

beach patrol schemes, pelagic bird trips or seabird banding operations? The answer is "Yes". It is an ideal manual for pelagic banders as the 36 species covered are the birds they are most likely to attract when ground baiting. The same applies to pelagic bird watchers who, although not measuring birds in the hand, will still find useful the diagnostic bill and plumage characteristics. Within the limitations imposed by the small number of species, many beach patrollers will also find it a useful addition to their seabird library. The informative section on identification problems applies as much to storm-cast birds on the beach as it does to drowned birds on a boat

deck. Particularly useful is the key to identifying young albatross.

Is it too much to hope for that the authors, in the not too distant future, might produce a similar identification guide to all Southern Hemisphere seabirds?

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LITERATURE CITED

Mayr, E.; Cottrell, G.W. (ed.). 1979. *Checklist of birds of the world*. Vol. 1. 2nd. ed. Cambridge, Massachusetts, Museum of Comparative Zoology.

Review

Atkinson, T. *'St Michael' goes South: a 31-foot motor-sailer in support of the 1972/3 Auckland Islands Scientific Expedition*

Department of Conservation, Wellington. ISBN 0-478-22102-9
pp. 136. \$35.00. Available from the Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 10-420, Wellington.

The day-to-day story of a scientific expedition generally receives little mention, or is just relegated to a brief opening or concluding outline in a scientific paper. The 1972/3 Auckland Islands Expedition organised by the then Department of Lands and Survey — comprising some 30 research workers with supporting staff — was the most comprehensive of numerous scientific surveys to be carried out in New Zealand's subantarctic during the post-war period.

The Expedition's main vessel was Alex Black's 78-foot MV *Acheron*; however by providing a quick shuttle service for research workers to numerous points on the much-dissected coastline of the islands, the 31-foot *St Michael* was an outstanding factor. The well-known Atkinson family of York Bay, Wellington, offered their voluntary help and their vessel *St Michael*, crewed by 4 family members remained in the Auckland Islands over the expedition's 1st 6 weeks.

The log's daily narrative, in addition to making thoroughly interesting reading, manages to give a clear picture of the activities and research procedures of the expedition, ranging from sea lion studies on Enderby Island to botanical surveys and the night-banding of petrels. The spectacular topography of

the group, the ever-treacherous weather, and vegetation and bird life, all receive due mention. So does the care required in negotiating the rugged coastline, although it is sometimes not easy to appreciate the exceptional sea-going skills involved (especially notable when reading the author's description — with accompanying photos — of negotiating the notorious Victoria Passage!).

The book includes 3 of Tudor Atkinson's original sketch plans of inadequately charted or unmapped areas: the Friday Island passage in Port Ross; contours of the southern section of Adams Island (not included in Alan Eden's 1944-5 survey); and the western entrance, Carnley Harbour (including Victoria Passage). The plans were published in the 1975 volume of preliminary expedition results, but are now made generally available.

Much credit is due to the Department of Conservation for providing a publication grant enabling the log to be issued in this form. Even though delayed for some 30 years, the book is a most welcome addition to Auckland Islands literature.

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