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Atlantic Seabirds: Ocean City, Maryland Pelagic Trips, 1991–1992

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Abstract: In 1991 and 1992, *Atlantic Seabirds* ran pelagic trips out of Ocean City, Maryland. This article summarizes the observations documented on the nine pelagic trips.

In 1991, I founded *Atlantic Seabirds* (Figure 1) to offer Ocean City, Maryland pelagic trips for observing seabirds and marine mammals. My trips followed in the footsteps of those offered by Richard A. Rowlett (as *Atlantic Ocean Pelagic Trips*) in the 1970s and Ronald S. Naveen (as *Whales & Seabirds*) in the 1980s. Rowlett (1973, 1974a, 1974b, 1975, 1976a, 1976b, 1977a, 1977b, 1980) published summaries of his 1971–1977 trips. (Rowlett is currently Senior Marine Mammal Observer for the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries in La Jolla, California; Naveen is currently the Founder and President of the nonprofit environmental, scientific, and educational foundation Oceanites, Inc. in Chevy Chase, Maryland.)

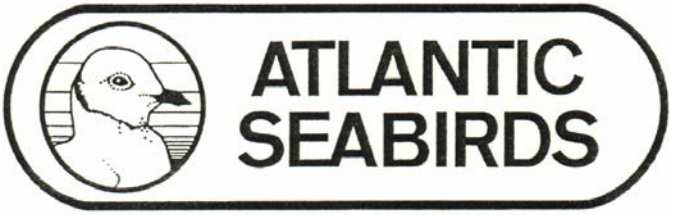

Figure 1. *Atlantic Seabirds* logo.

Atlantic Seabirds chartered the oceangoing *O.C. Princess* (Figure 2), berthed at Shantytown Pier in West Ocean City. The 27-m (90-ft), double-deck *O.C. Princess* was brand new and state-of-the-art. It was powered by three V-10 turbocharged diesel engines, capable of doing 31 knots (36 mph), and was licensed to go 161 km (100 mi) offshore. Amenities included rest rooms, a heated/air-conditioned cabin, indoor and outdoor seating, a full-boat public address system, and a full-service galley offering a hot and cold breakfast, lunch, and snack menu. There was even a cash bar.

Figure 2. The *O.C. Princess* returning to Ocean City inlet after an *Atlantic Seabirds* pelagic trip (date and photographer unknown).

The highly-experienced trip leaders included the late Maurice Barnhill (>100 Atlantic and 25 Pacific pelagic trips), the late Rick Blom (50 Atlantic and 10 Pacific offshore trips), Tom "Mac" McIntyre (175 Atlantic and 30 Pacific pelagic trips), Ron Naveen (8000 hours on the north Atlantic, north and central Pacific, and Antarctic Oceans), Michael O'Brien (15 years of experience off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts), and Hal Wierenga (>100 Atlantic and 7 Pacific pelagic trips). Occasionally, various guest trip leaders were onboard, e.g., Jon Dunn, Paul Lehman, Brian Patteson, etc. Each trip was scheduled to last 12 hours, although not all did, depending on day length and weather conditions. Captain Monty Hawkins used a daily satellite photo of the Gulf Stream eddies to assist with each trip's course plotting. The primary destinations were Baltimore, Poor Man's, and Wilmington Canyons, the edge of the continental shelf and slope, and the Gulf Stream eddies (Figure 3). To attract tubenose species (i.e., Northern Fulmar, shearwaters, and storm-petrels), we laid down chum slicks of coarsely-ground beef suet and cod liver oil from the stern of the boat. Chumming usually fell to Michael O'Brien who had a greater tolerance for diesel fumes and the odor of cod liver oil.

Four trips (weather dates in parentheses) were scheduled for 1991: 4(5) May, 17 August, 28 September, and 23(24) November; and seven were scheduled for 1992: 29 February (1 March), 25 April, 6 June, 1 August, 15 August, 12 September, and 5(6) December. Due to inclement weather conditions, only nine of the eleven scheduled trips actually ran.

