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## Cape Town Pelagics Trip Report

**24 August 2008**

A Cape Town Pelagics trip left Simonstown on 24 August 2008 guided by Cape Town Pelagics guide Meidad Goren.

An interesting large number of birds waited for us at the point, including **Giant Petrel** and **Shy Albatrosses**. The skipper has tried to find us a trawler or longliner but there were none in sight. Nevertheless we encountered nice numbers of **albatrosses**, **White-chinned Petrels** and **Sooty Shearwaters**. Heading south west we found our first **Wilson's Storm Petrels** which followed us swiftly, low above the water.

As we couldn't find any trawler or long-liner we decided to steam slowly and watch the birds at their real elements. It is always thrilling to see that even when there is no fishing activity, seabird abundance in Cape waters is incredibly high: **Albatrosses (Shy, Black-browed and Yellow-nosed)** were showing in good numbers with the majority being **Shy**. **Wilson's Storm Petrels, White-chinned Petrels and Sooty Shearwaters** were always in the vicinity of the boat, with only one **Pintado Petrel** quickly checking us out before disappearing. We even found an **African penguin** about 15 miles from land, while interestingly **Giant petrels** (both species) were seen quite close to the point.

As weathercast predicted strong winds toward early afternoon we decided to steam slowly back, riding on the waves and enjoying nice conditions.

On the way back to Simon's Town we stopped at Partridge Rock and recorded all four species of cormorants.

Birds seen and approximate numbers:

Shy Albatross	120
Black-browed Albatross	5
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross	1
Northern Giant Petrel	1
Southern Giant Petrel	3
White-chinned Petrel	120
Pintado Petrel	1
Sooty Shearwater	40
Wilson's Storm Petrel	20
Cape Gannet	150
SubAntarctic Skua	3
Common Tern	3

Coastal species included:

African Penguin  
Cape Gannet  
Kelp Gull  
Hartlaub's Gull  
Swift Tern  
White breasted Cormorant  
Bank Cormorant  
Cape Cormorant  
Crowned Cormorant

**A message from Cape Town Pelagics:** A huge thank you to our experienced skippers who are able to safely lead us to the best birding areas and skillfully manoeuvre the boat into just the best position while all on board are busy concentrating on the birds! Coordinating a pelagic trip over a year in advance with guests from all across South Africa and different countries around the world requires an organised office team. We thank them for their special eye for detail - and for the sometimes last-minute rearrangements and frustration if the weather delays the trip to another day! Our biggest thank-you is to our Cape Town Pelagics guides who take time out of their work, often involving seabirds and conservation, and time away from their families, to provide our guests with a world-class birding experience. Cape Town Pelagics donates all its profits to seabirds, and so all the participants who join the trip make a contribution towards bird research and conservation – a big thank you from all of us.

Trip Report by Cape Town Pelagics guide Meidad Goren.