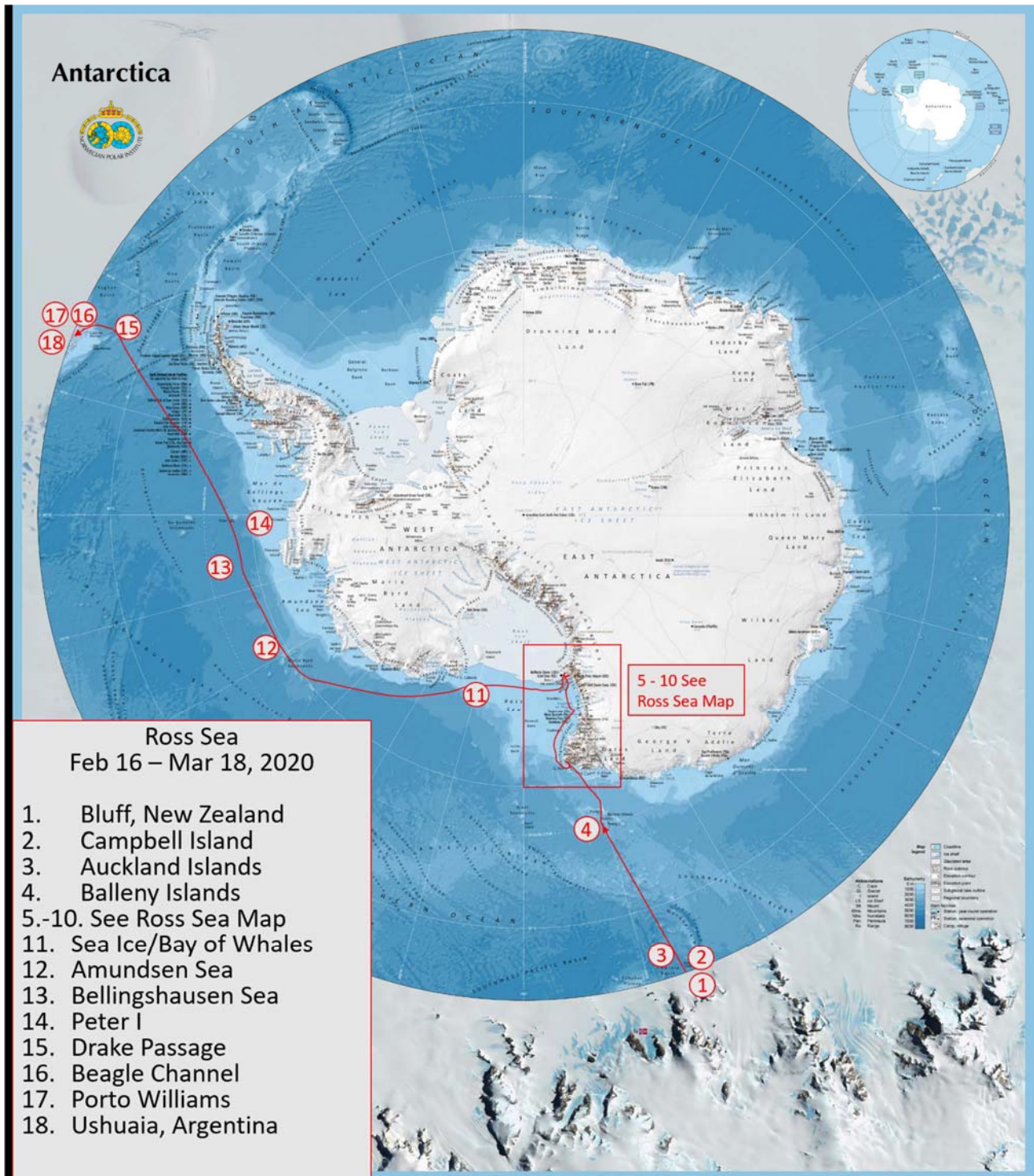


An Antarctic cruise between New Zealand and South America February – March 2020

New Zealand – Auckland Islands – Campbell Island – Ross Sea – Amundsen Sea –
Bellingshausen Sea – Peter I Island – Argentina – South Atlantic – Uruguay

With M/V Ortelius, Oceanwide Expeditions



Danish group members and rapporteurs:

Hans Meltofte, Jan Nielsen, Annette Friis & Morten Pedersen

E-mail: hans.meltofte@dof.dk

Tour agent:

Williams Rejser, Denmark

Acknowledgements:

We thank bird guide Simon Cook and his colleagues for help with bird and mammal identifications.

