

NEWSLETTER 82

MAY 1999



SEABIRD 2000 LAUNCHED

The third attempt to count all of Britain and Ireland's seabirds was officially launched on 12 April by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), in conjunction with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), at Bempton Cliffs Nature Reserve in Yorkshire and at St Abb's Head in south-east Scotland.

The Seabird Group is a full partner in the project, and will be contributing funds to help with the expenses of members when they volunteer to census more remote areas. The new survey will provide the most comprehensive and accurate account to date of the status of breeding seabirds. In addition, the new surveying techniques which will be used during the project will improve our current knowledge of seabird species that are very difficult to monitor. This includes the British storm petrel, for which current estimates range from 70,000 to 250,000 pairs, and the Leach's petrel, for which estimates range from 10,000 - 100,000 pairs. Importantly, Seabird 2000 will also show whether regional seabird population trends found by the annual Seabird Monitoring Programme

have been realised on a national scale.

The official launch at Bempton was attended by the Minister for Fisheries, Food and the Countryside, Elliot Morley MP, a keen bird watcher.

Progress during the first six months of the census can be followed via the JNCC's website, www.jncc.gov.uk, which is hosting the Seabird 2000 website. Features will include photographs from survey sites such as St Kilda and articles and interviews with the volunteers who are helping to undertake the monitoring work. There will also be links to the other Seabird 2000 partner's websites.

As with Operation Seafarer (1969-70), the counts that established the Seabird Colony Register (1985-87), Seabird 2000 will work through a series of regional organisers to attempt to achieve complete coverage of all UK and Ireland coasts. In contrast to the last two occasions, a sampling strategy has been devised for those areas where coverage may not be complete. This should ensure that at least trends can be reliably

discerned if full total counts are unavailable.

For information on how to become involved in the Seabird 2000 survey, contact

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Seabird 2000 Project Co-ordinator,
Joint Nature Conservation Committee
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SEABIRD GROUP CONFERENCE, WILHELMSHAVEN, MARCH 2000

The Seabird Group will start the new millennium by holding its 7th conference in Wilhelmshaven, north-west Germany, between 17-19 March 2000. This will coincide with the EXPO by the Sea, the maritime section of the EXPO 2000 in Hannover. The conference will be our first outside UK, and will be hosted by Institut für Vogelforschung "Vogelwarte Helgoland". We hope that the location will enable more continental seabird biologists to be able to join us, to make this a truly international meeting, and a suitable way to welcome the new millennium.

The main topic for the meeting will be "Seabird Reproduction", but as in previous years, offers of papers on other aspects of the biology of marine birds will be most welcome.

The deadline for the submission of oral (<20 min) or poster papers (maximum of 0.5 page, with title, name and postal address) is 15 November 1999. The conference language is English. Abstracts should be submitted to Peter H. Becker, preferably by e-mail: ifv@ifv-terramare.fh-wilhelmshaven.de (subject Seabird Group Conference), or by post to him at:

Institut für Vogelforschung „Vogelwarte Helgoland“,
An der Vogelwarte 21,
D-26386 Wilhelmshaven,
Germany
or fax (+49 4421 968955).

You can reach Wilhelmshaven by train from the airports Bremen or Hamburg which have regular flight connections to London or Frankfurt. We plan

excursions to Helgoland and to the Wadden Sea after the conference.

Registration of initial interest should be sent to Peter Becker, and details of registration and organisation will be available in September 1999, or on the conference homepage <http://home.t-online.de/home/O.Hueppop-lfV/ifv-hp.htm>

FIRST ISSUE OF ATLANTIC SEABIRDS

If you are a Seabird Group member, the first issue of *Atlantic Seabirds* should be accompanying this Newsletter. This will be a quarterly journal of the Seabird Group and the Dutch Seabird Group, and follows on from the discontinued *Seabird* (last issue was No. 20) and *Sula* (last issue was Vol 12, No. 4). The journal will be free to member of the Seabird Group and the Dutch Seabird Group. Both papers and short notes will included, on any aspect of seabird biology, but with a geographic focus on the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas. Papers and short notes in the journal will be peer-reviewed. All contributions will be published in English, but with a Dutch summary and subtitles of tables and figures. Kees Camphuysen and Jim Reid are the editors, and will be supported by an international editorial board. They would welcome all potential contributions, and should be contacted for author's guidelines.

