

New research approaches on albatrosses from the sub-Antarctic Diego Ramírez Islands, Chile

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During the 2010-2011 breeding season for Black-browed and Grey-headed albatrosses at the Diego Ramírez islands (southern Chile), Cristián G. Suazo from the Universidad Austral de Chile (Institute of Ecology and Evolution) is carrying-out integrated studies on these globally endangered and vulnerable species.

Cristián has focused his work on gaining a better understanding of the contributing factors related to the condition of individual birds. Factors under consideration include adult health (e.g. chronic stress, parasite load, anti-oxidant levels), breeding habitat selection, environmental factors such as regional oceanographic and climatic variability plus the potential effects related to fisheries in important foraging ranges. His field collaborator during this breeding season was Jaime A. Cursach from Universidad de Los Lagos (Laboratorio de Ecología - Laboratory of Ecology), Chile.



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This study includes a second 4 to 5 month period of fieldwork during the 2011-2012 breeding season to complement the current season. During fieldwork activities include the ringing of breeding adult birds, the first ever ringing of pre-fledging albatrosses in Chile and the use of spatial tracking technologies to monitor adult birds and the first attempts to identify juvenile dispersion.

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