SIGHTING OF ANTARCTIC FULMAR WEST OF NEW ZEALAND

On 24 August 1973 a light coloured bird in the company of 20+ Cape Pigeons *(Daption capensis)* was observed from the bridge of m.v. *Waimea.* The vessel's position was 38°50'S, 168°26'E, some 250 miles west of Cape Egmont, the weather fine, calm and clear. The bird was somewhat larger than the Cape Pigeons and, with close observation at a distance of some fifty feet, the following characteristics were noticed. Fairly heavy pinkish bill, white underparts and a very pale back, rump and upperwing. The primaries appeared alternately black and pale grey giving an overall effect of black fingering. It was identified as an Antarctic Fulmar *(Fulmarus glacialoides).*

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KERGUELEN AND ANTARCTIC PETRELS ON A SOUTHLAND BEACH

On 13 October 1973, with my daughter Kate, I did my usual monthly beach patrol of three miles of Oreti Beach, Southland, from Waimatuku Mouth to the North Entrance. There were two specimens which I was unable to identify on the spot. Later in the day I took the specimens to Mr Roger Sutton. Using New Zealand Birds (Oliver 1955: 161-162), we identified one as a Kerguelen Petrel *(Pterodroma brevirostris).*

The other bird was in very poor condition. The skull and bill were there, a few primaries of one wing, the skeleton, some abdominal and under-tail coverts, and the tail. It was full of maggots and highly pungent. The plumage was impregnated with sand and any attempt to shake this out dislodged feathers. The bird was about seventeen inches long, wing 297 mm, petrel bill 52 mm, and tarsus 46 mm. Under-plumage was white, and the tail white with a terminal band of brownish-black. By referring to *A Field Guide to Australian Birds* (Slater *et al.* 1970) we provisionally identified the specimen as an Antarctic Petrel *(Thalassoica antarctica)).*

The *Annotated Checklist* (OSNZ 1970) states that the species is common in the Ross Sea, moves north with the pack ice in winter, but rarely ranges north of 60°S. Slater (1970: 7) mentions a record in 1965 at Macquarie Island.

Both birds were sent to Mr F. C. Kinsky at the National Museum of New Zealand, who confirmed the identifications.

It is significant that these birds were found at the same time as the small wreck of Antarctic Fulmars *(Fulmarus glacialoides)* by Mr Les Henderson.

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FANTAIL RE-USING A TILTED NEST

At Belmont, Lower Hutt, a Fantail *(Rhipidura fuliginosa)* nested 3 m up on a long, slender branch of a mahoe *(Melicytus ramiflorous)*. The nest, with two eggs on 20 October 1973, proved too heavy and bent over the twig it was built on. The photograph (Fig. 1a) was taken on 4 November, and both eggs were found broken below the tilted nest a day or two later. The bird(s) re-levelled the nest by adding material to the rim at one side (Fig. 1b), and it contained four eggs on 10 November. Three chicks fledged on 10 December, the day after the second photograph was taken.

Fantails may build six or seven nests in a season (Philpott 1919, Blackburn 1965), but " the second use of a nest is quite exceptional " (Blackburn 1966), although also recorded by Coates (1966). The nest is usually on a slender horizontal fork, so engineering it to be level when completed must be a normal skill. (The asymetry of the first nest appears to compensate for a 15° dip in the twig during construction, but the sag continued for another 15°.) It is interesting that this pair bothered to re-level a marginal site rather than build afresh, and re-laid so soon after losing the first clutch.

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