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SEABIRDS AND LONGLINE FISHING: A GLOBAL PROBLEM BEING ADDRESSED BY BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL

In every ocean of the world, longline fishing vessels set and haul their lines, bringing aboard hake, cod, halibut, tuna, toothfish - and seabirds. Reports in the early 1990s from Australia of tens of thousands of albatrosses being killed in the Southern Ocean by tuna longliners first drew attention to the problem. A resolution Incidental Mortality of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries adopted by IUCN at its First World Conservation Congress in Montreal, Canada in October 1996 caused BirdLife International, with funding from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, to undertake a review of seabird mortality caused by longline fisheries.

In both hemispheres seabird mortality has encouraged research into mitigation methods such as weighting lines to increase their sink rate, setting lines at night when few seabirds forage, deploying bird-scaring lines and testing underwater setting tubes.

In 1997 the Food and Agriculture Organization's Committee on Fisheries (COFI) agreed to hold a Consultation on Reduction of Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries. A Seabird Technical Working Group drafted an International Plan of Action in Tokyo, Japan in March 1998 for adoption by COFI at its February 1999 meeting, following its revision at the consultation in Rome in October 1998.

A "Range State Agreement" for southern albatrosses under the terms of the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species is being pursued by the Valdivia Group of Temperate Southern

Hemisphere Countries on the Environment. It will require signatory nations to improve the conservation status of their breeding albatrosses, hopefully leading to a further reduction in longliner-caused mortality.

BirdLife International's Seabird Conservation Programme is based at the Avian Demography Unit, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, 7701, South Africa.
www.uct.ac.za/depts/stats/adu/seabirds

John Cooper
BirdLife International Seabird Conservation Programme
jcooper@botzoo.uct.ac.za

NEWELL'S SHEARWATERS THREATENED

Listed as a threatened species in 1975, the Newell's Shearwater breeds only in the main Hawaiian Islands. Since peaking in 1987, the number of chicks on Kauai counted by the Save Our Shearwaters Program (an index of population size and success) has declined by about 75%. Anecdotal information from the island of Hawaii indicates that the few remaining populations there may be under threat of destruction from human activities. The Pacific Seabird Group has asked the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to implement the 1983 recovery plan for this species, including conducting surveys to locate nesting sites and controlling predators near colonies. If FWS continues to fail to devote sufficient resources to manage this species, it may become necessary to file a petition to designate critical habitat or to list the populations on the islands of Hawaii, Molokai and Lanai as endangered.

US AUTHORITIES WILL "RELOCATE" LARGEST CASPIAN TERN NESTING COLONY

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has decided that destroying 87% of the nesting habitat of the Caspian Tern colony on Rice Island in the Columbia River estuary will not significantly affect the environment, and therefore requires no Environmental Impact Statement. The Corps intends to vegetate all but one acre of the eight acre colony and disturb Caspian terns that attempt to nest there. It will try to relocate the colony to East Sand Island, 16 miles closer to the Pacific Ocean, by developing 16 acres of nesting habitat, placing decoys and playing taped vocalisations there, as well as controlling any predators. Rice Island is the largest Caspian Tern colony in the world and is used by 30% of the North American population. The National Marine Fisheries Service blames the terns for part of the decline in salmonid populations because the birds eat hatchery-raised smolts of US federally listed coho salmon and steelhead. This project assumes that relocating the colony will reduce predation on out-migrating salmonid smolts. A study will be conducted to test this hypothesis.

