

Graphing Your Albatross Bolus Data

-You can graph your albatross bolus data in exactly the same way that you graphed your debris collection data. As most of you pointed out in your last excel activity, graphing the data as a percentage makes the data more easily interpretable. Saying that 22 of 44 items collected were food wrappers is not as clear as simply saying that 50% of debris items collected were food wrappers.

-I have combined the black-footed and laysan albatross data for all of the classes. The data are in the tables below. The data is recorded in total number of items for each species.

- Enter the data below in an Excel spreadsheet. Calculate the percentage of each natural and non-natural prey item in the black-footed and laysan albatross boluses. Then graph the data for both species side by side in the same graph. You will first open up the graphing tool and select a bar graph. Then you will need to enter the laysan and black-footed albatross data in their own “series,” just like we did with the bean and corn seed activity.

When you are done, answer the following questions:

1. What type of debris was most common in black-footed albatross? In laysan albatross?
2. Did the bolus contents for the two albatross species differ? If so, describe how they differed and explain what might cause them to ingest different amounts of the various prey and non-prey items? Think about our first marine debris lesson, and what we learned about their biology.

Prey Item	Black-Footed Albatross (# of items)	Laysan Albatross (# of items)
Natural Prey Items		
Squid Beaks	232	431
Non-Natural Prey Items		
Plastic Fragments	117	148
Styrofoam	29	21
Wood	76	59
Pieces of Rope	181	37
Metal	0	0
Rocks	46	34
Fishing Line	405	125
Miscellaneous	8	46