

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.