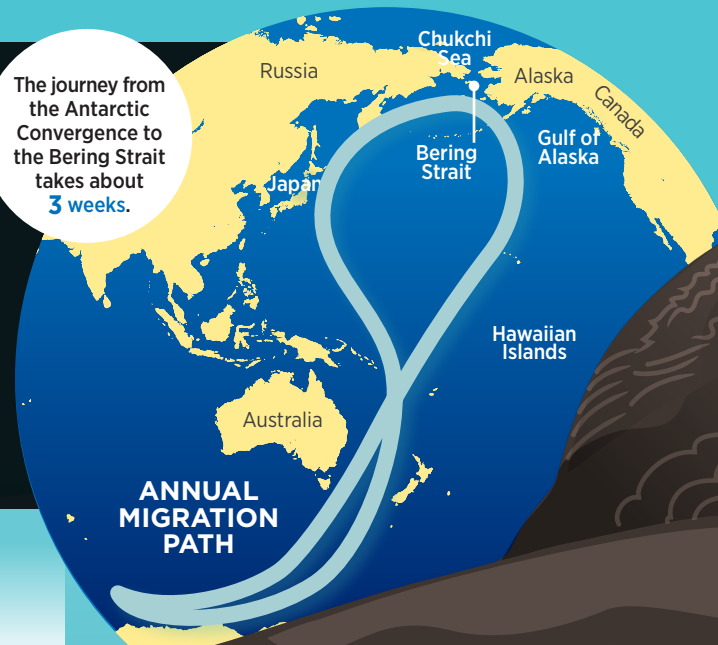


THE GREAT MIGRATION

SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER SEASON 2024

The short-tailed shearwater (*Ardenna tenuirostris*) is a mid-sized migratory bird.

The journey from the Antarctic Convergence to the Bering Strait takes about **3 weeks**.



BREEDING SEASON

1.4 million birds arrive each year.

Breeding grounds on Phillip Island (Millowl) centre around key colonies at Summerland Peninsula, Cape Woolamai and the southern coastline.

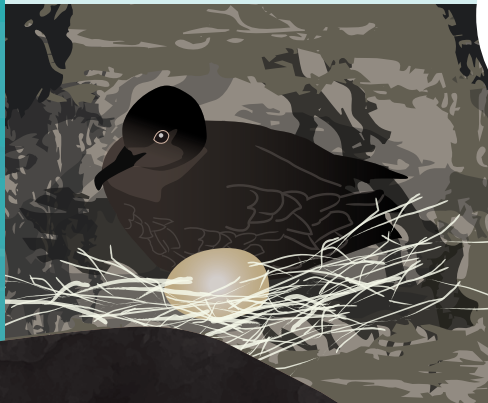
Egg laying in late **November**.

DEPARTURE

Adults depart in late **March to early April** for foraging near Antarctica.

Chicks fledge in late **April to early May** for their first northern migration.

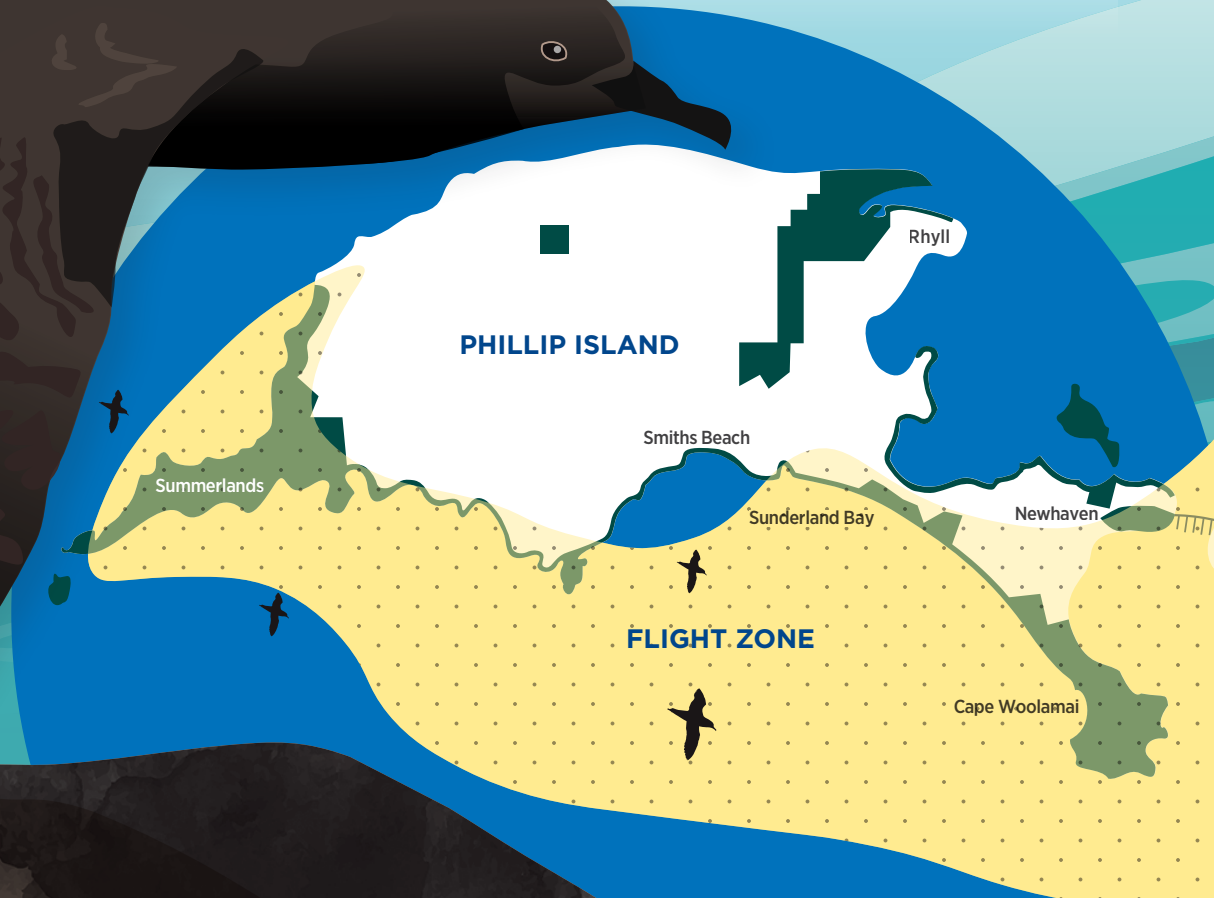
Phillip Island plays a crucial role in the life cycle of these remarkable migratory birds, providing a breeding ground and a temporary home.



OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY IMPACT

Over the **three-year duration** of the 'Dark Sky So Shearwaters Fly' campaign, the Nature Parks has continuously gained insights into the species, helping more birds successfully 'take-off' each year.

By sharing this knowledge, community awareness and positive action, of this important migratory bird species and their impressive journey has increased, encouraging changes in human behaviours around light pollution.



LIGHT POLLUTION AND SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATERS

RIISING THREATS FROM LIGHT POLLUTION

Fledglings are at risk because they are attracted to artificial lights, increasing the risk of collisions and road casualties.



Disorientation: Young birds crash land, endangering both themselves and motorists.

Dead birds attract foxes to the island.



The 'DARK SKY SO SHEARWATERS FLY' campaign

Objective: Reduce light pollution and improve traffic management to protect shearwaters.



Launched: 2022

KEY ACTIONS IN 2024

Road Patrols: Monitoring and protecting fledglings during migration.



Temporary Bridge Light Shutdowns: Reducing light during peak fledgling departure times.



Public Education: Raising awareness about the impact of light pollution.

OUTCOMES

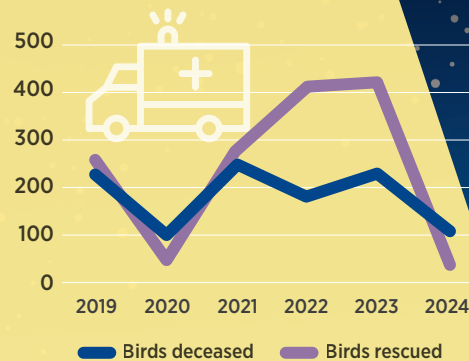
Protection and Awareness: Efforts helped safeguard the birds and educate the community.



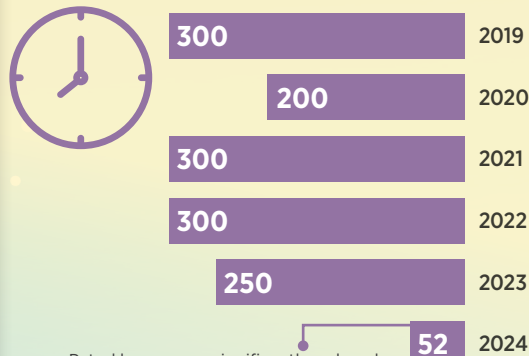
Observations: Fledglings usually depart and land on roads when winds are strong, often resulting in more birds needing to be rescued. This year, there were no strong wind events during the departure period, with fewer fledglings on the roads.



Number of Shearwaters rescued or deceased

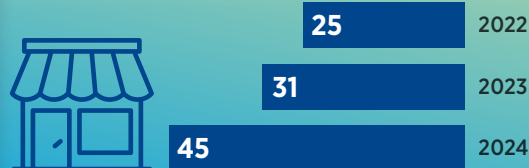


Staff hours on patrols



Patrol hours were significantly reduced due to low wind activity in 2024, the winds also resulted in fewer deceased birds found on the road.

Number of businesses signed up to campaign



TACKLING LIGHT POLLUTION IN COLLABORATION

Phillip Island is highlighted in the National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife as a success story.

By collaborating with key partners, the Nature Parks have reduced light usage during the critical shearwater fledging period.

Additionally, thoughtful lighting design along roads and buildings minimises disruption to penguins, shearwaters, and other wildlife.

Since 1999, the rescue, removal and road safety program implemented by the Nature Parks has saved approximately **8,000 birds**.

Phillip Island Nature Parks thanks all partners and sponsors who played a vital role in this success.

- WIRES
- Victorian Ornithological Research Group (VORG)
- Department of Transport and Planning
- Ausnet
- Transport Accident Commission
- Bass Coast Shire Council
- San Remo Foreshore Committee of Management
- Phillip Island Visitors Information Centre
- WE-EF LIGHTING
- Media Banc
- Phillip Island businesses
- Phillip Island residents

'We at the **Vietnam Vets Museum** are proud to be associated with the dark sky community effort to ensure the shearwater chicks can safely leave our shores. It's wonderful to be a part of such an important island-wide venture. Working together does make a difference.'



Volunteers and staff of NVVM

