

Engineering in Antarctica

Geo-Locator / Activity Recorder

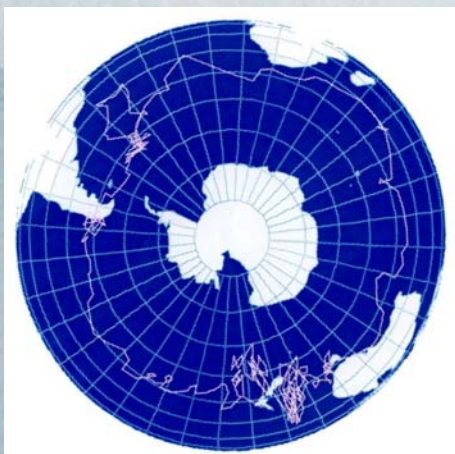
Vsevolod Afanasyev, Andy Tait and Neil Audley

British Antarctic Survey, High Cross, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0ET, UK
(E-mail: vaf@bas.ac.uk)



Male Wandering Albatross
(pre-breeder 1998)

The Geo-locator / activity recorder is an essential instrument used to record the flight patterns of migrating birds. This instrument was developed by engineers at The British Antarctic Survey (BAS), primarily for recording the behaviour of the Wandering Albatross. The technique uses the change in light levels at different latitudes and longitudes to determine where the bird has been. A second measurement is also taken which determines whether the bird is on the water or flying. Information is recovered by down loading the data from the logger to a PC for analysis. Using low power management technology and data compression the device is able to store data for up to four years and has a battery life of 10 years. The packaging technique, also developed by BAS engineers encapsulates the device and protects it from the harsh environment that it is required to operate in.



Female Wandering Albatross
(failed breeder 1998)



Geo-Locator / Activity Recorder on the birds leg



Geo-Locator / Activity Recorder



Albatross on its nest at Bird Island