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Science & Education Report

MS FRIDTJOF NANSEN

Highlights of Antarctica

31 Oct — 10 Nov 2025





Science & Education Programme

During this voyage, we collecting data for **5 Citizen Science** projects in total: eBird, Happywhale, iNaturalist, ORCA OceanWatcher, and the Secchi Disk project.

The Expedition Team hosted **15 lectures** on topics from birds to rocks to enrich and deepen our guests' experience. They also took part in **12 discovery sessions**.

We also helped our Guest Scientist, Lucy, write an account of her experience of being on the edge in Antarctica, specifically focusing on grounding lines.

A lot of you were very interested in the scientific aspect of our voyage and we thank you all for your enthusiasm. Here is a resume of our science activities.



Lectures & Discovery Sessions

- 15** Lectures
- 12** Discovery sessions
- 5** Citizen Science projects
- 8** Science boat outings
- 1** Guest Researcher project



Wildlife Watch

54 Species:
22 mammals
54 birds



NASA cloud observer

On this Highlights of Antarctica voyage we conducted 2 cloud observation sessions matched to satellite flyovers, submitting +2 observations.

Thank you to the +17 cloud observers who participated in the programme, and remember, you can continue to do this at home!



[View our data on the global map](#)



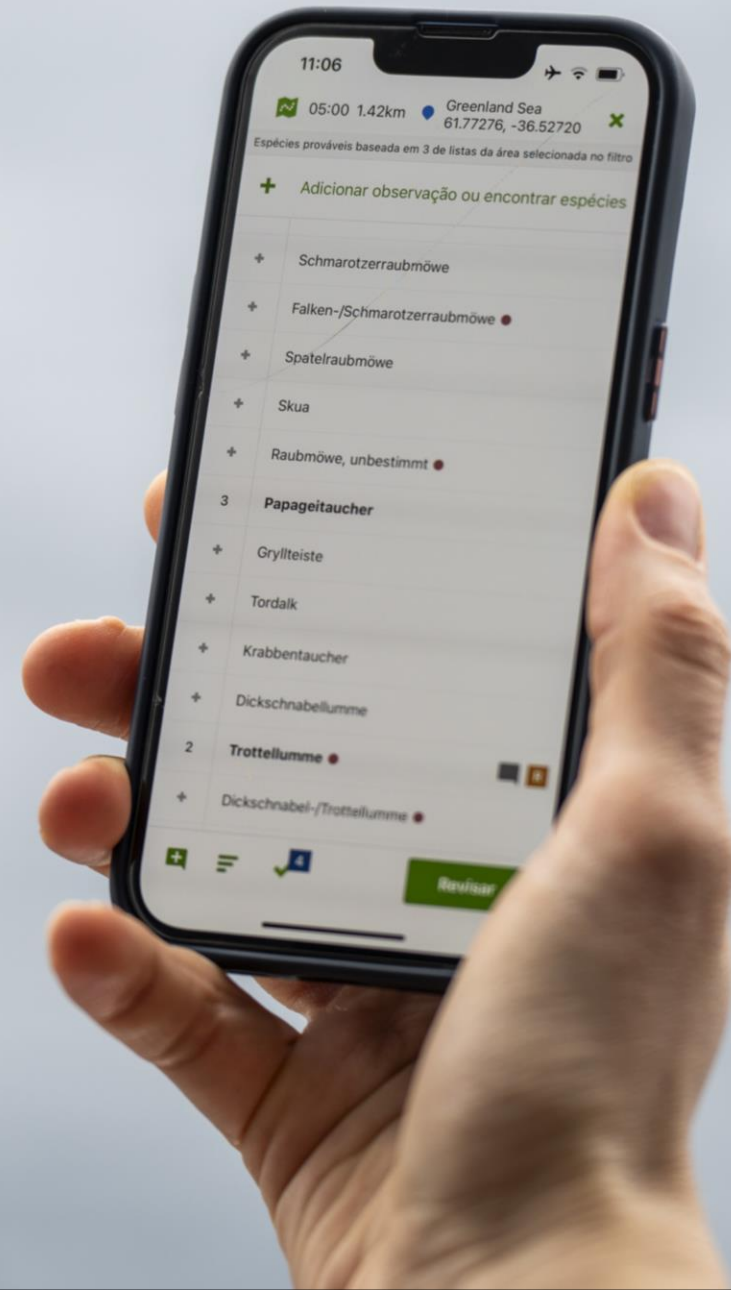


The eBird project

During the wildlife watches and on the landings of this voyage, our Ornithologists Simon and Julia conducted **19 eBird surveys**. At least **28 species** of birds were observed. The most abundant species was the gentoo penguin, followed by the imperial cormorant.