Daily positions at noon, weather, sea conditions and main events

February 16: 46°35'S / 168°20'E, +15°C, wind 1, overcast, Invercargill / Bluff, New Zealand

February 17: 49°14'S / 167°04'E, +11°C, SE8, overcast, at sea

February 18: 50°32'S / 166°13'E, +12°C, E2, drizzle, no swell, smooth sea, two Zodiac cruises at Auckland Islands

February 19: 52°32'S / 169°10'E, +12°C, W3, mist, no swell, smooth sea, Zodiac landing on Campbell Island

February 20: 55°21'S / 167°42'E, +9°C, SW4, overcast, low swell, slight wave action, at sea

February 21: 59°45'S / 166°48'E, +8°C, NNW3/4, overcast, low swell, slight wave action, at sea

February 22: 64°14'S / 166°16'E, +3°C, NW4, overcast, low swell, slight wave action, at sea

February 23: 67°10'S / 164°10'E, 1°C, NNE5, overcast, snowfall, swell, slight wave action, Zodiac cruise at Balleny Islands, Antarctica

February 24: 68°59'S / 167°51'E, 0°C, SE2/3, overcast, snowfall, low swell, slight wave action, at sea

February 25: 71°38'S / 170°06'E, +1°C, SE1, sunny, low swell, smooth sea, Cape Adare & Robertson Bay, helicopter 'cruise' over glaciers and a Zodiac cruise at a glacier front

February 26: 72°22'S / 171°14'E, +0.5°C, SE1, overcast, no swell, smooth sea, at sea

February 27: 74°55'S / 164°06'E, -3°C, S4/5, overcast, snowfall, moderate swell, moderate wave action, Terra Nova Bay, Ross Sea, Zodiac cruise in Tethys Bay

February 28: 77°30'S / 166°01'E, -9°C, S4/5, cloudy, moderate swell, moderate wave action, new ice forming, McMurdo Sound



Emperor Penguins on second year sea ice in the Ross Sea, March 1. Photo: Valentin Nivet Mazerolles, Oceanwide Expeditions.

February 29: 77°33'S / 165°44'E, -11°C, SSE7, cloudy, ice floes of both year old and newly frozen, helicopter landing in snow covered Taylor Valley (Dry Valleys)

March 1: 77°07'S / 167°00'E, -8°C, SE5, cloudy, moderate swell, moderate wave action, after a peep out of the Sound, back into the ice (and sun) in western McMurdo Sound

March 2: 77°38'S / 166°23'E, -17°C, ESE7, overcast, low swell, slight wave action, extensive ice formation on McMurdo Sound, Zodiac landing at Cape Evans, Ross Island

March 3: 77°02'S / 173°19'E, -13°C, S7, cloudy, fog, moderate swell, rough sea, at sea

March 4: 77°44'S / 172°23'W, -6.5°C, SW5, cloudy, snowfall, slight swell, ice (and new ice forming all over), at sea off the Bay of Whales at the Ross Ice Shelf

March 4.2: 77°16'S / 164°52'W, -12°C, WSW6, cloudy, slight swell, ice (and new ice forming all over), at sea crossing the date line

March 5: 74°48'S / 155°04'W, -4°C, S4, sunny, slight swell, sea ice, Amundsen Sea

March 6: 73°25'S / 151°08'W, -1.5°C, SW3, cloudy, smooth, ice, Amundsen Sea

March 7: 72°10'S / 153°55'W, 0°C, NW3, overcast, out of the sea ice, no swell, slight wave action, Amundsen Sea

March 8: 70°45'S / 141°20'W, -1.5°C, SE 4/5, cloudy, moderate swell, moderate wave action, Amundsen Sea

March 9: 69°08'S / 130°50'W, -2°C, S5/6, cloudy, moderate swell, rough sea, Amundsen Sea

March 10: 68°54'S / 118°54'W, -0.5°C, N2/3, cloudy, low swell, slight wave action, Amundsen Sea

March 11: 68°47'S / 106°57'W, +2°C, NW2/3, cloudy, moderate swell/moderate wave action, Bellingshausen Sea

March 12: 68°43'S / 096°17'W, +2°C, NE3, overcast, low swell, slight wave action, Bellingshausen Sea, Peter I Island in low clouds and snowfall

March 13: 68°16'S / 089°42'W, +2°C, E6/7, overcast, heavy swell, rough sea, Bellingshausen Sea

March 14: 65°49'S / 083°47'W, +3°C, N4/5, overcast, heavy swell, rough sea, Bellingshausen Sea

March 15: 63°05'S / 078°09'W, +4.5°C, WNW8, overcast, heavy swell, rough sea, Bellingshausen Sea/Drake Passage

March 16: 60°13'S / 072°08'W, +7°C, NW6, partly cloudy, heavy swell, moderate wave action, Drake Passage

March 17: 56°54'S / 066°04'W, +8.5°C, WNW6/7, overcast, rain, heavy swell, rough sea, Drake Passage

March 18: 54°48'S / 068°17'W, good weather, Ushuaia, Argentina

A visit on the Antarctic Peninsula was missed.

