MAPPING ARCTIC TERN MIGRATION FROM GREENLAND TO ANTARCTICA AND BACK

Egevang Carsten¹, Iain J. Stenhouse² and Richard R. Phillips³

The deployment of archival geo-locator loggers, which record ambient light level and thereby allow the later calculation of geographical position, has proved to be a powerful tool when mapping long-distance seabird migrations. In recent years the mass of these loggers has decreased considerably and a new array of small seabirds are now possible study species.

The Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea) is known as the champion of long-distance migration, breeding as far north as the Arctic and wintering in Antarctic waters. In 2007, we equipped 50 Arctic Terns breeding in high-arctic Northeast Greenland with 1.4g geolocators and, in 2008, we retrieved ten of these loggers.

This talk presents the first results of Arctic Tern migration routes and wintering areas from this study and the very first glimpse of a full year in the life of an Arctic Tern.

¹ Greenland Institute of Natural Resources, Postbox 570, Kivioq 2, DK-3900 Nuuk, Greenland, E-mail: egevang@natur.gl

National Audubon Society, Auburn Hall, Suite 209, 60 Pineland Drive, New Gloucester, ME 04260, USA

³ British Antarctic Survey, High Cross, Madingley Road, Cambridge, CB3 0ET, UK