View our data for the voyage and the checklists here:

<https://ebird.org/tripreport/265530>



Trip Report on eBird



FNANT2517 # MS Fridtjof Nansen - Highlights of Antarctica - 31st October to 10th November

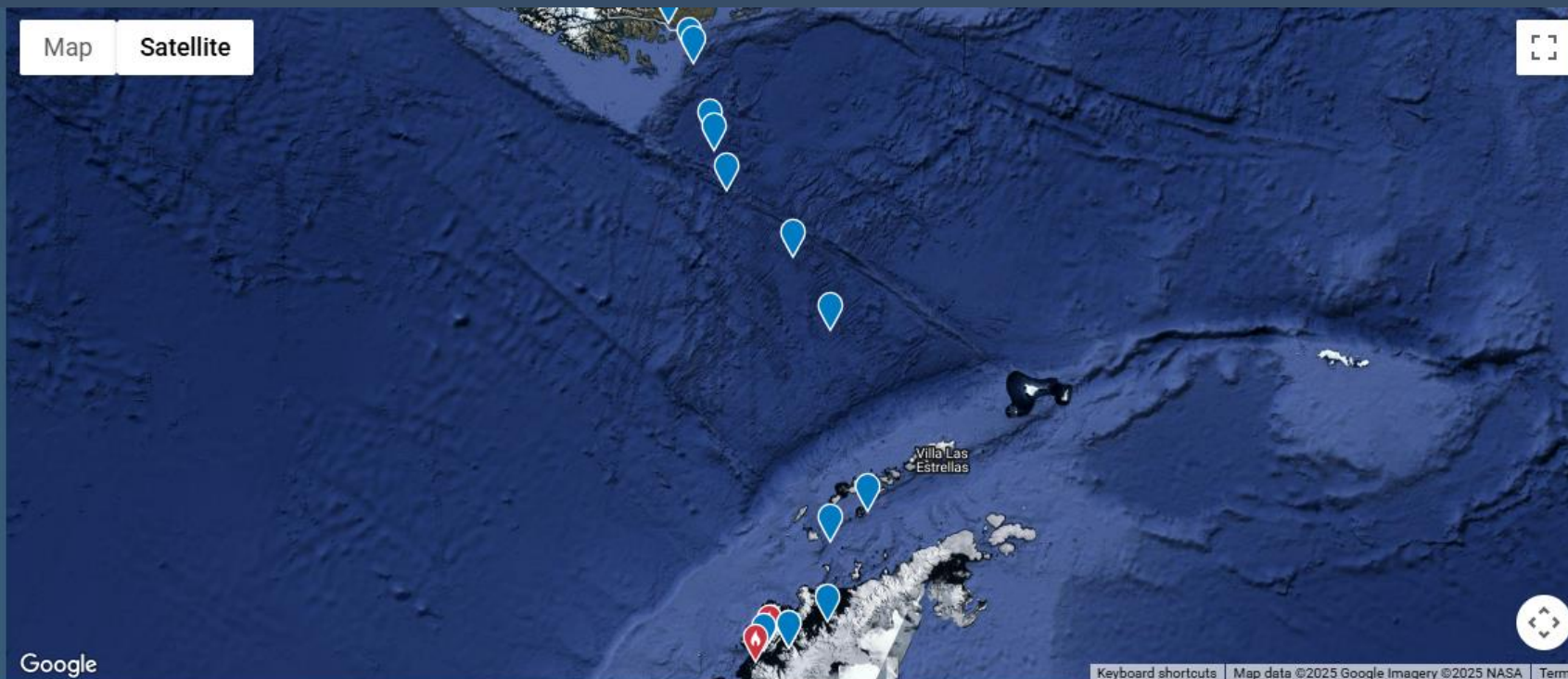
31 Oct – 9 Nov 2025 (10 days) Public

[Antarctica](#) | [Argentina](#) | [Chile](#) | [High Seas](#) Subregions

[Julia Victoria Grohmann Finger](#), Science Coordinator,
[Simon Delany](#)

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A journey with HX Expeditions across the Drake Passage to the Antarctic Peninsula, on board MS Fridtjof Nansen.

[Edit narrative](#)

DATA FOR: **Group (all people)** ▾

28

Species Observed
+2 other taxa

19

Checklists

3

Species with Photos

Event in progress



MS Fridtjof Nansen FNANT2512a Highlights of An...