MAJOR OIL SPILL IN THE GERMAN WADDEN SEA

A major oil spill has once again occurred in European waters - in October the Italian tanker Pallas ran aground on Amrum in the German Wadden Sea and broke up spilling all of its oil into the surrounding sea. Prior to running aground, it had drifted for nearly three weeks southwards from the Danish port of Esbjerg. By early December, about 16,000 birds

had been found dead (and a further 4,000 still alive but oiled). Since 80% of these were eiders, and the Wadden Sea winter population is only 50,000, a substantial population decline must be expected. The disaster seems once again to have been caused by a refusal of the vessel's owner to ask for assistance when the ship lost control (assistance was only called for after the ship ran aground!), and some poor co-operation between the relevant German and Danish authorities.

KITTIWAKES RAISE CHICKS ON OFFSHORE PLATFORM

Among those of us who work(ed) offshore in the North Sea, there was often debate as to which seabird would be the first to adopt the offshore structures as nesting habitat. The race was won in 1998 by two pairs of kittiwake that fledged young on the Morecambe Central gas platform in the Irish Sea. Habitat used was a quiet area of the platform away from most personnel, in a well sheltered wide flat shelf under an electrical junction box.

Mark Tasker

CRAZY ANTS

The latest introduced-organism threat to seabirds has been revealed on Bird Island in the Seychelles: crazy ants *Anoplolepis longipes*. Black rats were eradicated in 1995, and promptly, black noddies resumed successful ground nesting. Crazy ants were first noted in 1991 having been introduced some time previously. In 1997, crazy ants were noted on large parts of the island, probably having spread as a result of the lack of predation by rats. In 1998, the ants infested the sooty

tern colony, displacing some 60,000 pairs. White tern chicks were killed. Ant control measures are now being investigated.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION OF ALBATROSSES AND OTHER PETRELS, HONOLULU, HAWAII, USA, 8 - 12 MAY, 2000

This is the first notice to announce the Second International Conference on the Biology and Conservation of Albatrosses which will be expanded to include discussion of all members of the Order Procellariiformes. This conference follows the First International Albatross Conference held in Hobart Tasmania in 1995 and will provide an opportunity to present scientific papers on all aspects of the biology or conservation of Procellariiform birds.

We are soliciting papers for 4 symposia including:

- 1) Fishery interactions with albatrosses and other petrels with particular emphasis on measuring efficacy of current bird catch reduction measures and compliance with regulatory requirements
- 2) Effects of human disturbance and habitat alterations on albatrosses and other petrels
- 3) Alien predators in petrel colonies: effects and solutions to the problem
- 4) Contaminants in the marine environment and their ramifications for albatrosses and other petrels

Immediately after the general conference there will be a Second

International Workshop on Albatross-Fisheries Interactions at which biologists, fisheries experts, wildlife managers, and fishing industry representatives will present and discuss developments in the ongoing efforts to resolve conflicts between seabirds and fishing activities worldwide. There will also be a workshop on Predator removal and Island Restoration that will serve as a forum for discussing international conservation strategies for the world's remaining petrel colonies.

Meeting in Honolulu will encourage interchange between petrel biologists of the northern and southern hemispheres. It will also allow focus on seabird-longline interaction in the fisheries of the north Pacific. The organisers will arrange field trips which will provide opportunities to view a variety of central Pacific seabirds including the world's largest Laysan Albatross and second largest Black-footed Albatross breeding colonies at Midway Atoll.

Those interested in being included on the mailing list for subsequent announcements about this conference should send their name and address by e-mail or conventional mail to:

Beth Flint
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 50167
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850
USA

Beth_Flint@fws.gov

Phone: 808-541-1201
FAX: 808-541-1216

If you can indicate whether you would like to present a paper, whether you prefer to do it orally or with a poster,

and a working title at this time it would be most helpful to the organisers.

