

Durban pelagic 15<sup>th</sup> August 2015

Following on a fairly mediocre trip I'd had out from Simonstown a week before, I was looking forward to some action. Forecasts of windy conditions had me a little worried, but we managed to get out, and boy were the birds enjoying the conditions! Our first Albatross was a few hundred meters outside the harbor entrance, then we found our first trawler around 07h30, teeming with bird action.



The majority of the birds at the trawler were Indian Yellow-nosed Albatrosses



A close second were the White-chinned Petrels



Pretty soon, we saw our first of about a dozen Black-browed Albatrosses.



The Subantarctic (Brown) Skuas also put in an early appearance, with a ringed bird we had seen on a 2014 trip reacquainting with us.



Sooty Shearwaters were a little wary of the larger birds and careened in for a visit or two.



The Cape Gannets were keen on an easy meal and we had various ages of birds around both of the trawlers



Our good run on Antarctic Prions continued with a few birds visiting the trawler



The winter breeders, Great-winged Petrels, have started to return, they came in late in the day but gave all on board a decent show.



Shy Albatrosses were the last of the three species we saw to make an appearance.

After another great day out in the deep, we headed back, with traditional refreshments being dished out by Albert.

Full list of birds seen and approximate numbers:

Kelp Gull 20

Swift Tern 30

Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross 800

White-chinned Petrel 400

Cape Gannet 20

Black-browed Albatross 12

Shy Albatross 3

Sooty Shearwater 3

Great-winged Petrel 3

Antarctic Prion 2

Common Tern 2

Caspian Tern 1

Subantarctic Skua 15

For bookings on these trips, visit <http://www.niall.co.za/pelagic/KZNpelagictrips.htm>