Oct 31, 2025 - Nov 10, 2025

About

Leave  10

Submit your observations of anything living and wild, on Fridtjof Nansen's iNaturalist project for the voyage, "Highlights of Antarctica 31 Oct - 10 Nov 2025". The project will remain open for submissions within this time frame after you return home, so it is never too late to upload your photographic

[Read More >](#)

[Your Membership](#)

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[Project Journal](#)



iNaturalist

We submitted 128 observations by the end of our voyage, identifying 36 species of living organisms, from birds to marine mammals and mosses. The most observed species was the gentoo penguin followed by the Weddell seal.

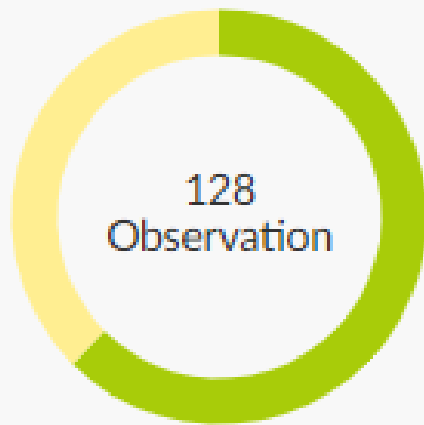
There is still time to join our project once you are back home and have had time to go through your photos. Helping us document the local biodiversity help scientists worldwide monitor the changes of distribution and abundance of some of the most iconic and lesser-known Antarctic species.

Join our project searching by its code name: MS Fridtjof Nansen FNANT2512a Highlights of Antarctica 31 Oct to 10 Nov 2025.

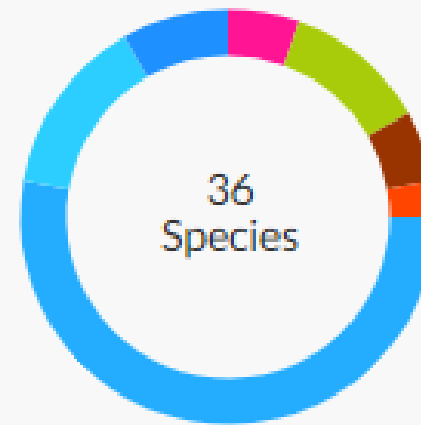
View our data submitted on our [iNaturalist project](#)



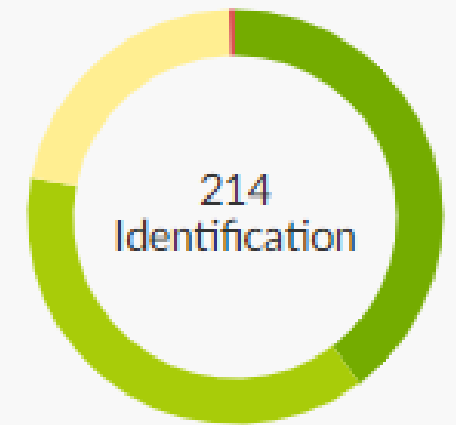
Stats



- Research Grade
- Needs ID
- Casual



- Unknown
- Protozoans
- Fungi
- Plants
- Chromista
- Molluscs
- Insects
- Arachnids
- Ray-Finned Fish
- Amphibians
- Reptiles
- Birds
- Mammals
- Other Animals



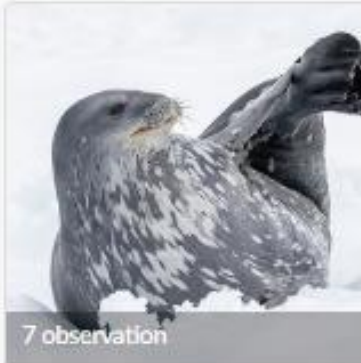
- Improving
- Supporting
- Leading
- Maverick