Organizing Committee - David Duffy and Beth Flint

WORKSHOP ON INCIDENTAL TAKE OF SEABIRDS IN FISHING GEAR IN ARCTIC COUNTRIES, APRIL 2000

The Circumpolar Seabird Working Group of CAFF (The Program for the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna) will hold a workshop on the incidental take or "bycatch" of seabirds in fishing gear in the waters of Arctic countries in April 2000. The workshop, which will be jointly hosted by Canada and USA, is a follow-up to a recent CAFF technical report, which reported that bycatch of seabirds in fixed nets is an important seabird conservation problem in many circumpolar countries. There is currently a high-profile, international effort to reduce incidental take of seabirds in Pacific and Southern Ocean longline fisheries. The workshop will complement the global bycatch initiative by focusing on incidental take in gillnets and longlines in waters of Arctic countries, issues which have been neglected to date.

The venue will be the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, and the initial co-sponsors are the Canadian Wildlife Service (Environment Canada), Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. By bringing together fisheries managers and fishers with seabird biologists and experts in fisheries bycatch, the workshop will focus on topics such as current knowledge of seabird bycatch in Arctic countries, information needs, methods to monitor and reduce bycatch, outreach

programs, and research needs. Proceedings of the workshop will be published.

For more information contact:

Dr. John Chardine, Canadian Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 6227, Sackville, New Brunswick, E4L 1G6, Canada
Tel: (+1) 506-364-5046;
e-mail: john.chardine@ec.gc.ca

Dr. Julie Porter, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Biological Station, St. Andrews, New Brunswick, E0G 2X0, Canada
Tel: (+1) 506-529-5902;
e-mail: porterjm@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Kent Wohl, US Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 E. Tudor Rd., Anchorage, Alaska, 99503, USA
Tel: (+1) 907-786-3444;
e-mail: kent_wohl@fws.gov

DRY CLEANING FOR SEABIRDS?

Scientists in Australia have discovered a novel way to clean the feathers of birds that become covered in oil. They use a fine powder of iron and a magnetic comb.

Experiments by researchers at Victoria University of Technology in Melbourne, Australia, show that the oil sticks better to the iron than the birds' plumage. If the powder is sprinkled on the feathers and then combed out with a magnet, the oil comes away with the metal.

"We were quite amazed by the efficiency of the cleansing process," John Orbell, the lead researcher told New Scientist magazine.

The new technique is said to remove the oil without damaging the waterproof properties of the birds'

feathers. This can be a problem with the traditional cleaning technique which involves bathing the birds in soapy water.

Orbell and his colleagues tested the powder on duck feathers coated with different grades of oil. Just one round of powder coating and magnetic combing removed 88% of light crude oils and more than 60% of the stickier, thicker grades. However, when the procedure was repeated 10 times, 97% of all kinds of oil was removed.

The Melbourne team, who report their work in the Marine Pollution Bulletin, are now developing a portable field unit so rescuers can remove the bulk of the contamination at the location of an oil spill.

"Iron powder is cheap and plentiful, and both non-toxic and a non-irritant," Orbell said.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals which handles the cleaning of birds washed up on the UK coastline welcomed the new development. However, a spokesman said many of the severely oiled birds were coated with a dried, tar-like residue that might be harder to clean with the iron powder.

NEWS FROM RNBWS

The Royal Naval Birdwatching Society is in the process of entering all of their published bird records into a global database. To date (April 1999), some 17,500 records from 5,500 sites, covering 1370 species have been entered from an estimated total of 25,000 records. Once the published records are completely entered, the incoming stream of data will be

captured, and consideration given to the unpublished backlog.

