

1989-11-01

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NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 89
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ANOTHER MONTH HAS PASSED US BY, WHICH HAS BROUGHT MUCH ACTIVITY TO THE ISLAND. MOSTLY THE NEW ANIMALS ARRIVING AND THOSE HERE ALREADY BREEDING. OF COURSE WE HAD OUR FAIR SHARE OF ACTIVITY TOO.

SAMPIE AND ANDRE THE SEAL MEN HAVE BEEN PRETTY BUSY TAGGING THE NEWLY WEANED PUPS. SO FAR IT SEEMS THAT THE FEMALE ELEPHANT SEALS HAVE ALL HAD THEIR PUPS AND THE MATING PEAK HAS ALSO PASSED. THE NUMBER OF PUPS TAGGED ALREADY ARE +- 150, MOST OF THE PEOPLE AROUND BASE AND ALSO THE CAT HUNTERS ARE HELPING OUT WITH THE TAGGING, IF NOT ACTUALLY DOING ANYTHING AT LEAST GIVING MORAL SUPPORT AND GETTING IN THE WAY. THE TAGGING IS STILL GOING FULL STEAM AHEAD AND THERE IS STILL QUITE A LOT TO DO. AS FAR AS THE ELEPHANT SEALS ARE CONCERNED, THEY HAVE DONE THEIR BIT AND ARE SLOWLY BUT SURELY MOVING BACK INTO THE SEA AND LEAVING US. THE FUR SEALS ARE COMING IN FROM THE SEA, BUT NOT IN GREAT NUMBERS YET. MOST OF THE FUR SEALS ON THE ISLAND ARE PUPS FROM THE PREVIOUS SEASON.

THE DEPARTURE OF THE ELEPHANT SEALS IS NOT BAD NEWS FOR EVERYONE. CHRIS OUR PENGUIN MAN THINKS IT IS A GREAT IDEA, NOW HE CAN GET TO THOSE PENGUINS THAT PREVIOUSLY HAVE BEEN HIDING BEHIND THE SEALS, AND CAN WRESTLE WITH THEM TOO. THE KING PENGUINS HAVE ALL ARRIVED AND THE COLONIES AT ARCHWAY AND KILDALKIE ARE FULL TO THE BRIM OF NOISY KINGS. THEY HAVE STARTED TO DO THEIR MATING CALLS AND COURTSHIP DISPLAYS. THE MACARONIE PENGUINS HAVE BEEN STREAMING IN THIS MONTH TOO BY THE HUNDREDS, AND THEIR COLONIES AT BOULARD BEACH AND KILDALKIE ARE ALSO FILLED UP. HACKIES HAVE STARTED LAYING THEIR EGGS, SO THEY ARE IN THE FULL SWING OF THINGS. AS FAR AS THE ROCKHOPPER PENGUINS GO I PERSONALLY SAW THE FIRST TWO STROLL UP TO THE POINT HERE AT BASE AND PETE HAS SPOTTED MORE AT THE BACK OF THE BASE AND ALSO AROUND EASTCAPE, SO WE CAN EXPECT THEM TO BE COMING IN NEXT MONTH.

AS FAR AS THE REST OF THE BIRDS GO, WHITE CHIN PETRELS ARE MATING AT THE MOMENT- THE SOOTY AND WANDERING ALBATROSES ARE BOTH MATING- AND THE GREYHEADED S ARE ON EGGS AT THE MOMENT. GIANT PETRELS THAT HAVE BEEN INCUBATING THEIR EGGS HAVE STARTED GETTING RESULTS IN THE FORM OF TINY GIANT PETRELS. ANTON IS THRILLED ABOUT THESE AND HAS BEEN GOING AROUND COUNTING HIS LITTLE BIRDS. WHILE DOING HIS NORMAL CENSUS.

THE KILLERHALES ARE BACK IN ACTION TOO, AND WE HAVE BEEN SIGHTING THEM MORE AND MORE EVERYDAY, OF COURSE WE ARE MOVING TOWARDS THEIR PEAK NEXT MONTH. BUT ANDRE DOTNA, OUR VERY ENTHUSIASTIC KILLER WHALE WATCHER REPORTED THAT HE SAW A POD OF 9 KILLERS ON THE 29TH OF THIS MONTH. THIS HAS SO FAR BEEN THE LARGEST GROUP OF KILLERS SPOTTED BY US.

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THE CAT HUNTERS HAVE BEEN KEEPING THEMSELVES BUSY

THE TOTAL FOR THE MONTH WAS 8 CATS TRAPPED AROUND THE WEST COAST AREA OF MIXPICKEL AND SWARTKOPS. PETE THE OLD HAND AT HUNTING FELL INTO A HIRE BUT DENIES THIS EVER HAPPEND. HE SAID IT WAS A HOLE HE FELL INTO WHILE WATCHING HIS PARTER GERALD GRIESEL FALL INTO A HIRE. WELL WHO DO WE BELIEVE. SO FAR THE HUNTING AVRAGES SEEM PRETTY GOOD, IF YOU CONSIDER THE WEATHER CONDITIONS. WHICH BROUGHT MORE RAIN THAN LAST MONTH ALTHOUGH IT WAS MUCH MUCH WARMER. ONCE WE HAD A PRETTY BAD STORM WITH WAVES OF 4-5 METERS. BUT NOTHING TO SERIOUS.

