

1st World Seabird Conference (WSC), Canada, 7-11 September 2010  
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I attended the “1<sup>st</sup> World Seabird Conference” (WSC), held in Victoria, Vancouver Island from 7-11 September 2010.

The conference dealt exclusively with seabirds, covering a vast range of issues around this topic. Over the course of 4 days about 270 scientific papers were presented in 5 simultaneous sessions, complemented by two consecutive poster sessions with over 350 posters. There were a variety of workshops and a commercial display area where various organizations and technical suppliers showed their wares. There was also a seabird arts exhibition and film festival. More than 800 delegates from over 40 countries attended.

The conference was hosted by 26 professional seabird research organizations from around the world. Its goal was to put seabird management and conservation into a worldwide perspective and thereby address global issues and data needs for a group as diverse as seabirds. I felt honoured to be able to represent New Zealand alongside other colleagues, as this country takes a major role regarding seabird diversity and conservation.

The conference offered a lot of sessions suiting my interests, expanding my knowledge and opening up new perspectives. I participated in sessions on climate change, foraging ecology, distribution and abundance, energetics, spatial ecology, marine protected areas, fisheries and bycatch as well as seabird and fisheries interaction and presented my own research in a session on migration and dispersal.

To catch up in person with fellow researchers whose publications I read or with whom I have been in touch via email, was exciting, enriching and certainly a first step to establish myself as a member of the international seabird community. Working on spatial distribution of albatross, breeding in New Zealand but migrating around the globe to winter in South American waters, a transboundary perspective is essential. Thus I really enjoyed meeting and talking to people doing research in countries whose waters are frequented by my study birds.

I felt that attending significantly helped to expand my knowledge of seabird ecology, distribution and conservation. It allowed me to learn about new developments in my field and to get an even better idea of what is happening out there in terms of projects related to mine.

In my PhD work, I hope to contribute to the welfare and conservation of endangered New Zealand albatross species. I feel that attending this conference did promote my efforts to support seabird conservation through scientific research.

A strong sentiment was expressed at the conference that there was a need to collaborate on a greater scale than in the past. I hope that this goodwill will continue and will benefit New Zealand seabirds.