

Feeding nurseries

Scientists have discovered the most important blue whale feeding and nursing ground known in the southern hemisphere, writes *Stuart Blackman*. Aerial and boat surveys of the Chiloé-Corcovado region of southern Chile, led by Rodrigo Hucke-Gaete of Chile's Southern University, located 153 blue whales in 47 groups, including at least 11 mother-calf pairs. The densities are the highest reported to date in the southern hemisphere. Blue whales are thought to migrate long distances between feeding and nursing areas, but the scientists suggest that the region's unusually productive waters cater for this population's needs all year round (*Biology Letters*, DOI:10.1098/rsbl.2003.0132).



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Wildlife

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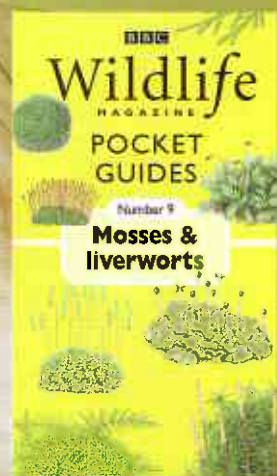
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