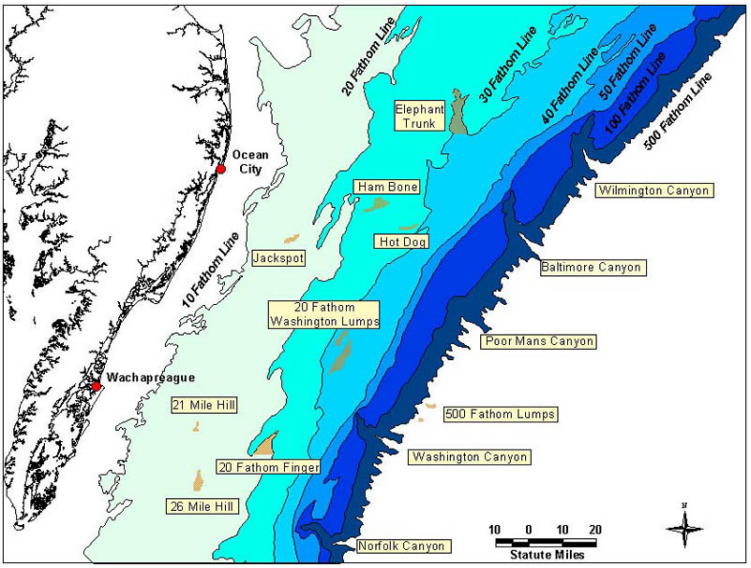

Figure 3. Mid-Atlantic Coast offshore locations (MDNR 2017).

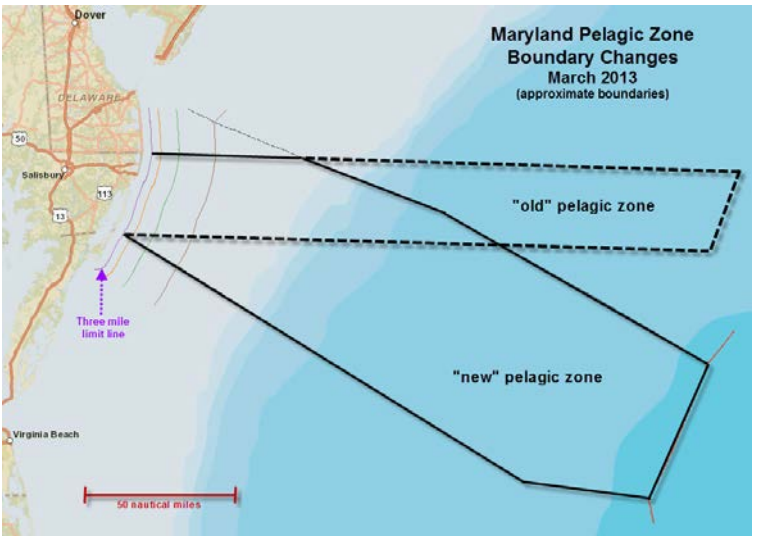

Figure 4. Maryland pelagic zone boundary changes. A comparison of the "due east" (old) method of the 1990s versus the current "closest point of land" (new) method (image created by Phil Davis, in litt., 31 July 2017; Hafner et al. 2013a, 2013b).

STATE BOUNDARIES

When pelagic trips were run in the early 1990s, the state coastal boundaries that were used extended due east from the coastal land state boundaries (Figure 4). For birding purposes, Maryland's coastal water boundaries extended due east as two parallel lines, i.e., the Maryland/Delaware border and the Maryland/Virginia border. Based on this method, Baltimore and Wilmington Canyons were considered to be in Maryland waters and Poor Man's Canyon was considered to be in Virginia waters.

The current practice (e.g., American Birding Association, eBird, and some state bird records committees [Dias 2012]) is to determine borders based on nearness to the closest point of land (Figure 4). The Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee adopted this newer practice in 2013 (Hafner et al. 2013a, 2013b). This is also known as the "principle of equidistance" (Dias 2012). This principle is used by the United States government for "Setting Federal OCS [outer continental shelf] offshore administrative boundaries beyond State submerged lands [0–3 nautical miles (0–3.5 mi) offshore] for Department of the Interior planning, coordination, and administrative purposes" (MMS-DOI 2006). For birding purposes, this method extends Maryland's coastal waters much farther south than the "due east" method. Waters previously considered to have been in Virginia (e.g., Poor Man's Canyon, the [500 Fathom] Lumps, and the area north of Washington Canyon [but not in it, which is in Virginia]), now are considered to be in Maryland. This factor became very relevant for many species records. However, by using the "closest point of land" method, Maryland lost Wilmington Canyon to New Jersey.

