

Shag Rocks, South Georgia (At Sea)

Feb 2, 2018 - National Geographic Orion



A grey petrel banking high against the cloudy skies this morning.



Our guests taking in the views of Shag Rocks, South Georgia.



Two species of storm petrel were seen throughout the day: black-bellied storm petrel (left) and Wilson's storm petrel.



An Antarctic prion.



The rain at Shag Rocks didn't dampen our spirits. Although the seas were high, our navigation officers brought the ship in close to give us great views of the nesting shags.



Shag Rocks emerging into view from the rain. It was hard to believe that such a remote and inhospitable place could be home to so many birds.

It was our last full day at sea before reaching South Georgia. We crossed the Antarctic Convergence Zone today and it is now noticeably colder, with a distinct change in the avifauna. As 2018 is the National Geographic Year of the Bird, our guests are getting in the spirit with plenty of birdwatching sessions from the aft deck during our sea days. Why not get involved and check out the Year of the Bird website (www.nationalgeographic.org/projects/year-of-the-bird) or follow #YearoftheBird and #BirdYourWorld on Twitter and Instagram. Lindblad is supporting this initiative by having YoB Ambassadors on our expeditions.

About the Author



Conor Ryan • Naturalist

Hailing from Cobh in the south of Ireland, Conor Ryan grew up on the shores of Cork Harbour where his fascination with the sea led him to study zoology at University College Cork. He continued his studies in marine biology in Galway, where he completed his Ph.D. thesis on the diet and population structure of baleen whales in the Celtic Sea using stable isotope analysis. His research also brought him to Cape Verde in search of the breeding grounds of humpback whales that frequent the coasts of Ireland. However these whales have not yet given up their secret!