

	Gentoo Penguin	Magellanic Penguin	Rockhopper Penguin	Elephant Seal	Sea Lion	Orcas	Other
Sept	Gentoo penguins around all year and start courtship and nest building.	Males arrive first to clear and prepare burrows. Followed by females.		Males arrive early in the month to secure and defend territories. Females arrive approx. 1 week later.	Sea Lions often resting in tussac. Large males will begin to feed up to put on condition for the summer.		Upland geese start nesting, males fight & defend territories.
Oct	Both species lay their eggs around the middle of the month.		Males arrive early in the month. Females arrive approx. 1 week later.	Bulls fighting. Pups (~600) born late Sept & early Oct. Pups suckled for 24 days. Females mate at end of lactation period	Sea Lions often resting in tussac.	Orcas patrol to opportunistically hunt unsuspecting adult elephant seal females.	Upland Goose, Steamer Duck, Ruddy-headed Goose with small chicks. Imperial Shags start courtship & nest building.
Nov	The eggs are incubated during this month.		Eggs are laid at the beginning of Nov.	& return to sea. Pups learn to swim and play in the shallow pools.	Sea Lions often resting in tussac.	Orcas patrol & hunt elephant seal pups in the shallow pools.	Chicks of passerine birds appear. Skuas arrive. Wild flowers begin to flower.
Dec	Eggs hatch in late Nov and early Dec. Both parents share duties.	Eggs hatch in early Dec. Both parents share duties.	Eggs hatch early Dec. Males fast and brood guard chicks for approx. 25 days. Females feeds chicks.	Males have departed by early Nov having lost 40% bodyweight and feed at sea to prepare for the moult.	Bulls establish their territories. Cows arrive late Dec to early Jan. Pupping late Dec-mid Jan.	Orcas patrol to opportunistically hunt unsuspecting adult elephant seals.	Many small to medium sized chicks seen. Imperial shag chicks hatch Dec to Jan.
Jan	Chicks start to crèche early Jan.	Chicks emerge from burrows with parents.	Chicks begin to crèche & both parents share duties to feed chicks.	Adults haul out late Jan early Feb to moult for 25 days.	Females mate 2 to 3 days after pupping. After mating females forage, returning every few days to suckle pup.		Many medium to large sized chicks seen. Skuas with small chicks.
Feb	Both parents forage to feed chick. Some chicks may fledge late in the month.	Chick growing larger. Both parents share feeding duties.	Non-breeding penguins begin to moult. Chicks begin to fledge mid Feb.	Elephant seals remain on the beaches moulting until late March.	Late Jan pups play in the shallow pools. Bull territories break-up. Pups may suckle/dependant for 12+ months.	Orcas patrol to opportunistically hunt unsuspecting Sea Lion pups.	Chicks of small birds are large and begin to fledge.
Mar	Chicks fledge early March. Adults begin their annual moult in late March.	Chicks fledge mid-March. Parents begin their annual moult.	Adults feed at sea for 2 weeks from mid-Feb to early March then return to moult.		After breeding seals haul out on the rocky beaches in mixed groups.	Orcas patrol to opportunistically hunt any unsuspecting seals.	Goslings are large and stay with their parents all winter. Skua chicks begin to fly.
Apr	Gentoos remain at Sea Lion Island over the winter.	Adults migrate north along South American coast.	Adults finish moulting and migrate northward on Patagonian Shelf.				Migrating sea birds begin to depart, including the skua.

Wildlife Calendar of Sea Lion Island National Nature Reserve