OBSERVATIONS

Unfortunately, all of my *Atlantic Seabirds* data were destroyed by Hurricane Isabel's 2.7-m (9-ft) storm surge in September 2003, when I was living in the community of Millers Island, Baltimore County, Maryland. The compiled observational data included here were gleaned from *Maryland Birdlife* and *American Birds* (Table 1), and from trip leaders and participants. In one instance, the numbers of individual birds from the published sources differed. In that case, both numbers were reported (i.e., 27^{MB} or 20^{AB}).

Over the course of two years, we observed two species of phalaropes (Red-necked and Red), four species of jaegers (skua sp., Pomarine, Parasitic, and Long-tailed), three species of alcids (Dovekie, Razorbill, and Atlantic Puffin), Black-legged Kittiwake, Bridled Tern, ten species of tubenoses (Wilson's White-faced, Leach's, and Band-rumped Storm-Petrels; Northern Fulmar; Cory's, Sooty, Great, Manx, and Audubon's Shearwaters), and Northern Gannet (Table 2)

Table 1. Published sources for *Atlantic Seabirds* pelagic cruise data.

Trip Date	*American Birds* Citation	*Maryland Birdlife* Citation
4 May 1991	Armistead 1991	Ringler 1991
17 August 1991 28 September 1991 23 November 1991	Armistead 1992a	Southworth and Southworth 1992a
1 March 1992 25 April 1992	Armistead 1992b	Southworth and Southworth 1992b
6 June 1992	Armistead 1992c	Southworth and Southworth 1992c
1 August 1992 8 August 1992	Armistead 1993	Southworth and Southworth 1993

Seven species of marine mammals were observed over the course of the nine pelagic trips (Table 3). Three species of dolphins were observed: Short-beaked Common, Bottlenosed (offshore morphotype), and Risso's. Bottlenosed Dolphins have both coastal and offshore morphotypes. Mead and Potter (1995) found differences in their distributions, overall length, skull morphology, food habits, and parasite burden. They found that the coastal population occurred near the coast, whereas the offshore population clustered along the 1,000 fathom (6,000 ft) bottom contour. They also found that overall lengths of the coastal population had a mode of 2.50–2.60 m (8.2–8.5 ft), and the offshore population had a mode of 2.90 m (9.5 ft). Pilot whales were observed on four dates, but distinguishing between Long-finned and Short-finned Pilot Whales is difficult to impossible at sea. In general, Long-finned are a more northern, colder-water species and Short-finned are a more southern, warmer-water species. Maryland is in the overlap zone where either species could potentially occur. Three species of large whales were observed: Humpback, Fin, and Sei.

Three species of marine turtles were observed over the two years: Loggerhead, Green, and Leatherback Sea Turtles (Table 4). Loggerhead Sea Turtles were the most frequently encountered.

Ocean Sunfish were the most common observed miscellaneous fauna (Table 5). A close view of a Whale Shark and two Portuguese Man o' War made interesting sightings.

Table 2. Avian species observed on *Atlantic Seabirds* pelagic cruises. If numbers differed between the published sources, both numbers are reported (e.g., 2^{MB} and 3^{AB} [^{MB} = *Maryland Birdlife*, ^{AB} = *American Birds*]). "+" = present, but not counted.

Species	4 May 1991	17 August 1991	28 September 1991	23 November 1991	1 March 1992	25 April 1992	6 June 1992	1 August 1992	8 August 1992
Brant (*Branta bernicla*)				9					
Surf Scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*)				3	20	2			
Black Scoter (*Melanitta americana*)	35			10	19	5			
scoter sp. (*Melanitta* sp.)				10	100				
Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*)					9				
Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)		1				3			
Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)				2					
Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*)		2							
Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*)		9							
Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*)	3								
Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*)	18	3				2	2		2
Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)	10			37					
phalarope sp. (*Phalaropus* sp.)	6					2			
skua sp. (*Stercorarius* sp.)					2				
Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)	3		6	2			1		
Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)	3			1		3			2
Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)			1						
jaeger sp. (*Stercorarius* sp.)			7	1		1	1	1	2
Dovekie (*Alle alle*)				1	139				
Razorbill (*Alca torda*)				18	11				
large alcid sp. (*Uria* sp. or *Alca torda*)				3	22				
Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*)					1				
Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)				12	16				
Bonaparte's Gull (*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*)				1000	106	5			
Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)					2				
Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*)				1	1				
Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*)		19	231	15		4+	4		2
Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*)				100	655	+			
Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)			90	268	720	1025+	17		1
Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*)					1				
Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)				2	3	1			
Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)		2	56	98	127	11+	1		
gull sp. (family Laridae, subfamily Larinae)			34						
Bridled Tern (*Onychoprion anaethetus*)		3							4
Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*)						5			
Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*)	27^{MB} or 20^{AB}					2			
Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)	250	37	5			27	9	10	57

