



Breeding Seasons of Some Selected Falkland Islands Wildlife

The following dates are approximate. Exact dates may vary between years depending upon the condition of the animals prior to return and may also vary between sites, with for example Beauchene Island usually being one week in advance of other breeding sites. There is also variation within the population with some individuals returning earlier or later. Dates may vary by +/- 3 weeks.

Species	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May
Seabirds										
Gentoo Penguin		Numbers start to increase as adults return to colony vicinity	Egg laying 3 rd week Oct (highly variable +/- 3 wks)	Incubation 34-36 days	Hatch early Dec & broodguard 25 days (10 days on nest)	Early Jan start to crèche at age 25-30 days	Both parents provision. Some may fledge from mid Feb	Fledge early Mar at 14 wks old	Adults moult (15-20 days) from late March	Remain in FI during winter (up to 50% at colony)
Magellanic Penguin		Adults return through Sept	Egg laying mid Oct	Incubation 35 – 40 days	Hatch 2 nd wk Dec		Chicks leave burrows	Chicks fledge mid March. Adults moult in March	Migrate to SA coast and north as far as Brazil	
Rockhopper Penguin			Males return early Oct and females 1 wk later	Eggs laid 1 st week Nov Incubation 32-34 days	Hatch early Dec. Brood guard 24 –26 days.	Chicks crèche	Late Feb chicks fledge at 65 –75 days old	Chicks fledge early March. Adults provision & return for moult	Moult late Mar & Apr. (20-25 days) Depart mid Apr.	Disperse northwards on shelf
King Penguin		18-month breeding cycle	Large/small chicks and eggs at various stages simultaneously	1 st Peak adult moult. Majority previous years chicks depart Nov/Dec	2 nd peak adult moult. Eggs laid mid Nov – mid March	50 day incubation	First chicks hatch late Jan / Feb			May – August chicks may be fed only 3 times & lose 50% weight
Black-browed Albatross		Males return late Sept Females early Oct	Eggs laid mid Oct	Incubation 70 days	Hatch late Dec Brood guard 25 days	Brood guard until mid Jan	Both adults provision	Both adults provision	Chicks fledge mid/late Apr at 122 days old	Juveniles disperse north to Brazil and return at 7 years.
Southern Giant Petrel		Return late Sept to colonies	Egg laying mid Oct – early Nov	Incubation 60 days				Chicks fledge late March		
Other seabird species.		Most other species will fit within the same breeding season.	Generally smaller birds shorter season & later laying							
Waterbirds & Others										
Rock Shag		Nest building commences late Sept	Eggs laid			Chicks fledge Jan/Feb	Chicks fledge Jan/Feb			
White-tufted grebe		Nest building commences late Sept	Eggs laid but some times as late as December			Chicks fledge Jan/Feb				

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Black-crowned night heron			Eggs laid mid to late Oct. Some evidence for young birds to lay later.			Eggs found as late as Jan may represent late laying or double brooding				
Black-necked swan	Breeding can commence early Aug	Breeding early/mid Sept	Incubation 5 wks & hatch Oct			Chicks fledge at 3 months age				
Upland Goose		Breeding commences Sept & Oct	Eggs incubated 30 days		Chicks fledge at 70 days					
Falkland flightless steamer duck		Egg laying mid Sept onwards until Dec.			Chicks fledge at under 3 months					
Yellow-billed teal	Egg laying starts mid August			Double brooding is possible					Young observed as late as April	
Red-backed hawk & Turkey Vulture		Nesting can commence in Sept but more commonly Oct.	Incubation 45 – 50 days			Young fledge Jan				
Marine Mammals										
Elephant Seals		Bulls arrive early Sept Cows arrive 1 wk later mid Sept	Pupping late Sept / early Oct. Pups suckled for 23 days and x4 birth weight. Remate at end lactation (20 days) and females depart after only 27 days ashore	Pups remain ashore for 45 days fasting after females departure Males depart late Nov after 3 months having lost 40% body weight.		Adults haul out late Jan / early Feb to moult for 25 days				
Sea Lions					Bulls establish territory Cows arrive late Dec / early Jan.	Pupping from late Dec to mid Jan. Females mate 2/3 days after pupping. After mating females conduct short foraging trips returning every few days to suckle pup	Late Jan pups form into pods and bull territories break up Pups may suckle / remain dependant for 12 months +	After breeding no segregation and mixed groups hauled out		