WATERBIRD SOCIETY

The Colonial Waterbird Society stopped being colonial in January 1999 as a reflection of the wider interests of many of its members beyond that of birds nesting in colonies. Their journal will be titled *Waterbirds* starting with Volume 22, and the intention is to switch to publishing their *Bulletin* in electronic format. Their next meeting will be on waterbird conservation and management, and will be held 8-12 November 1999 in Palazzo Congressi, Grado, Italy. There will be symposia dealing with shorebirds, seaducks, census techniques and Mediterranean waterbirds, and workshops on kittiwakes and on cormorants. Grado is near Trieste and not too far from Venice. To register, contact Mauro Fasola (fasola@ipv36.unipv.it) preferably by 15 August; for accommodation contact Maria Bellio (pabellio@tin.it) by 15 September, and to submit a possible contribution contact Rob Butler (Shelagh.Bucknell@ec.ga.ca) by 15 August with an abstract of less than 150 words. There are standard forms, with street addresses for each of these, no doubt available from the contact points.

FROM MARINE ORNITHOLOGY Vol. 23, No.2

The latest issue of this journal dropped through the letterbox earlier this year - it is dated 1995! I understand that such editorial delays may be a thing of the past in the relatively near future, as plans are afoot to amalgamate it with *Pacific Seabirds*, and edit it from

North America. This issue starts with a comprehensive review of the breeding distribution of snow petrels by John Croxall and co-authors. Reports of breeding have been received from about 300 localities, although only confirmed at about 200. No total population estimate is possible, although it must be in the order of several millions.

David Lee reviews the pelagic ecology of Manx shearwaters off the south-eastern USA. It seems likely that many of the birds seen in this area are non-breeders. Three lists of publications and theses for the Antarctic and sub-Antarctic birds for 1992, 1993 and 1994 fill much of the rest of the issue.

From: WORLD BIRDWATCH Vol. 21, No. 1

This is an issue for all those interested in seabird conservation to get their hands on: it is devoted to BirdLife International's seabird conservation programme. Nearly all items in the issue relate to seabirds, and it is illustrated in colour with many fine photographs.

John Cooper introduces the Seabird Conservation Programme, with the longline by-catch problem being the most pressing issue at present. Michael Brooke and John Croxall look forward into the 21st century and examine ways in which the scars left by Man on seabird populations might be removed. There is a need to identify where the most important sites for seabirds are and ensure that individual countries bear some responsibility for ensuring their future. There is a need to identify, and correct, those processes most

affecting the ecosystem upon which seabirds depend.

Melissa Giese reviews the effect of tourists on Antarctic seabird colonies and Norman Ratcliffe reviews the seabirds of Ascension Island and the threats facing them (introduced mammals, and possibly bycatch on long-lines). Daniel Guicking describes work on pink-footed shearwaters on Isla Mocha off Chile. Problems facing this vulnerable seabird include chick harvesting for food (about 20% of possible annual production), rats and possibly other introduced mammals, and bycatch in fishing nets. Peter Ryan describes the recently split spectacled petrel which only breeds on Inaccessible Island in the Tristan da Cunha group. The total population on the island is in the order of 1000 pairs, so it is extremely worrying to note that some 200 birds are killed in long-line fishing off the east coast of South America. The issue is rounded off with an article by Nigel Brothers on understanding the fisherman's perspective.

**From: PENGUIN CONSERVATION
Vol. 12, no.1**

Major articles in this issue are a discussion of how much vitamins A and E are naturally in the diet of penguins (and therefore how much should be fed them in captivity) and a description of the nesting habits of Humboldt penguins in Peru. News items include observations on the poor breeding success of penguins and other seabirds in the Falklands and a very speculative link between this and the onset of oil exploration in the seas there. Little penguins in New South Wales also suffered the worst breeding season recorded in the past thirty years of monitoring.

From ARCTIC BULLETIN, No. 1.99

This issue focuses on arctic Canada, and includes articles by our ex-Secretary, Pete Ewins, who is thriving in WWF Canada. The only article about seabirds concerns king eiders, whose numbers in arctic Canada have declined drastically in recent years, apparently caused by cold calm weather freezing over the open water vital to their winter survival. Satellite tracking has revealed a westward post-breeding migration to wintering areas on both sides of the Bering Sea, and around into the Gulf of Alaska.