Species	4 May 1991	17 August 1991	28 September 1991	23 November 1991	1 March 1992	25 April 1992	6 June 1992	1 August 1992	8 August 1992
Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)								1	
Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*)				100					
Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*)			1			5	3	1	4
tern sp. (family Laridae, subfamily Sterninae)			2			4		1	
Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*)						15			
Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*)	1			25	14	200			
Common Loon (*Gavia immer*)	100		1	27	2	63	3		
loon sp. (*Gavia* sp.)						1			
Wilson's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*)	8	370				10	208	3	251
White-faced Storm-Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*)		1							
Leach's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*)									9
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*)		1							
large storm-petrel sp. (*Oceanodroma* sp.)		1	1						3
Northern Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*)			1		18	3			
Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*)		984	14						1
Sooty Shearwater (*Ardenna grisea*)						11	66		
Great Shearwater (*Ardenna gravis*)		333	5	287			48		9
large shearwater sp. (*Calonectris* sp. or *Ardenna* sp.)		21	2						2
Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*)	1			16		1			
Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus lherminieri*)		73							14
small black-&-white shearwater sp. (*Puffinus* sp.)		5	1				1		
Northern Gannet (*Morus bassanus*)	3			127	213	47			
Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*)				10		500			
Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)						15			1
Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*)			1						
raptor sp. (order Accipitriformes)			1						
"Yellow-shafted" Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus auratus*)			5						
Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*)	1								
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)	1	3				1			
Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*)			2						
Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*)						1			
White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*)						2			
Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*)						1			
Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)						1			
Cape May Warbler (*Setophaga tigrina*)			2						
Blackpoll Warbler (*Setophaga striata*)			1						
warbler sp. (family Parulidae sp.)			3						
passerine sp. (order Passeriformes)			2						

Table 3. Marine mammals observed on *Atlantic Seabirds* pelagic cruises.

Species	4 May 1991	17 August 1991	28 September 1991	23 November 1991	1 March 1992	25 April 1992	6 June 1992	1 August 1992	8 August 1992
Short-beaked Common Dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*)					8				
Bottlenosed Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) – offshore morph	2	35	60	3		41			47
Risso's Dolphin (*Grampus griseus*) [many observed on several dates; no surviving data]		40							
dolphin sp. (family Delphinidae)		1					1		
Long-finned Pilot Whale (*Globicephala melas*) or Short-finned Pilot Whale (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*)		125	18			10	1		
Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)	1							1	
Fin Whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*) [1 or more observed on several dates; no surviving data]						6			
Sei Whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*) [at least 1 observed on at least two dates; no surviving data]									
whale sp. (order Cetacea)		1		1	1	1			
dolphin/whale sp. (order Cetacea)							1		

Table 4. Marine turtles observed on *Atlantic Seabirds* pelagic cruises.

Species	4 May 1991	17 August 1991	28 September 1991	23 November 1991	1 March 1992	25 April 1992	6 June 1992	1 August 1992	8 August 1992
Loggerhead Sea Turtle (*Caretta caretta*) [1 or more observed on several dates; no surviving data]			1						
Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) [1 observed on one or two dates; no surviving data]									
Leatherback Sea Turtle (*Dermochelys coriace*)		2							
turtle sp. (superfamily Chelonioidea)							1		

Table 5. Miscellaneous fauna observed on *Atlantic Seabirds* pelagic cruises.

Species	4 May 1991	17 August 1991	28 September 1991	23 November 1991	1 March 1992	25 April 1992	6 June 1992	1 August 1992	8 August 1992
bat sp. (order Chiroptera)		1							
Whale Shark (*Rhincodon typus*)		1							
shark sp. (subclass Elasmobranchii)							1		
Ocean Sunfish (*Mola mola*)		1				5	10		1
Portuguese Man o' War (*Physalia physalis*)		2							

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

4 May 1991

No surviving time or location data.

