



## BIRDING BY NUMBERS IN THE FALKLANDS

The Falkland Islands are located in the South Atlantic, about 300 miles from the nearest point on the South American mainland. Made up of two large islands (East and West Falkland) and some 738 smaller islands, visitors to the Falkland Islands can enjoy huge variety and abundance of birdlife.

Over **770,000** penguins reside in the Falklands that's more than 300 per Islander\*!

**5** of the world's penguin species can be found on the Falklands regularly. These are gentoo, rockhopper, king, macaroni and Magellanic.

King penguins have been known to dive to depths of over **300** metres.

Over **65** per cent of the global population of black-browed albatross reside in the Falkland Islands. On Steeple Jason, an island northwest of West Falkland, you can see the largest black-browed albatross colony in the world.

Over **227** listed species of bird have been recorded in the Falklands, making the Islands a top spot for wildlife enthusiasts.

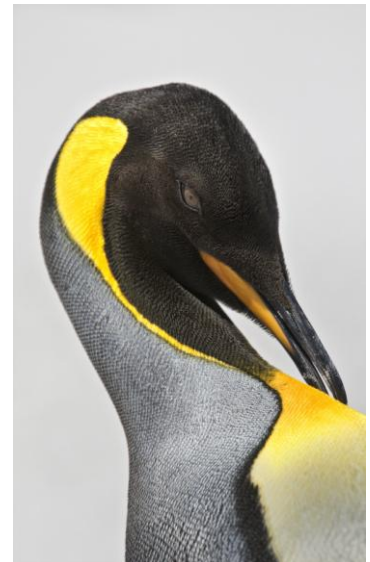
**32** bird species classed as vagrant or rare were spotted on the Falkland Islands in 2009 according to Falklands birding experts – Alan Henry and Mike Morrison.

Endemic to the Falklands, the Falkland Steamer Duck, known locally as the Logger Duck, is one of the largest varieties of duck in the world. An adult male weighs around 3 – **4.5kg**.

**85** years after Arthur Cobb first shot a small wren, it was finally confirmed by ornithologists that the wren was in fact endemic and not the continental House Wren. In 1993 Cobb's Wren was finally recognised.

The majority of the world's population of Ruddy-headed geese are found in the Falklands. At the last official count there were approximately **27,000** breeding pairs and therefore the goose is classified as Near Threatened by BirdLife International.

King penguin – Nigel McCall



A newly hatched Upland goose chick spends up to **15** hours in the nest before heading out to water never to return to the nest again.

\*The population of the Falkland Islands (excluding people affiliated to the military garrison) is approximately 2,478.

***For further information on the Falklands Islands, visit [www.falklandislands.com](http://www.falklandislands.com). Media enquiries should be directed to Suzanne Holiday at Keene on 020 7839 2140 or [falklandstourism@keenepa.co.uk](mailto:falklandstourism@keenepa.co.uk).***



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#### **Notes for Editors:**

- The Falkland Islands have a raw, unspoilt quality that entices locals and tourists back time and again. Visitors to the Islands are spoilt for choice with more than 227 species of identified birds (including several of the world's largest endangered breeding colonies), as well as whales, dolphins, elephant seals, sea lions, delicate flora and rugged geographical formations.
- The best time to visit the Islands and experience the local culture and wildlife is October to April. The average summer temperature (December to March) is 15° Celsius (59° Fahrenheit) and the Falklands has more sunshine hours and less rainfall than the UK.
- There are over 40 international tour operators offering tailor-made packages and escorted tours to the Falkland Islands. See [www.falklandislands.com](http://www.falklandislands.com) for the latest list.
- Visitors can reach the Falklands on the weekly LAN Airways flight via Chile or the charter flight operated from RAF Brize Norton in the UK by the Ministry of Defence.