

### WHITE FORM OF THE SOUTHERN GIANT PETREL: FURTHER N.Z. RECORDS

New Zealand coastal voyages during the past 18 months have produced the following records:—

1. 12th September 1974, position 40°57'S 176°25'E, vessel 9 miles ESE from Castle Point. One white Southern Giant Petrel (*Macronectes giganteus*) with scattered black spots on body and upper wing and a pale yellow-brown bill. The bird was closely observed following the vessel for 24 minutes, it then settled on the water with dark plumaged Giant Petrels (*Macronectes* sp.) which were feeding on galley refuse. It was then seen intermittently during the next 45 minutes following the vessel and occasionally flying out on the vessel's beam. Other ship-following birds were 14 dark Giant Petrels (*Macronectes* sp.), 80+ Cape Pigeons (*Daption capensis*) and 3 Wandering Albatrosses (*Diomedea exulans*).

2. 18th August 1975, position 35°52'S 174°32'E, vessel entering Whangarei Harbour during gale conditions with wind North Easterly 40 knots. A white Southern Giant Petrel followed the ship from the Fairway Buoy in as far as Busby Head (2 miles). Plumage was entirely white apart from a few black spots, bill light brown and the feet appeared black. Strangely, the bird had a piece of rope about 3 feet long attached to one leg. This did not appear to affect the bird's flight power and in the very strong wind the rope streamed out behind like an extended tail. Indeed at first glance the observer thought he had sighted an immense Tropic Bird, "*Phaethon giganteus*"?

Other birds included 10 dark Giant Petrels (*Macronectes* sp.) and 15 Cape Pigeons which followed the ship into Whangarei Harbour as far as the Refinery jetties.

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### SOME THOUGHTS ON A DIFFICULT DOTTEREL, *CHARADRIUS MONGOLUS*

When collating more than 30 years' jottings on Banded Dotterels (*Charadrius bicinctus*) in the Firth of Thames, I came upon a forgotten note describing what I called at the time a 'Mystery' Dotterel. In the light of wider experience there can be little doubt that the bird was a Mongolian Dotterel (*Charadrius mongolus*), a migratory species