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SHORT NOTE

Grey-backed Storm Petrel at Doubtful Sound, Fiordland

On the night of 2/11/88 a Grey-backed Storm Petrel (*Garrodia nereis*) flew aboard RV Munida moored in Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound. The bird was presumably attracted by the lit-up vessel. The weather was overcast with rain. Moderate westerly winds had predominated for some days. The bird was given to me next morning by the crew, A. Heineman and P. Meredith. It was released on 4/11/88.

The lack of plankton-feeding birds plus very low surface salinity at the time suggested low available zooplankton. It is therefore unlikely that the storm petrel had been feeding in Doubtful Sound. Potential food abundance in Doubtful Sound would have been even lower in August, when Cooper (1980) recovered two *G. nereis* under similar circumstances. Breeding grounds are not known in the Fiordland region.

Similar recoveries were reported by Wright (1973), Esler (1978), Cooper (1980), and Morrison (1981, 1983). All were from the southern South Island remote from food sources. Seventeen birds have been recovered by beach patrols since 1953, mostly on the North Island west coast and all between May and December.

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