Seabirds included 18 Red-necked Phalaropes, 10 Red Phalaropes, 3 Pomarine Jaegers (including 1 light-morph adult), 3 Parasitic Jaegers (all light-morph), 27[MB] or 20[AB] Black Terns, 250 Common Terns, 100 Common Loons, 8 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, 1 Manx Shearwater, and 3 Northern Gannets. Marine mammals included 2 Bottlenosed Dolphins and 1 Humpback Whale.

17 August 1991

0600–1800 hours; sites included the [500 Fathom] Lumps, the area north of Washington Canyon [but not in it], Poor Man's Canyon, Baltimore Canyon, and the [Ocean City 20 Fathom] Fingers.

This was one of the best pelagic trips ever run in Maryland waters. The seas were almost dead calm. We spent some time around squid fishery ships. The seabirds and other marine life were exceptional. Seabirds included 3 Red-necked Phalaropes (adults), 3 Bridled Terns (adults), 370 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, 1 White-faced Storm-Petrel (first photodocumented Maryland report), 1 Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (first photodocumented Maryland report), 984 Cory's Shearwaters, 333 Great Shearwaters, and 73 Audubon's Shearwaters. We also spotted a Whimbrel approximately 129 km [80 mi] offshore at Baltimore Canyon! Marine mammals included 35 offshore morph Bottlenosed Dolphins, 40 Risso's Dolphins, 125 Long-finned or Short-finned Pilot Whales, and 1 unidentified whale. Other fauna included 2 Leatherback Sea Turtles, 1 unidentified bat, 1 Whale Shark, 1 Ocean Sunfish, and 2 Portuguese Man-o'-War (19.8 km [12.3 mi] offshore). First-time participants pondered

"I've always heard that pelagic trips are so grueling and difficult, but this is a piece of cake." Little could they understand that calm seas and an abundance of marine life was the exception, not the rule. Also, using the "due east" state borders of that time, the majority of the sightings were considered to be in Virginia waters, but using the current "closest point of land" state borders, these sightings are now considered to have occurred within Maryland waters.

28 September 1991
0600–1800 hours; sites included Baltimore Canyon and Wilmington Canyon.

Seabirds included 6 Pomarine Jaegers, 1 Long-tailed Jaeger (juvenile; first photodocumented Maryland record), 1 Northern Fulmar, 14 Cory's Shearwaters, and 5 Great Shearwaters. Marine mammals included 60 offshore morph Bottlenosed Dolphins and 15 Long-finned or Short-finned Pilot Whales. Other sightings included 1 Loggerhead Sea Turtle. Using the "due east" state borders of that time, the majority of the sightings were considered to be in Maryland waters or along the Maryland/Delaware line, but using the current "closest point of land" state borders, sightings in the vicinity of Wilmington Canyon are now considered to have occurred within New Jersey waters. The only observation with available latitude/longitude coordinates was the Long-tailed Jaeger, a Maryland sighting.

23 November 1991
No surviving time or location data.

Seabirds included 37 Red Phalaropes, 2 Pomarine Jaegers, 1 Parasitic Jaeger, 1 Dovekie, 18 Razorbills, 12 Black-legged Kittiwakes, 1000 Bonaparte's Gulls, 1 Little Gull, 2 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, 287 Great Shearwaters, 16 Manx Shearwaters, and 127 Northern Gannets.

1 March 1992
0645–~1500 hours; sites included the continental shelf, Baltimore Canyon, and the continental slope.

Bird-wise, this was a marvelous winter trip. Seabirds included 2 skua sp. (Baltimore Canyon), 139 Dovekies, 11 Razorbills, 1 Atlantic Puffin, 16 Black-legged Kittiwakes, 2 Black-headed Gulls (1 first-winter, 1 adult-winter), 1 Little Gull (adult-winter), 1 Iceland Gull (first-winter), 3 Lesser Black-backed Gulls (1 first-winter, 2 adult-winter), 18 Northern Fulmars, and 213 Northern Gannets. We observed 8 Short-beaked Common Dolphins. Weather-wise, this trip was the antithesis of the 17 August 1991 trip. The day was very windy, blowing 25 knots (29 mph) out of the west. It was fairly easy getting out to Baltimore Canyon with a trailing wind, but we paid for it on the return trip, heading into high winds and high seas, waves crashing over the wheelhouse most of the trip back to Shantytown.

