

Light-mantled Sooty Albatrosses are occasionally seen on the Fiordland coast in winter (KM, pers. obs.) and during 28 May-6 June 1986 a few were seen there (L. A. Shaw and P. A. Brotherston, pers. comm.).

A very strong south-west airstream, with winds averaging 35-45 knots, had spread from south of the Tasman Sea on to southern New Zealand during 31 May-1 June 1986 (R. Holloway, Meteorological Service, pers. comm.). The West Arm albatross was c.44 km from Fiordland's open coast. However on 12 June 1980 single Light-mantled Sooty Albatrosses were found blown inland at Lumsden and Wendon in Southland, both c.74 km from the nearest open sea (*Notornis* 28: 60).

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King Shags – a correction

Nelson (*Notornis* 18 (1971): 30), purportedly quoting Hutton (*Trans. NZ Inst.* 11 (1878): 332-7), stated that “in 1773, J. R. Forster, naturalist on Cook's second voyage, collected the first King Shags from White Rocks outside Queen Charlotte Sound; he estimated the total population at about 160 birds”. I do not know where Nelson got this erroneous information from for Hutton in the paper referred to said no such things. He said only that “during his voyage with Captain Cook, in 1773, J. R. Forster described a shag, which he said was found in New Zealand and Terra del Fuego, under the name of *Pelecanus carunculatus* . . .” We also now know that Forster did not collect the first specimens from White Rock (which, incidentally, was not known to support a breeding colony until one was discovered there by Henry H. Travers in 1875) and did not anywhere give the stated total population estimate. He is known to have collected only two specimens: the first on 20 May 1773 between Ship Cove and Hippa Island (or on Hippa Island itself) and the second on 6 November 1774 between Ship Cove and Long Island. The first specimen, an adult, was the basis of Forster's description and his son's drawing (Hoare, M. E. (ed.) *The Resolution Journal of Johann Reinhold Forster 1772-1775*, The Hakluyt Society (1982); 283, 681). The only information we have on population size at the time of Forster's visits to Queen Charlotte Sound appeared in a manuscript catalogue in the British Museum (Natural History), compiled under the direction of Forster, where it is said of this species “NZ Charlotte Sound . . . very few in N. Zeland”. This entry clearly formed the basis of Latham's statement that his Carunculated Shag “inhabits New Zealand; found in Queen Charlotte's Sound, though not in plenty” (*A General Synopsis of Birds* 3 (1785): 603).

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