NEWS FROM GISOM

The French Seabird Group continues their seabird colony census this year, and have started on the process of synthesising the results into a final report/atlas. A "small Larids working group has been established to bring together annually a complete (as possible) review of breeding success and limiting factors. The group will focus primarily on the ubiquitous common and little terns, and Mediterranean gulls, bringing in other terns and small gulls on a regional basis. Those interested in gulls could attend the 4th gull meeting at Le Portel in Pas-de-Calais on 7-10 October 1999. Contact Pascal Raeval, 89 rue du Général de Gaulle, 59660 Merville, France, Tel: +33 328 428 998, e-mail: p.raeval.greeting@nordnet.fr.

**From MEDMARAVIS NEWSLETTER
No. 21**

Most of the issue is taken up with lists of recent papers on seabirds of the Mediterranean. Although the newsletter does not go into details,

MEDMARAVIS have just held a successful meeting on Gozo. Their next meeting is planned for Valencia in Spain in September 2000. There is a move in Greece to start a full seabird colony census there: those interested in helping (experienced volunteers may contact Costa Papaconstantinou of the Hellenic Ornithological Society at + 301 381 1271 or 330 1167.

'MISSING' MEMBER

Our membership Secretary asks if anyone knows the current whereabouts of D.A. Curl? Mailings in 1998 to PO Box 151, Jabiru, NT 0886, Australia were returned unopened. If you can help please notify Sheila Russell, Clober Farm, Craigton Road, Milgavie, Glasgow, G62 7HW.

BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL ANNOUNCES A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP SAVE BIRDS FROM EXTINCTION

As part of its Globally Threatened Species Programme, BirdLife International will ensure that by next year there is up-to-date information on all bird species threatened on a global scale. This information will be published in a book "Threatened Birds of the World", which will discuss the status, threats and potential conservation measures for every threatened species. Each species will be illustrated and will be accompanied by a map depicting its range.

Once published, "Threatened Birds of the World" will be a powerful tool to encourage governments, policy makers and communities to take the necessary steps to ensure the survival of over 1200 species now facing extinction.

BirdLife International is looking for individuals, not-for-profit organisations and commercial companies to play a special role in the Globally Threatened Species Programme. Each species in the book can be sponsored and the funds raised will be used to ensure that the book is distributed as widely as possible. We can then work with each BirdLife Partner to put the conservation recommendations into action.

Individuals can sponsor one species for US\$165, not-for-profit organisations can be sponsors for US\$430 and commercial companies for US\$850. Species are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. All sponsors will be making an invaluable contribution to a major conservation project and will have their name printed as an acknowledgement alongside the species of their choice. This is a unique chance for birders, ornithologists, bird clubs, expedition teams, researchers, conservationists and companies to choose a bird that matters to them and publicly support international conservation efforts to save it from extinction.

Choose your seabird soon (see list below) - before someone else does!

For further information and a sponsorship form please contact:
Naomi Hawkins BirdLife International,
Wellbrook Court, Girton Road,
Cambridge, CB3 0NA, United Kingdom

Tel: + 44 1223 277318

Fax: + 44 1223 277200

Email: naomi.hawkins@birdlife.org.uk

Threatened seabirds requiring sponsorship:

