

Journal of a Whaling Voyage by Thos. O'Shea

1840 Ship Grand Turk, October Wind calm Lat Long
South West

Sat 17 A strong breeze cloudy seen a few backs. A sail in sight South Atlantic
On the wind Larboard took a board

Sun 18 A Pleasant breeze warm a sail in sight. Seen pump backs yesterday but don't lift us. 25.22 42.27

Mon 19 A Light breeze saw some squid and flying fish saw a rattle could not see what made it. 26.50 43.50

Tues 20 A. M. A Light breeze cloud saw B. W. A strong breeze nothing in sight. 28

Wed 21 A strong breeze foggy with rain saw two fin backs flying fish and a grey. A blackbird a Mockingbird a blue jay and a hawk all such birds as are on right whale ground. 31.20 45.30

Thurs 22 A Light breeze variable saw some birds such as are on right whale ground. 31.12 46.30

Frid 23 A. M. A strong breeze at noon took in top gallant sails & a squally sent down fore and Mizzen royal yards masts main royal yard and they sail most seen a turtle and land birds at night calm. 33.07 48.50

Sat 24 Squally and cool no whales in sight. Seen a hogback blue jay and a Mockingbird. 33.51 49.9

Sun 25 A strong breeze cruising on clip first backs three ships in sight seen 8 or ten turtle killed one lat. 2. 34.20 49.23

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Mon 26 A strong breeze seen both and a sun fish. Spoke Barque Calcedonia of Galena 51 Tarpaulin bound to North side at 3 PM hauled on the wind blowing heavy. That night sail water is green and muddy we are off the mouth of the River La Platte. Had quarter watches. 36.10 50.30

Tues 27 Blowing heavy seen fin backs and a turtle. Spoke two frigates River La Platte seen we have got a whale. These we will soon get some. 37.00 49.48

Wed 28 A Light breeze a sail in sight. 37.00 49.48
seen a dead sperm whale killed a porpoise at or near sun down raised light. A whale found. We and 13 our boats could not get on. I hope we shall get one tomorrow they are not all dead yet. Shortened sail.

Thurs 29 A strong breeze saw a great many turtles and fin backs also a great many porpoise killed one took in sail. 37.00 49.48

Frid 30 A strong breeze seen a great many fin backs and porpoise got one struck an other one broke carried sail to night. 36.22 49.53

Sat 31 A strong breeze cool saw a great many porpoise and a fin back ground sail all day. This month I hope we will soon make up for it. 34.50 45.29