Top 10 most frequently observed and uploaded species



14 observation

Gentoo Penguin ·
Eselspinguin · 巴布亚企鵝
Pygoscelis papua



7 observation

Weddell Seal ·
Weddellrobbe · 韦德尔氏
海豹
Leptonychotes weddellii



7 observation

Snowy Sheathbill ·
Weißgesicht-
Scheidenschnabel · 白鞘嘴
鸥
Chionis albus



7 observation

Antarctic Limpet · 秀丽舟
蛭
Nacella concinna



6 observation

Pintado Petrel ·
Kapsturmvogel · 花斑鹱
Daption capense



6 observation

Southern Giant Petrel ·
Riesensturmvogel · 巨
鹱
Macronectes giganteus



5 observation

Southern Fulmar ·
Silbersturmvogel · 银灰暴
风鹱
Fulmarus glacialis



5 observation

Snow Petrel ·
Schneesturmvogel · 雪
鹱
Pagodroma nivea



4 observation

Southern Royal Albatross ·
Königsalbatros · 南方皇家
信天翁
Diomedea epomophora



4 observation

Antarctic Tern ·
Antipodenseeschwalbe ·
南极燕鸥
Sterna vittata

Map of observations





Happywhale

This voyage was a great success in terms of whale sightings. Our Marine Scientist, **Ian**, together with the Science Team, was able to document incredible encounters and submit an identifiable sighting to **Happywhale**, thanks to **Lauren's** help.

During the trip, we observed **humpback whales, a sperm whale, minke whales, and orcas**. These observations contribute valuable data to our understanding of cetacean distribution.

In addition to the remarkable whale encounters, we also saw **elephant seals, crabeater seals, and Weddell seals**. Thank you all for helping us capture such **amazing photos and unforgettable moments!**

[View our data](#) on the global map





START SURVEY >



Home



Surveys



Species



About



Settings

ORCA OceanWatchers

Survey

- 8 surveys completed
- 8.26 Hours
- 122.352 nautical miles

Sightings

- 10 *Balaenoptera physalus*
- 4 *Megaptera novaeangliae*
- 1 *Balaenoptera bonaerensis*
- 1 *Balaenoptera borealis*
- 9 Unidentified whale blows



Science Boat

We had eight science boat sessions during this trip in Damoy Point, Pléneau, Brown Station and Charlotte Bay. During our time on the water, we took readings using the Secchi Disk to contribute to the Secchi Disk Project. We used the Secchi Disk measurements to document the turbidity/clarity of the water and assess the abundance of phytoplankton.

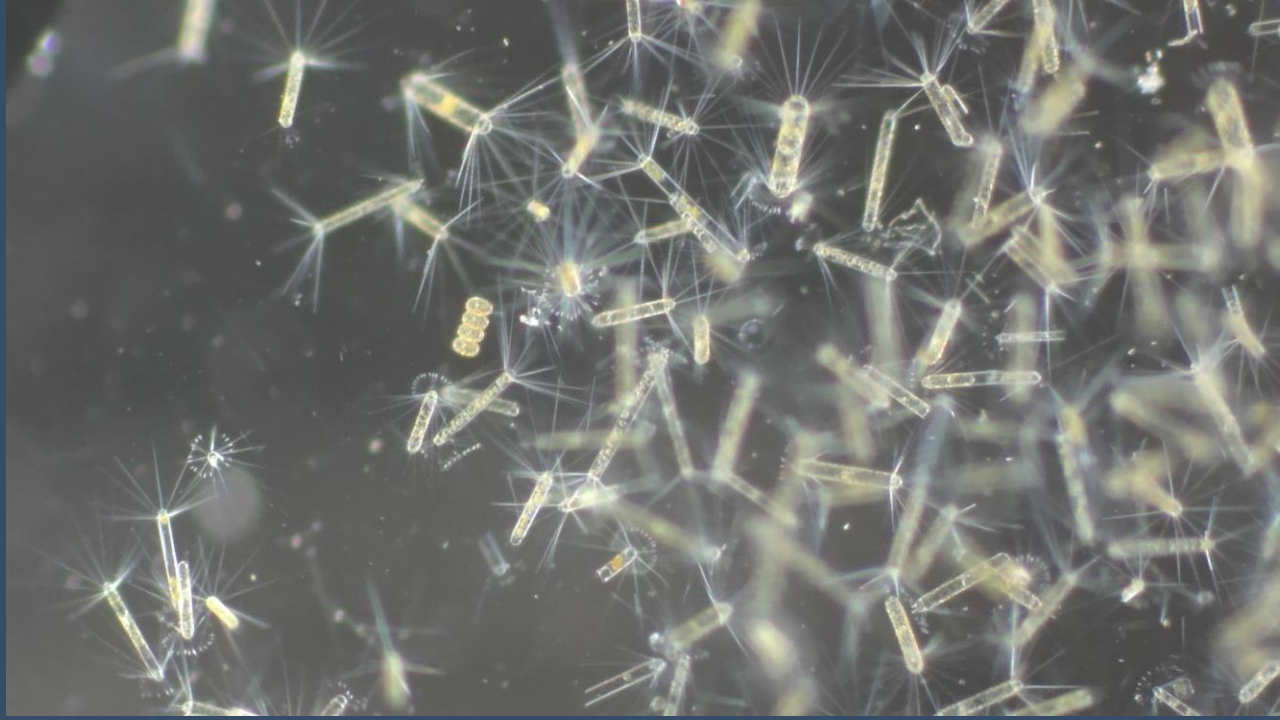
We also towed a plankton net of 20 μm mesh size to collect water samples containing plankton, and deployed our CTD sensor to understand the oceanographical parameters of the water (temperature, salinity, Chlorophyll α).



