

14 000 pairs of Diving Petrels were using Green Island in 1990, which is certainly no less than in 1966-67. Thus the reason for fewer Diving Petrels being washed up on Bay of Plenty beaches in 1990 is not that numbers are lower on Green Island. Monitoring of other colonies is needed as well as food availability, parasites, diseases and other forces of the environment examined.

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Petrels on the Mernoo Bank and Chatham Rise

From 17 January to 23 February 1991, I observed seabirds from a deep sea trawler fishing for hoki on the Mernoo Bank and Chatham Rise. Seabirds associated with this fishing activity were recorded for 13 days of fishing. These observations were recorded at positions between 42°40' - 43°57' S and 174°30' - 178°40' E.

Observations were made during trawling. I recorded the birds in flight, feeding or resting on the water in a 180° arc and within 500 m of the stern. Most observations were made between 1230 and 1730 hours.

During some observation periods, while fish were being processed in the vessel's factory, some fish not suitable for processing were discarded, attracting more scavenging seabirds to the vessel. The fish were dead by the time they were discarded. Due to a fish meal plant on board, only small quantities of offal and debris from processing were discharged.

The petrel species recorded and range of numbers observed are listed.

Regular - species present on 6 or more of the 13 days

Wandering Albatross (*Diomedea exulans*) up to 5, Salvin's Mollymawk (*D.*

cauta salvini) up to 17, Black-browed Mollymawk (*D. melanophrys*) up to 10, Flesh-footed Shearwater (*Puffinus carneipes*) 20-100, Buller's Shearwater (*P. bulleri*) up to 100.

Irregular - species present on fewer than 6 of the 13 days

White-capped Mollymawk (*D. cauta cauta*) 3-20, Buller's Mollymawk (*D. bulleri*) 1, Northern Giant Petrel (*Macronectes halli*) 1, White-chinned Petrel (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*) up to 5, Grey-faced Petrel (*Pterodroma macroptera*) up to 20, prions (*Pachyptila* spp.) 5-10.

The species present were, in the main, regular followers of fishing boats that one would expect to see in the Mernoo Bank/Chatham Rise area. However, the Buller's Shearwaters are interesting in two respects. First, they were regular followers, feeding on small pieces of offal or resting behind the boat on 8 out of the 13 days that observations were made. This is in contrast to a study by Wahl & Heinemann (1979), in which Buller's Shearwaters were not attracted to fishing vessels and were not seen to feed on discarded matter. Recent publications (Warham 1990, p.166; Marchant & Higgins 1990, p.603) also report that Buller's Shearwaters only occasionally attend fishing vessels.

Also of interest is the occurrence of Buller's Shearwaters on the Chatham Rise during January and February. Some of my observations of Buller's Shearwaters (for example at 42°55' S, 178°40' E and 43°36' S, 178°35' E; the furthest east that the vessel travelled) are further east than the known January and February distributions mapped by Jenkins (1988). The records of Tennyson & Taylor (1989) near the Chatham Islands during November to March support Jenkins's suggestion that some Buller's Shearwaters feed out toward the Chatham Islands from November until they leave on migration. My observations of Buller's Shearwaters about half-way between mainland New Zealand and the Chatham Islands further support this suggestion.

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An Erect-crested Penguin in the southern Indian Ocean

On 2 March 1983, crew members on a ship saw a penguin swimming close to the ship in mid-ocean (47°50' S, 96°01' E) between Heard Island and Albany, Western Australia. The ship was travelling slowly and the penguin