

College of Staten Island Professor, Antarctic Researcher,  
and Notable Ecologist

Richard Veit, Ph.D. is a Professor of Biology at College of Staten Island. His research interests are in foraging behavior of oceanic birds (which he studies from shipboard), affects of Climate Change on seabirds (with Professor L. Manne), and long distance dispersal and colonization by birds and other animals. Much of his research on foraging by seabirds has been done in Antarctica and on the Subantarctic Islands such as South Georgia, Kerguelen and the South Shetland Islands. One research cruise in 1982-1983 entailed a 12,000 mile circumnavigation of Antarctica, beginning and ending at Palmer Station in the



Antarctic peninsula. This research has shown how seabirds use other seabirds and marine mammals such as seals and whales as clues to the location of their primary prey, Antarctic Krill, and other animals like fishes and squids that feed on krill. because of this, it is important to conserve both seabirds themselves and the other animals that birds use as clues to prey. In the time that Veit has worked in the Antarctic, the Antarctic

Ocean has warmed significantly, much glacial and oceanic ice has melted, and these changes have resulted in major changes in the prey base, especially decline in krill abundance, and changes in the ranges and abundances of Antarctic birds, especially penguins.