

# MACQUARIE ISLAND

## THE ISLAND YEAR

ANIMALS	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Wandering albatross	Chicks beginning to get adult feathers	Fully grown chicks practising flying	Return to MI; display and lay during first weeks of December
Grey headed albatross	Displaying - laying	On eggs; could be displaying	Hatching
Black browed albatross	Displaying - laying	On eggs; could be displaying	Hatching
Light mantled sooty albatross	Return; start laying 23/10 onwards	On eggs	On eggs; hatching 26/12-3/1
Gentoo penguins	Some hatch around 18/10	Young chicks	All stages: eggs to fledging chicks
Rockhopper penguins	Return around 15/10	On eggs; displaying	Hatching mid-month; yearlings come ashore to moult
King penguins	Adults moulting; early chicks begin moult	Adults moulting, chicks fledging; starting to lay	On eggs; adults moulting; chicks fledging
Royal penguins	Lay around 25/10	Hatching around 20/10	Young chicks forming creches
Giant petrel	Colonials lay; solitaries hatch	Colonials on eggs; solitary chicks	Colonials hatching 5-20/11
White headed petrel		Laying 24/11-16/12	Laying
Antarctic prion			Laying; massed aerial display at night
Macquarie Island cormorant		On eggs; some hatching; displaying	2 <sup>nd</sup> brood laying; young chicks; displaying
Dominican gull		Hatching late November	Hatching late in month
Skua	Lay around 9/10	Laying; territorial displays	Hatching late December; territorial displays; large aggregations of non-breeders
Elephant seals	All pups born by end of month; cows start to leave	Beaches littered with young pups; breeding bulls/cows going to sea	Pups weaned; mating; weaners leaving end of month
Fur seals		A few	Pups born; summer populations begin to build up
Leopard seals	Visits	Possible visits	Possible visits
Hooker sea lion	Possible visits	Possible visits	Possible visits

Footnote: I found this while clearing out the SL's office. It was marked "Copson", but whether he wrote it, or just owned it is not known.

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ANIMALS	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
Wandering albatross	Egg laying	On eggs	Hatching in first half of month
Grey headed albatross	Chicks	Larger chicks	Fledging
Black browed albatross	Chicks	Larger chicks	Fledging
Light mantled sooty albatross	Hatching (26/12-3/1); display; paired flight (best month)	Month old chicks; displaying; paired flight	Chicks 2 months old
Gentoo penguins	All stages of chicks	All stages of chicks	Chicks going to sea
Rockhopper penguins	All stages of chicks	Chicks forming creches	Fledging; going to sea
King penguins	On eggs; chicks; rookery full of breeders & moulting non-breeders	Still on eggs	Hatching; creches forming
Royal penguins	All stages of chicks, creches; parents collecting food at sea	Go off to sea	Adults finish moult; depart island
Giant petrel	Colonials – young chicks; solitaries – chicks big & moulting	Colonial chicks fairly big; solitary chicks flying away to north	Solitary chicks are flying
White headed petrel	On eggs	Hatch early February	Month old chicks
Antarctic prion	On eggs	Hatch early February; offshore feeding	Month old chicks
Macquarie Island cormorant	Displaying; 2 <sup>nd</sup> brood hatching; 1 <sup>st</sup> brood chicks completing moult	2 <sup>nd</sup> brood chicks	Rookeries full; young fully grown and ready to fly
Dominican gull	Young chicks; hatching around 1/1	Larger chicks	
Skua	Fledging	Young chicks flying	
Elephant seals	Weaners still leaving; cows coming ashore to moult	Mainly cows and young bulls	Bulls come ashore to moult
Fur seals	Numbers building up	Maximum numbers	Numbers decreasing
Leopard seals	None	None	
Hooker sea lion	Occasional visits	Rare visits	

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ANIMALS	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
Wandering albatross	Parent still guarding chicks; will soon leave them on their own	Chicks remain on nest over winter	Chicks remain on nest over winter
Grey headed albatross	Leave island		
Black browed albatross	Leave island		
Light mantled sooty albatross	Chicks fully grown and losing down	Chicks fledge and leave 15/5-15/6	All gone by 15/6
Gentoo penguins		Remain over winter; feeding late chicks	
Rockhopper penguins	Adults return to moult, then go to sea for 4-5 months	Colonies starting to empty	Fledging; going to sea
King penguins	Most eggs have hatched	Chicks – many stages; few non-breeding adults	Chicks in creches; few adults
Royal penguins	Colonies empty by end of month	Go off to sea	
Giant petrel	Last colonials fledge by 25/4		
White headed petrel		Fledge and leave	
Antarctic prion		Fledge and leave	
Macquarie Island cormorant	Remain over winter	Remain over winter	
Dominican gull	Remain over winter	Remain over winter	
Skua	Beginning to leave	Last ones leaving	
Elephant seals			
Fur seals	Leaving island		Down to winter numbers
Leopard seals	None	None	May visit
Hooker sea lion	None	None	

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ANIMALS	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
Wandering albatross	Chicks remain on nest over winter	Chicks remain on nest over winter	Chicks still on nest
Grey headed albatross			Return early in month; displaying
Black browed albatross			Return a bit later than Grey Heads
Light mantled sooty albatross			Arrive last few days on October
Gentoo penguins	Remain over winter	Remain over winter	Start laying around 14/10
Rockhopper penguins	At sea	At sea	At sea
King penguins	Chicks large and fluffy	Creches; high chick mortality	Creches; adult numbers increasing
Royal penguins	All stages of chicks, creches; parents collecting food at sea	*Adelies & Chinstraps are occasional visitors	Return to island around 20-22/10
Giant petrel		Soliraries begin to lay around 25/8	
White headed petrel			
Antarctic prion		Begin to return to island	
Macquarie Island cormorant		Winter plumage	
Dominican gull		Winter plumage	
Skua		Begin to return to island	
Elephant seals		Breeding bulls arrive	First pups born; harems increasing; breeding in full swing
Fur seals	Pups, if any, are weaned		Pups, if any, leave the island
Leopard seals	Should be seen	Best month for visits	
Hooker sea lion			Possible visits

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