WE HAD TWO PARTIES GOING AROUND THE ISLAND THIS MONTH, FIRST MARK AND STEVE WHO HAD A VERY NICE AND INCIDENTLESS TRIP. EXCEPT THAT THEIR CIGARETTES RAN OUT AT WATERTUNNEL. THEY ALSO SAW THE KILLERWHALES AT CAPE DAVIS EAT A GAZELLA FOR SEAL...OR WAS IT A TROPICALIS FOR SEAL?? THEY WERE BOTH CARRING QUITE HEAVY LOADS. STEVE WITH HALF THE BROWN STORE IN HIS BACK PACK TO DO REPAIRS AROUND THE ISLAND AND MARK WITH A ARSENAL OF CAMERAS AND EQUIPMENT. WHICH WENT TO GOOD USE. ANTON AND CHRIS WENT AROUND TOO, JUST A BIT FASTER THAN MARK AND STEVE. ANT TO DO THE GP CENSUS AND CHRIS TO HELP HIM AND HAVE A LOOK AT THE OTHER PENGUIN COLONIES.

AT BASE NOT VERY MUCH HAPPEND EXCEPT THAT WE HAD TWO BIRTHDAYS, ONE FOR PADDY COOK AND ONE FOR GERALD GRIESEL, THE PARTY WAS HELD FOR BOTH OF THEM ON THE 27TH AND RICHARD HAD THE HONOUR TO BAKE THE CAKE FOR PADDY AND GERALD. PADDY'S CAKE WAS OF COURSE THE UNION JACK, HIS VERY VERY FAVORITE.

PETE, ANDRE, GERALD AND JAKES ALL WENT FOR A DIVE (IN THEIR WET SUITS OF COURSE) TO HAVE A LOOK WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE DOWN IN THE SEA. WELL THEY WERE NOT VERY THRILLED. ALL HAD NOTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT. EXCEPT THAT IT WAS PRETTY COLD. ASK ME I KNOW MY CAP WENT FOR A SWIM.

THE BIG EVENT OF THE MONTH FOR PETR MUST HAVE BEEN THE RADIO AMATEURS CONTEST. PETR TOOK PART IN THE CONTEST WHICH RAN FOR 48 HOURS NON STOP. AND DID PRETTY WELL OVERALL. THE CONDITIONS WERE NOT ALL THAT FAVORABLE DUE TO LARGE SOLAR FLARES AND MAGNETIC STORMS. BUT HE MANAGED TO CONTACT 112 COUNTRIES IN 60 ZONES ON 5 BANDS, WHICH HE WORKED ALL ALONE. THE POINTS HE SCORED ARE APROXIMATELY JUST UNDER A HALF A MILLION. THE CONTEST IS SPONSORED BY A MAGAZINE AND IS HELD ANNUALLY. HE MANAGED TO HAVE A VERY RARE CONTACT WITH WAKE ISLAND IN THE PACIFIC NEAR SOUTH AMERICA. PETR ALSO MANAGED TO HAVE A SATILITE CONTACT, THE FIRST EVER FROM MARION ISLAND, THOROUGH RUSSIAN SATILITE.

WELL THAT'S ABOUT IT FOR THIS MONTH, EVERY ONE IS HAPPY JUST WORRIED THAT THE TIME WILL PASS US BY QUICKLY. HENDRIK WILL GIVE US THE AVERAGE WEATHER DATA FOR THE MONTH.

REGARDS TO ALL

WEER DATA:

HOEWEL DIE TEMPARTURE NIE DRASTIES TOEGENEEM HET NIE IS DIT NOU BYKANS SOMER EN DIE DAE WORD AL NOE LANGER.
SONSOPKOMS OP DIE 31E : 04H23
SONS ONDERGANG OP DIE 31E : 18H38

GEN TEMPERATUUR 2,0 GRADE C
HOOGSTE TEMPRATUUR 11,0 GRADE C
LAAGSTE TEMPRATUUR -1,6 GRADE C

WARMEST DAG 25STE GEN. 3,0 GRADE C
GEN. SONSKYN PER DAG 4,1 URE PERDAG
TOTALE SONSKYN VIR MAAND 127 URE
BEWOLKTE DAE SONDER ENIGE SON 5 DAE
AANTAL RECHVAL DAE: 23 DAE
TOTALE RECHVAL VIR DIE MAAND: 142 MM
GENOEGELDE VOGGEGHALTE 82
GEN: DOK 1003,4 HPA
GROOTSTE DrukVERANDERING: 40,2 HPA IN 35 UUR
TUSSEN 21STE EN 25STE.

NEWSLETTER BY: VINCENT VERUEY
WEATHER DATA BY: HENDRIK SWART