Due to the corona crisis, disembarkation was denied in Ushuaia, so after almost two days (March 18 & 19) in the harbor we continued north to Montevideo, where we spent a further three days, until we could depart for home. The weather on this cruise was generally good.

March 19: beautiful weather, out through the Beagle Channel in the evening

March 20 at 12:00: 53°40' / 64°02'

March 21 at 12:00: 49°20' / 61°54'

March 22 at 12:00: 44°41' / 59°57'

March 23 at 09:10: 40°44' / 57°30'

March 24 at 10:35: 36°21' / 55°04'

March 25-27: The harbor of Montevideo

Literature used

Howell, S.N.G. & Zufelt, K. 2019: *Oceanic Birds of the World. A Photo Guide*. Princeton University Press.

Rumboll, M. & de la Pena, M.R. 2001: *Birds of Southern South America and Antarctica*. – Princeton Illustrated Checklists.

Shirihai, H. 2007: *The Complete Guide to Antarctic Wildlife: Birds and Marine Mammals of the Antarctic Continent and the Southern Ocean*. – Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Heather, B., H. Robertson & D. Onley 1996: *The Field Guide to the Birds of New Zealand*. – Penguin Books New Zealand.



Morten and Annette counting birds in Terra Nova Bay. Photo: Mark Vogler, Oceanwide Expeditions.

Bird and mammal number codes: + = 1-9, ++ = 10-99, +++ = 100-999, ++++ = 1000-9999, +++++ = > 10,000

NZ to convergence 16-20/2		16	17	18	19	20
Black Swan	<i>Cygnus atratus</i>	+++				
Australasian Shoveler	<i>Spatula rhynchotis</i>	++				
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	++			+	
Campbell Teal	<i>Anas nesiotis</i>				+	
Grey Teal	<i>Anas gracilis</i>	+++				
Eastern Rockhopper Penguin	<i>Eudyptes filholi</i>			+		
Yellow-eyed Penguin	<i>Megadyptes antipodes</i>			+	+	+
Snowy Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>		+			
Gibson's Albatross	<i>Diomedea gibsoni</i>			+		
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>		++	++	++	++
Light-mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>			++	+	+
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>					++
Campbell Albatross	<i>Thalassarche impavida</i>				++	+
Auckland Shy Albatross	<i>Thalassarche steadi</i>	++	++	++	++	++
Grey-headed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>				+	+
Southern Buller's Albatross	<i>Thalassarche bulleri</i>		+	+		
Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>			+	+	+
Giant Petrel sp.				+	+	
Cape Petrel	<i>Daption capense</i>	++	+	+	+	++
Broad-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila vittata</i>	?	?			
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>	+++	+++	++	+	++
Fairy Prion	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>	?	?	?	?	
Fulmar Prion	<i>Pachyptila crassirostris</i>	?	?			
White-headed Petrel	<i>Pterodroma lessonii</i>		+			++
Soft-plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>		?			
Mottled Petrel	<i>Pterodroma inexpectata</i>					+
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>		+++	+	+	++
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna griseus</i>	++++	++++	++++	++++	++
Subantarctic Shearwater	<i>Puffinus elegans</i>	?				
Wilson's Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>				+	
Grey-backed Storm Petrel	<i>Garrodia nereis</i>		+			
Latham's Storm Petrel	<i>Pelagodroma marina</i>				+	
Black-bellied Storm Petrel	<i>Fregata tropica</i>		+++		+	
Subantarctic Diving-Petrel	<i>Pelecanoides exsul</i>			++	+	+
Royal Spoonbill	<i>Platalea regia</i>	++				
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	+				
White-faced Heron	<i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i>	+				
Little Pied Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo melanoleucos</i>					
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	+				
Campbell Shag	<i>Leucocarbo campbelli</i>				+	
Auckland Shag	<i>Leucocarbo colensoi</i>			+++		
White-headed Stilt	<i>Himantopus leucocephalus</i>	++				
Masked Lapwing	<i>Vanellus miles</i>	2				
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	2				