Eudyptes chrysocome Rockhopper penguin
Eudyptes pachyrhynchus Fiordland penguin

Eudyptes robustus	Snares Islands penguin	Oceanodroma macrodactyla	Guadalupe storm-petrel
Eudyptes sclateri	Erect-crested penguin	Papasula abbotti	Abbott's booby
Megadyptes antipodes	Yellow-eyed penguin	Phalacrocorax harrisi	Galapagos cormorant
Spheniscus demersus	African penguin	Phalacrocorax neglectus	Bank cormorant
Spheniscus humboldti	Humboldt penguin	Phalacrocorax campbelli	Campbell Island shag
Spheniscus mendiculus	Galapagos penguin	Phalacrocorax carunculatus	New Zealand king shag
Tachybaptus rufolavatus	Alaoira grebe	Phalacrocorax chalconotus	Stewart Island shag
Tachybaptus pelzelinii	Madagascar grebe	Phalacrocorax onslowi	Chatham Islands shag
Poliocephalus rufopectus	New Zealand dabchick	Phalacrocorax colensoi	Auckland Islands shag
Podiceps taczanowskii	Junin grebe	Phalacrocorax ranfurlyi	Bounty Islands shag
Diomedea exulans	Wandering albatross	Phalacrocorax featherstoni	Pitt Island shag
Diomedea dabbenena	Tristan albatross	Fregata aquila	Ascension frigatebird
Diomedea antipodensis	Antipodean albatross	Fregata andrewsi	Christmas Island frigatebird
Diomedea gibsoni	Gibson's albatross	Larus atlanticus	Olrog's gull
Diomedea amsterdamensis	Amsterdam albatross	Larus heermanni	Heermann's gull
Diomedea epomophora	Southern royal albatross	Larus leucophthalmus	White-eyed gull
Diomedea sanfordi	Northern royal albatross	Larus saundersi	Saunders's gull
Diomedea irrorata	Waved albatross	Larus relictus	Relict gull
Phoebastria nigripes	Black-footed albatross	Larus fuliginosus	Lava gull
Thalassarche albatrus	Short-tailed albatross	Rissa brevirostris	Red-legged kittiwake
Thalassarche impavida	Campbell albatross	Sterna elegans	Elegant tern
Thalassarche steadi	White-capped albatross	Sterna bernsteini	Chinese crested-tern
Thalassarche salvini	Salvin's albatross	Sterna virgata	Kerguelen tern
Thalassarche eremita	Chatham albatross	Sterna lorata	Peruvian tern
Thalassarche chrysostoma	Grey-headed albatross	Sterna nereis	Fairy tern
Thalassarche carteri	Indian yellow-nosed albatross	Sterna balaenarum	Damara tern
Thalassarche bulleri	Buller's albatross	Chlidonias albobristatus	Black-fronted tern
Thalassarche nov.sp.	Pacific albatross	Rynchops albicollis	Indian skimmer
Phoebetria fusca	Sooty albatross	Brachyramphus marmoratus	Marbled murrelet
Macronectes giganteus	Southern giant petrel	Synthliboramphus hypoleucus	Xantus's murrelet
Pterodroma aterrima	Mascarene Black petrel	Synthliboramphus craveri	Craveri's Murrelet
Pterodroma becki	Beck's petrel	Synthliboramphus wumizusume	Japanese murrelet
Pterodroma rostrata	Tahiti petrel		
Pterodroma macgillivrayi	Fiji petrel		
Pterodroma axillaris	Chatham Islands petrel		
Pterodroma cervicalis	White-necked petrel		
Pterodroma leucoptera	Gould's petrel		
Pterodroma cookii	Cook's petrel		
Pterodroma pycrofti	Pycroft's petrel		
Pterodroma defilippiana	Defilippe's petrel		
Pterodroma longirostris	Stejneger's petrel		
Pterodroma alba	Phoenix petrel		
Pterodroma atrata	Henderson petrel		
Pterodroma sandwichensis	Hawaiian petrel		
Pterodroma phaeopygia	Galapagos petrel		
Pterodroma externa	Juan Fernandez petrel		
Pterodroma barau	Barau's petrel		
Pterodroma solandri	Providence petrel		
Pterodroma magentae	Chatham Island Taiko		
Pterodroma madeira	Zino's petrel		
Pterodroma feae	Fea's petrel		
Pterodroma incerta	Atlantic petrel		
Pterodroma cahow	Bermuda petrel		
Pterodroma hasitata	Black-capped petrel		
Pterodroma caribbaea	Jamaica petrel		
Procellaria conspicillata	Spectacled petrel		
Procellaria parkinsoni	Black petrel		
Procellaria westlandica	Westland petrel		
Puffinus bulleri	Buller's shearwater		
Puffinus creatopus	Pink-footed shearwater		
Puffinus auricularis	Townsend's shearwater		
Puffinus newelli	Newell's shearwater		
Puffinus opisthomelas	Black-vented shearwater		
Puffinus huttoni	Hutton's shearwater		
Puffinus heinrothi	Heinroth's shearwater		
Nesofregatta fuliginosa	Polynesian storm-petrel		