25 April 1992
~0615–1830 hours; sites included the Jack Spot, the [Ocean City 20 Fathom] Fingers, the Hot Dog, and Baltimore Canyon.

Seabirds included 2 Red-necked Phalaropes, 3 Parasitic Jaegers (including 1 adult), 1 Lesser Black-backed Gull, 200 Red-throated Loons, 63 Common Loons, 10 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, 3 Northern Fulmars, 11 Sooty Shearwaters, 1 Manx Shearwater, 47 Northern Gannets, and 500 Double-crested Cormorants. Marine mammals included 41 offshore morph Bottlenosed Dolphins, 10 Long-finned or Short-finned Pilot Whales, and 6 Fin Whales. We also observed 5 Ocean Sunfish.

6 June 1992
0550–1800 hours; sites included the Hot Dog.

Seabirds included 1 Pomarine Jaeger, 208 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, 66 Sooty Shearwaters, and 48 Great Shearwaters. Other fauna included 1 Long-finned or Short-finned Pilot Whale and 10 Ocean Sunfish.

1 August 1992
0545–0800 hours; sites included the Jack Spot.

This trip was cut short due to high winds and high seas. Seabirds included 1 Arctic Tern (first-summer; first photodocumented Maryland pelagic record) and 3 Wilson's Storm-Petrels. We had magnificent close-up looks at a Humpback Whale.

8 August 1992
0545–1745 hours

Seabirds included 2 Red-necked Phalaropes, 2 Parasitic Jaegers, 4 Bridled Terns, 251 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, 9 Leach's Storm-Petrel, 1 Cory's Shearwater, 9 Great Shearwaters, and 14 Audubon's Shearwaters. Other fauna included 47 offshore morph Bottlenosed Dolphins and 1 Ocean Sunfish.

MARYLAND/DC RECORDS COMMITTEE REVIEW SPECIES

Four of the observed avian species (Long-tailed Jaeger, *Stercorarius longicaudus*; Arctic Tern, *Sterna paradisaea*; White-faced Storm-Petrel, *Pelagodroma marina*; and Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, *Oceanodroma castro*) were on the Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee Maryland Review List. A brief summary of each observation follows.

Long-tailed Jaeger, *Stercorarius longicaudus*

28 September 1991; one juvenile bird; Baltimore Canyon; Maryland's first photodocumented record; Control Number 1992-027 accepted by Maryland/DC Records Committee (MD/DCRC 2017) (Figure 5).