[View our data](#) submitted to the Secchi Disk Project



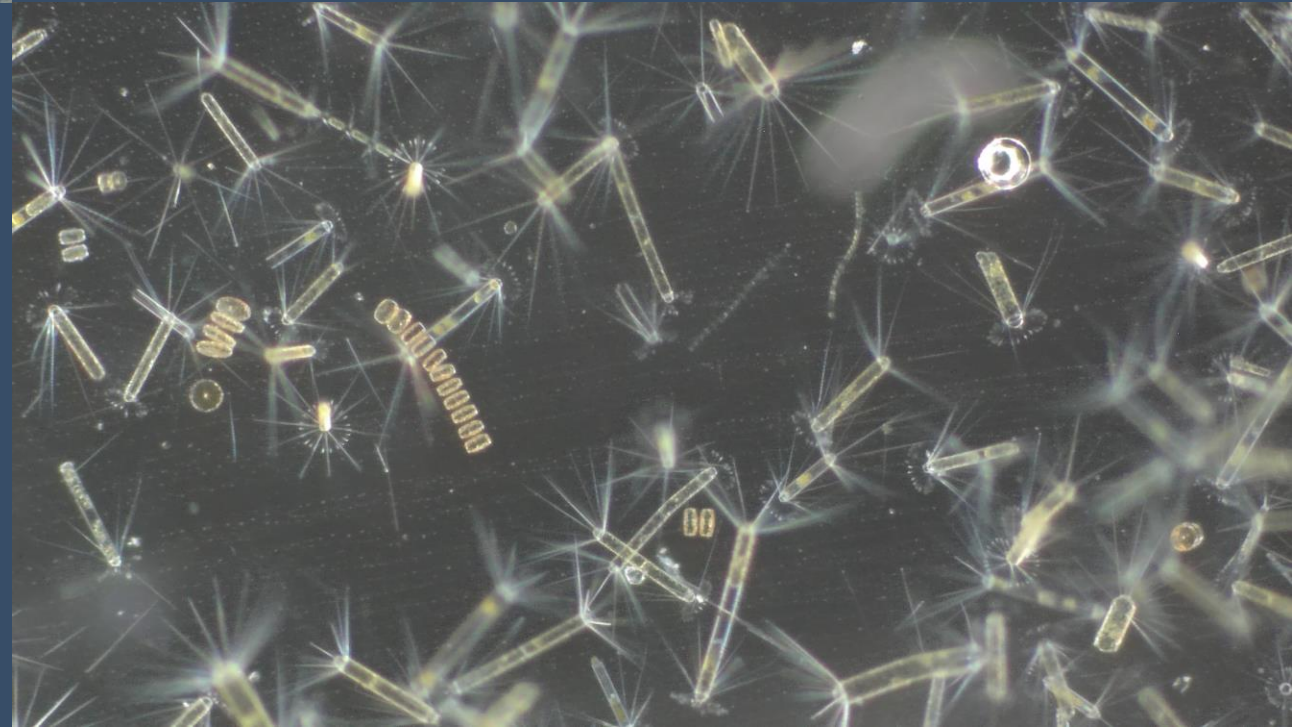
Plankton Samples



Back in the Science Centre, we looked at plankton samples from our science boat plankton tows.

Our samples were mostly dominated by the *Corethron* species, members of the diatom phytoplankton community. These tiny organisms are perfectly adapted to live in the upper part of the water column, where salinity and temperature vary greatly.

We also noted other species of diatom, shown here in these photographs. Linking together in a chain helps the diatoms not only float near the surface closer to the sunlight but also increase their size and decrease the probability of predation by other organisms.