THE 33rd ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SEABIRD GROUP, 1998

There were 3 changes to the Executive Committee during 1998. Andy Douse was elected to fill the Ordinary Member position left vacant by Keith Hamer's resignation at the end of his term. Sarah Wanless was able to relinquish her position as Editor of the Group Journal, being replaced by Jim Reid. Sarah continues as Chairperson and continued to oversee the production of the final edition of *Seabird*, leaving Jim free to make progress with the first edition of Atlantic Seabird, due out in the New Year. Bob Furness retired after many years sterling service as Treasurer, to be replaced by John Davies. I should like to take this opportunity to thank Bob, on behalf of

all members, for continuing in this role until John volunteered to take on the task. Bob undertook many tasks that didn't strictly fall within his remit such as the copying and distribution of the Newsletter. On the subject of retiring Committee members, Mark Tasker will retire as Newsletter Editor at the end of 1999 and John Uttley, as Secretary, can only retain the post for one more year having already completed the normal full term of four years. Sarah Wanless will also have completed four years as Chairperson and is therefore due to stand down in favour of somebody new. Any member of the Group wishing to stand for election to the Committee should contact a member of the existing Committee.

At the end of 1998 the Seabird Group had 278 paid-up members (down 10) and a further 13 who had not paid for the year (down 7) but none who still pay only £5 per year by standing order and do not receive *Seabird* (down 2). In addition *Seabird* and the Newsletter were sent to 15 statutory institutions, 14 institutional subscribers, 4 other groups in exchange for their own publications and 5 foreign non-member subscribers via subscription services.

Seabird 20 was published and contained 6 articles and 1 book review. The papers covered topics as diverse as surveys of Manx shearwaters and storm petrels on the Pembrokeshire Islands, trapping methods for cormorants and tern eating rabbits in Northumberland. Three Newsletters (76, 77 and 78) have been published since the previous AGM. Contributed articles on seabird projects, conservation issues and requests for information are welcomed by the editor.

Two executive committee meetings were held, one immediately before the last AGM in Swanwick in January, and another in March in Edinburgh. Getting the Committee together is becoming increasingly difficult. Many members have to travel considerable distances to meetings, usually in their own time. We are seeking to cover more work through e-mail but some physical meetings are clearly desirable. Two items dominated the Committee's work during the year: the re-allocation of the non-Treasurer tasks that Bob Furness had previously undertaken and the administration of *Atlantic Seabirds*, the new journal to be produced jointly with the Dutch Seabird Group. Copying and mailing of the Newsletter has been transferred from Glasgow to Aberdeen, overseen by Mark Tasker. Jim Reid and his Dutch counterpart Kees Camphuysen have agreed that the new journal will concentrate on seabirds in the north-east Atlantic and associated seas and that the tradition of enabling amateurs to publish their work should continue. This means that non-professionals should continue to receive the support and encouragement that they need. The costs of *Atlantic Seabirds* will be shared between the two Groups; printing costs will be apportioned according to each Group's share of the combined membership whilst postal costs from the Netherlands will be covered by the British Group.

On *SEABIRD 2000*, Sarah Wanless represented the Group on the Steering Group for the project which first met in August.

A grant of £250 was awarded for ringing and census work on Sanda. So far this year no applications have been received, so please come forward with projects that you think the Group should be assisting.

John Uttley, Hon. Secretary

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF SEABIRD GROUP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Seabird Group maintains an accommodation address at c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG14 2DL, UK. However, a more rapid response may be obtained to queries by contacting executive committee members directly. Please help the Group by enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

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