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UNUSUAL SEA-BIRD SIGHTINGS IN OTAGO

On Sunday, 15 March 1970, at approximately 5 p.m., as I was leaving the Royal Albatross colony at Taiaroa Head, Otago Peninsula, I observed a large sea-bird fly over the lighthouse, and then circle over the colony. The bird was "glasses" with 10 x 50 binoculars, and recognised as a Light-mantled Sooty Albatross (*Phoebastria palpebrata*). The bird made a pass over one of the Royal Albatross chicks, lowering its feet, as if to land, then carried on towards Harington Point rising higher and higher until it was lost from sight over Reids Beach.

On Sunday, 5 September 1971, a message was received from Mr G. R. MacKenzie of Waiwera South (14 miles south of Balclutha) to say he had a live albatross on his property, in a healthy condition except for a few ticks around the eyes. When collected it was found to be a juvenile Bounty Island Mollymawk (*Diomedea salvini*), 2 years old, and possibly older (F. C. Kinsky pers. comm.). The bird was held overnight, measurements taken, banded (M-24021), and then released at Taiaroa Head at 10 a.m. 6 September 1971. Gale force winds had been experienced on the previous days with southerly winds up to 50 knots. At the time of recovery this bird was 30 miles from the sea.

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