

the species, with marked decreasing trends at most sites and populations disappearing altogether at others (Naveen and others 2000; Casaux and Barrera-Oro 2006; Lynch and others 2008)

New data

Previous data for this locality only describe populations of blue-eyed shags and chinstrap penguins. Eckener Point supports a greater number of seabird species than previously recorded, and while the northwest Antarctic Peninsula is a relatively well surveyed part of Antarctica, documentation of new sites with aggregations of nesting birds is increasingly infrequent. Our decision to survey Eckener Point was prompted by its nomination as an important bird area (IBA) for blue-eyed shags due to the high breeding population previously recorded there. The pronounced decrease in numbers of shags nesting at this site underscores the importance of monitoring populations of this species in the region, and reinforces the need to conduct a full region wide inventory of this species.

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The first African-American in Antarctica: George W. Gibbs Jr. Glenn M. Stein

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On 2 September 2009, the Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (US Board on Geographic Names) confirmed a place name for George Washington Gibbs Jr, the first African-American expedition member to set foot on the Antarctic continent (Fig. 1). Gibbs Point forms the northwest entrance to Gaul Cove, on the northeast of Horseshoe Island, Marguerite Bay, Antarctic Peninsula (67°48'22"S, 67°09'38"W) (Fig. 2).

This was Gibbs' third honour. As a result of his civic and business leadership, the George W. Gibbs Jr. Elementary

School was approved last year by the school board of Rochester, Minnesota. In 2002, Rochester's West Soldiers Field Drive was renamed in Gibbs' honour.

Gibbs was born on 7 November 1916, in Jacksonville, Florida, and was raised there. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in Macon, Georgia, in 1935, and four years later, Gibbs was chosen from hundreds of applicants to join an expedition with the United States Antarctic Service (USAS).

In 1939, Congress established USAS, and an expedition under Admiral Richard E. Byrd went south. Serving as a Mess Attendant 1st Class aboard the lead expedition ship, U.S.S. *Bear*, Gibbs earned official praise from Lieutenant Commander Richard H. Cruzen, even before the vessel departed from American shores:

Especially commended by the Commanding Officer at meritorious mast for his zeal, initiative, and untiring industry, entailing much personal sacrifice, during the period the U.S.S. *BEAR* was outfitting and preparing for duty with the U.S. Antarctic Service (US Navy 1939).

On the morning of 14 January 1940, *Bear* steamed into the Bay of Whales. As Gibbs recorded in his journal:

When the *Bear* came up to the ice close enough for me to get ashore, I was the first man aboard the ship to set foot



Fig. 1. George Washington Gibbs Jr.



Fig. 2. Gibbs Point, Horseshoe Island, Marguerite Bay, Antarctic Peninsula.

in [Byrd's old base] Little America, and help tie her lines deep into the snow. I met Admiral Byrd; he shook my hand and welcomed me to Little America and for being the first Negro to set foot in Little America (Gibbs 1940).

The expedition then began carrying out a wide range of scientific studies, with Gibbs helping to establish West Base (Little America III), near the Bay of Whales, and East Base on Stonington Island, Marguerite Bay, Antarctic Peninsula. He also made two round trips between the United States and Antarctica on board *Bear*. However, due to rising international tensions, both bases were evacuated by March 1941. At this time, Gibbs was rated Officers' Cook 3rd Class, again receiving recognition from *Bear's* commanding officer, in May 1941:

Commended at meritorious mast for his outstanding zeal and energy, and for the unusual spirit of loyalty and cooperation which he has invariably displayed under trying conditions encountered during the assignment of this vessel to duty with the U.S. Antarctic Service (US Navy 1941).

By this time America's entry into World War II was imminent, and Gibbs saw much combat in the South Pacific during the conflict. This included service on the cruiser U.S.S. *Atlanta*, when she was wrecked by gunfire from the Japanese battleship *Hiei*, and a torpedo from the destroyer *Akatsuki*, forcing *Atlanta* to be scuttled off Guadalcanal on 13 November 1942.

Rising to become Chief Petty Officer Gibbs, he left the Navy in 1959, having earned the Navy Good Conduct Medal and the silver U.S. Antarctic Service Expedition Medal 1939–1941, among other service medals. Gibbs moved to Minneapolis, where he graduated from the University of Minnesota with

a Bachelor of Science in Education. Gibbs then moved to Rochester in 1963 to work with IBM in the personnel department. While at IBM, he received various promotions, before retiring in 1982.

Over many years, the Rochester community benefited from Gibbs' civil rights activism (including co-founding the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), as well as his civic and business leadership.

After his retirement from IBM, Gibbs started Technical Career Placement, Inc., and continued to operate the employment service until 1999. 'He lived a long life of community service and never really retired,' said his daughter Leilani Rashida Henry, who is currently researching for a book on her father's Antarctic adventures. 'My father enjoyed life to the fullest and said that Antarctica was his best experience!' (Stein 2008).

George W. Gibbs Jr. passed away, of cancer, on 7 November 2000, his 84th birthday.

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Gesture and posture: pointing the finger and the mapping of outer continental shelves

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ABSTRACT. This note considers the practice of pointing the finger at the map. Using two recent examples from Australia and Norway involving outer continental shelf submissions, it considers why such a bodily gesture might actually be more than a mere gesture. With regard to the polar regions, it is a timely reminder that ceremonies of possession remain important and provides further opportunity to reflect on the embodied and gendered nature of these activities. Being seen is one thing and being cited is another.

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Introduction

Now when I was a little chap I had a passion for maps. I would look for hours at South America, or Africa, or Australia and lose myself in all the glories of exploration. At that time there were many blank spaces on the earth and when I saw one that looked particularly inviting on the map (but they all look like that) I would put my finger on it and say: When I grow up I will go there. The North Pole was one of these places I remember (Conrad 1998:11).

When talking in front of maps, it is quite common for political representatives and others including teachers to use both speech and bodily actions to describe what is being represented. Maps act as a source of both authority and reference; a way of orientating the listener or viewer. President W. Clinton did exactly that in March 1999 when he encouraged American citizens to 'take a look at the map' so that they might better understand where Kosovo was in relation to South East Europe. And why it mattered. In Clinton's case, his televised speech witnessed him firmly holding onto his speech papers as he delivered his address, a message telling Americans that NATO bombing was necessary in order to stop Serbian aggression.

Other hand actions including finger pointing are an important element in rhetorical performances, especially when the user wants to direct the attention of others to a particular area of geographical and political concern. From the gesturing of Hitler and Mussolini to the Black Panther salute, hand movements, can and do add emphasis, sometimes dramatically so. One example that comes to mind is the former Secretary of State Robert McNamara standing in front of a large map of Vietnam in the 1960s. Holding a large pointer, he told listening journalists