *S. leucogaster*  
Red-footed Booby ----- *S. sula*  
Ascension Frigatebird ----- *Fregata aquila*  
Cattle Egret ----- *Bubulcus ibis*  
Little Egret ----- *E. garzetta*  
Intermediate Egret ----- *E. intermedia*  
Purple Heron ----- *Ardea purpurea*  
Grey Heron ----- *A. cinerea*  
Glossy Ibis ----- *Plegadis falcinellus*  
Eurasian Spoonbill ----- *Platalea leucorodia*  
Common Kestrel ----- *Falco tinnunculus*  
Common Moorhen ----- *Gallinula chloropus*  
Black-winged Stilt ---- *Himantopus himantopus*

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. 22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

### Birds

Cream-coloured Courser ---- *Cursorius cursor*  
Ringed Plover ----- *Charadrius hiaticula*  
Greenshank ----- *Tringa nebularia*  
Green Sandpiper ----- *T. 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 brevipennis*  
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

Sperm Whale ----- *Physeter macrocephalus*  
Dwarf/Pygmy Sperm Whale ----- *Kogia species*  
False Killer Whale ----- *Pseudorca crassidens*  
Short-finned Pilot Whale - *Globicephala*  
*macrorhynchus*

Risso's Dolphin ----- *Grampus griseus*  
White-bellied Spinner Dolphin - *Stenella longirostris*  
Rough-toothed Dolphin ----- *Steno bredanensis*  
C Bottlenose Dolphin ----- *Tursiops truncatus*

## Other Wildlife

Portuguese Man-of-war ----- *Physalia physalus*  
Atlantic Blue Marlin ? ----- *Makaira nigricans*  
Hammerhead Shark ----- *Sphyrna species*  
Green Turtle ----- *Chelonia mydas*  
Leatherback Turtle ----- *Demochelys coriacea*

Loggerhead Turtle ----- *Caretta caretta*  
Hawksbill Turtle ----- *Eretmochelys imbricata*  
Blackfish ----- *Melichthys niger*  
Flying Fish ----- Unidentified

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