NZ to convergence 16-20/2		16	17	18	19	20
Red-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus scopulinus</i>	+++		++	++	
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	++		++	++	
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	+				
White-fronted Tern	<i>Sterna striata</i>	++		++	++	
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>			+	++	+
Subantarctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius antarctica</i>			+	+	+
Red-crowned Parakeet	<i>Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae</i>			+		
Tui	<i>Prothemadera novaeseelandiae</i>			++		
New Zealand Bellbird	<i>Anthornis melanura</i>			+		
Grey Gerygone	<i>Gerygone igata</i>	+				
Australian Magpie	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>	+				
Welcome Swallow	<i>Hirundo neoxena</i>	+				
Silvereye	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>	+				
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	+				
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	++				
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	+				
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	++				
Dunnoch	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	+			+	
New Zealand Pipit	<i>Anthus novaezeelandiae</i>			+	+	
Common Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	2			+	
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	++				
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	+				
Mammals						
NZ Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus forsteri</i>			+	++	
Hooker's Sea Lion	<i>Phocarcos hookeri</i>			c. 10	+	
Antarctic Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i>					1
Lille hval sp.		+				

Antarctica 21/2 – 17/3		21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
King Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>			1																								
Emperor Penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>								12	40			3	4			3											
Adelie Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>		3?	150		+++++	58	33	67	28		16	6	8	85	9	67						+					
Chinstrap Penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarcticus</i>			150																								
Snowy Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>																		1		2			2	3	10	5	
Antipodes Wandering Albatros	<i>Diomedea antipodensis</i>																								1		1	
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	1																				1		3	3	3	4	
Light-mantled Albatross	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>	8	4	1	4													3	7	5		4	2	3	1			
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>	4	3	2																		1		1	6	15	13	
Campbell Albatross	<i>Thalassarche impavida</i>	1	?	?																								
Grey-headed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>	3																				1	4	3	4	3	4	
Aukland Shy Albatros	<i>Thalassarche steadi</i>	1																										
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	1	2	7	3	1	6		1		2		1	4	4	7	3		4	2	3	2	3	4	3	5	15	5
Southern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialisoides</i>			1026	46									1						1			5	20				
Antarctic Petrel	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>	11		3	4		1							9	86	8	3	2	3		27							
Cape Petrel	<i>Daption capense</i>	5	16	334	34													1		2	1			6	2		12	
Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>					3	1	13		2			2	5	10	9	16	5										
Greater Snow Petrel	<i>Pagodroma confusa</i>			11																								
Blue Petrel	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>			5												2		1	493	676	154	28	4					2
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>	11	37	17	2														5	2	3		11	19	6			
Slender-billed Prion	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>																					1	2					
Prion sp.																										3	5	7
Kerguelen Petrel	<i>Aphrodroma brevirostris</i>	1																										
White-headed Petrel	<i>Pterodroma lessonii</i>	18	38		1																	9					3	
Soft-plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>	1																										
Mottled Petrel	<i>Pterodroma inexpectata</i>	8	21	4	17			1									2	25	4		3	9	9		2			
Grey Petrel	<i>Procellaria cinerea</i>																										10	2
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	7	2																								1	3
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna griseus</i>	108	87	3	469																				6	4	5	
Subantarctic Shearwater	<i>Puffinus elegans</i>	1																				2						

N Drake Passage, Argentina & Uruguay 18-27/3		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Brown-hooded Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus maculipennis</i>	+++	++						++	++	+++
Dolphin Gull	<i>Leucophaeus scoresbii</i>	++	++								
Band-tailed Gull	<i>Larus belcheri</i>								+		
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	++++	++++						+++	+++	++++
Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>										+
South American Tern	<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>	++	+++								
Chilean Skua	<i>Stercorarius chilensis</i>	+	+++					+			
South Polar Skua	<i>Stercorarius maccormicki</i>	1									
Falkland Skua	<i>Stercorarius antarctica</i>				3	4					
Long-tailed Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>					3	1	7			
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	+	+								
Andean Condor	<i>Vultur gryphus</i>		2								
Cinereous Harrier	<i>Circus cinereus</i>								+	+	+
Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle	<i>Geranoaetus melanoleucus</i>	1	+								
Ringed Kingfisher	<i>Megasceryle torquata</i>									+	+
Southern Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara plancus</i>	++	+						+	+	+
Chimango Caracara	<i>Milvago chimango</i>	++	++								+
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>								+		+
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>								1		1
Monk Parakeet	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>								+	+	
Buff-winged Cinclodes	<i>Cinclodes fuscus</i>				1		1				
Dark-bellied Cinclodes	<i>Cinclodes patagonicus</i>		1								
Great Kiskadee	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>								+		+
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>						1				
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>									+	+
Mammals											
South American Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus australis</i>		++	1	2		>10	>4			
South American Sea Lion	<i>Otaria flavescens</i>		+++								
Peale's Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus australis</i>		++		++	++	25				
Dusky Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i>				9		7				
Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>				2						
Southern Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>					1	1				
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>					4					
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>						1	3			
Mass occurrence of fish						++					