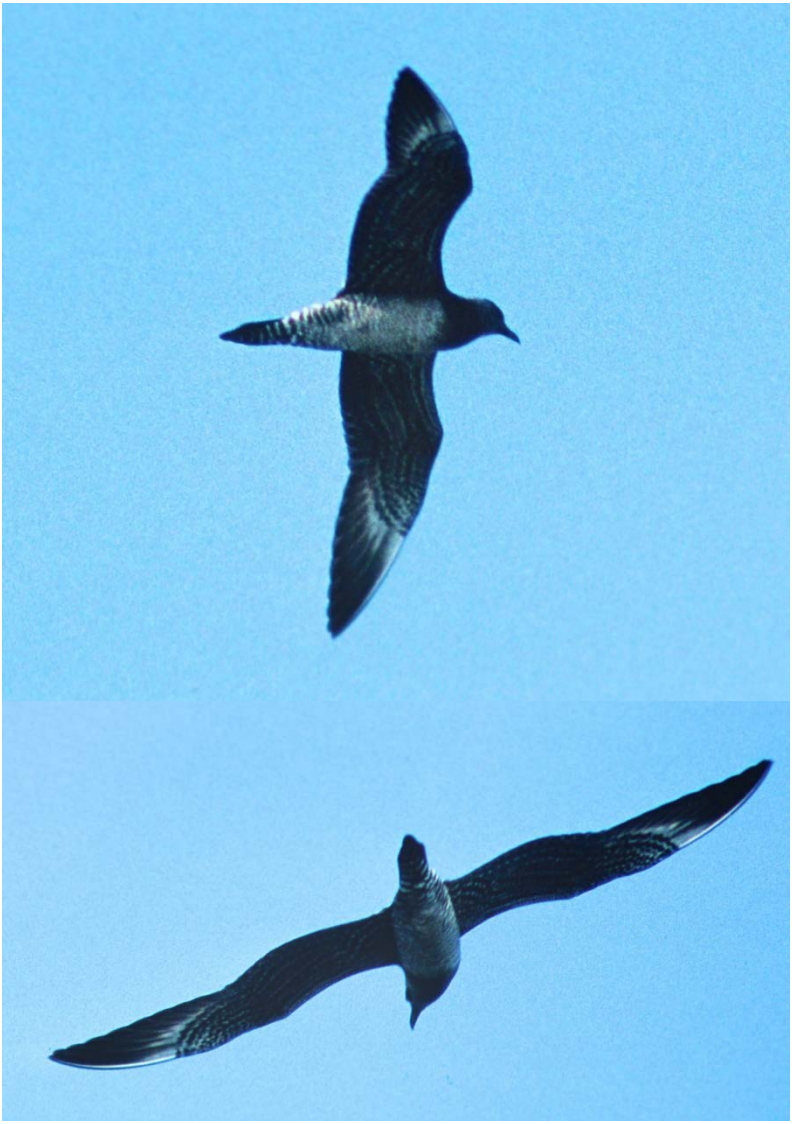

Figure 5. Long-tailed Jaeger. Juvenile; 28 September 1991, photographed by Dave Czaplak.

Arctic Tern, *Sterna paradisaea*

1 August 1992; one 1st-summer bird; 38° 04.21' N, 74° 54.54' W; Maryland's first photodocumented pelagic record; Control Number 1994-026 accepted by Maryland/DC Records Committee (MD/DCRC 2017) (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Arctic Tern. 1st-summer plumage; top: dorsal view; bottom: ventral view; 1 August 1992, photographed by Brian Patteson.

White-faced Storm-Petrel, *Pelagodroma marina*

17 August 1991; one bird; Washington Canyon; 37° 33.27' N, 74° 07.97' W; Maryland's first photodocumented report; Control Number 2014-077 ready for review by Maryland/DC Records Committee (MD/DCRC 2017) (Figure 7).

Figure 7. White-faced Storm-Petrel. 17 August 1991, photographed by Paul O'Brien (top) and Dave Czaplak (bottom).

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, *Oceanodroma castro*

17 August 1991; one bird; Washington Canyon; 37° 33.27' N, 74° 07.97' W; Maryland's first photodocumented report; Control Number 2014-078 ready for review by Maryland/DC Records Committee (MD/DCRC 2017) (Figure 8). (Note that Band-rumped Storm-Petrel [*O. castro* s.lat.] may actually represent a species complex (Cape Verde [*O. jabejabe*], "Grant's" [not formally described], Madeiran [*O. castro* s.str.], and Monteiro's [*O. monteiroi*] Storm-Petrels [Howell et al. 2010, O'Brien 2018].)

Figure 8. Band-rumped Storm-Petrel. 17 August 1991, photographed by Paul O'Brien (top) and Dave Czaplak (bottom).

POSTSCRIPT

For two years, the six leaders and I enjoyed the *Atlantic Seabirds* pelagic venture, but when the availability of affordable and capable charter boats came to an end, we hung up our sea-soaked binoculars.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I gratefully acknowledge and thank the six *Atlantic Seabirds* trip leaders. Without the pelagic expertise of Maurice Barnhill, Rick Blom, Mac McIntyre, Ron Naveen, Michael O'Brien, and Hal Wierenga, these trips could not have been possible. I also thank Captain Monty Hawkins for his expert piloting of the *O.C. Princess* that provided excellent views of these difficult-to-see oceanic species. Special thanks are extended to Michael O'Brien for his detailed tallying of the observational data that were used in this article. Additional trip data were provided by Lynn Davidson, Phil Davis, Mac McIntyre, Paul O'Brien, and Hal Wierenga. Photos were provided by Dave Czaplak, Paul O'Brien, and Brian Patteson. I offer thanks to Phil Davis, Matt Hafner, and an anonymous reviewer for their helpful comments that improved the manuscript. Lastly, thanks are due to Ross Holtz for the design of the *Atlantic Seabirds* logo and to Ruth and Harry Cook for our group accommodations at Long Acres Motel & Cottages in Ocean City.

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