Wildlife List — Birds



Wildlife List – Seabirds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS	NORSK
<i>Pygoscelis papua</i>	gentoo penguin	Eselspinguin	manchot papou	bøylepingvin
<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>	Adélie penguin	Adeliepinguin	manchot d'Adélie	Adeliepingvin
<i>Pygoscelis antarcticus</i>	chinstrap penguin	Zügelpinguin	manchot à jugulaire	ringpingvin
<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>	emperor penguin	Kaiserpinguin	manchot empereur	keiserpingvin
<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	Magellanic penguin	Magellanpinguin	manchot de Magellan	Magellanpingvin
<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	wandering albatross (snowy)	Wanderalbatros	albatros hurleur	vandrealbatross
<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	Southern Royal Albatross	Königsalbatros	albatros royal	kongealbatross
<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>	black-browed albatross	Schwarzbrauenalbatros	albatros à sourcils noirs	svartbrynalbatross
<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>	grey-headed albatross	Graukopfalbatros	albatros à tête grise	gråhodealbatross
<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>	light-mantled albatross	Graumantelalbatros	albatros fuligineux	gråalbatross
<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	southern giant petrel	Riesensturmvogel	pétrel géant	sørkjempepetrell
<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	white-chinned petrel	Weißkinn-Sturmvogel	puffin à menton blanc	hvitthakepetrell
<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	southern fulmar	Silbersturmvogel	fulmar argenté	sørhavhest
<i>Daption capense</i>	cape petrel	Kapsturmvogel	damier du cap	flekkpetrell
<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>	snow petrel	Schneestormvogel	pétrel des neiges	snøpetrell

Wildlife List – Seabirds

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS	NORSK
<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>	Antarctic petrel	Antarktissturmvmogel	pétrel Antarctique	antarktispetrell
<i>Halobalaena caerulea</i>	blue petrel	Blausturmvmogel	prion bleu	blåpetrell
<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>	slender-billed prion	Dünnschnabel-Sturmvmogel	prion de belcher	smalnebbhvalfugl
<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>	Antarctic prion	Taubensturmvmogel	prion de la désolation	Antarktishvalfugl
<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	Wilson's storm-petrel	Buntfuß-Sturmschwalbe	océanite de Wilson	Wilsonstormsvale
<i>Ardena grisea</i>	sooty shearwater	Dunkelsturmtaucher	puffin fuligineux	grålire
<i>Leucocarbo atriceps</i>	imperial cormorant	Kaiserscharbe	cormoran impérial	knoppskarv
<i>Phalacrocorax magellanicus</i>	Magellanic cormorant	Felsenscharbe	cormoran de Magellan	Magellanskarv
<i>Stercorarius maccormicki</i>	south polar skua	Antarktiskua	labbe de McCormick	sørjo
<i>Stercorarius antarcticus</i>	brown skua (Subantarctic)	Subantarktiskua	labbe Antarctique	sørhavsjo
<i>Stercorarius chilensis</i>	Chilean skua	Chileskua	labbe du Chili	kaneljo
<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	kelp gull	Dominikanermöwe	goéland dominicain	taremåke
<i>Leucophaeus scoresbyii</i>	dolphin gull	Blutschnabelmöwe	goéland de Scoresby	Magellanmåke
<i>Chionis albus</i>	snowy sheathbill	Weißgesicht-Scheidenschnabel	chionis blanc	Antarktisslirenebb
<i>Sterna vittata</i>	Antarctic tern	Antarktikseeschwalbe	sterne couronnée	sørhavsterne
<i>Sterna hirundinacea</i>	South American tern	Falklandseeschwalbe	sterne hirundinacée	svalerterne

Wildlife List – Marine Mammals



Wildlife List – Marine Mammals

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS	NORSK
<i>Balaenoptera bonarensis</i>	Antarctic minke whale	Südllicher Zwergwal	petit rorqual de l'Antarctique	sørlig vågehval
<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	fin whale	Finnwal	rorqual commun	finhval
<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	wei whale	Rorqual de Rudolphi	seiwal	seihval
<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	humpback whale	Buckelwal	baleine à bosse	knølhval
<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	sperm whale	Pottwal	cachalot	kaskeloft
<i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i>	dusky dolphin	Schwarzdelfin	lagénorhynque obscur	mørkdelfin
<i>Lobodon carcinophaga</i>	crabeater seal	Krabbenfresser	phoque crabier	krabbeetersel
<i>Leptonychotes weddellii</i>	Weddell seal	Weddelrobbe	ohoque de Weddell	Weddellsel
<i>Arctocephalus gazella</i>	Antarctic fur seal	Antarktischer Seebär	otarie à fourrure antarctique	Antarktis pelssel