

canopy of old and twisted ake-akes (*Olearia traversi*) on Pitt Island, a fantail's waving white tail inevitably attracted attention.

The isolation of the Chatham Island Fantail prompts speculation. If Kadavu, an island a mere 60 miles from Viti Levu, has bred a fantail, *R. personata*, which is so different from *R. spilodera* of the main Fijian islands that it has been accorded full specific status, why is the Chatham Island Fantail still a mere race? Its closest kith and kin are a full 400 miles away. Do species evolve more quickly in the tropics? Perhaps the cool winds of the Chatham Islands dampen evolutionary ardour. Or, should it be accepted as a full species?

REFERENCES

- BANGS, O. 1911. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington. 24: 41.
BANGS, O. 1921. Bull. A.M.N.H. 44: 583.
FLEMING, C. A. 1939. Birds of the Chatham Islands. Emu 38: 506.
FLEMING, C. A. 1949. Pied Fantails. NZ Bird Notes 3: 188-190.
MAYR, E. 1945. Birds of the South West Pacific 139.
OLIVER, H. 1968. Annotated Index NZ Bird Literature. 182.

R. B. SIBSON, 26 Entrican Avenue, Remuera, Auckland.



NOTES ON THE BREEDING OF THE BLACK-BELLIED STORM PETREL (*Fregetta tropica*) ON BIRD ISLAND, SOUTH GEORGIA 1973/1974

A nest site of the Black-bellied Storm Petrel (*Fregetta tropica*) was accidentally found by R. Burton on Bird Island (54°00'S 38°00'W), South Georgia, during the austral summer of 1971/1972. During the 1973/1974 season, while I was on Bird Island working for the British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge, I found the same site occupied and made several observations which add to our sparse knowledge of this species. Previous work on the species is reported by Beck & Brown (1971).

The burrow entrance faced the south by the main stream coming from Wanderer Valley and was a little above sea-level. A map of Bird Island is given by Tickell (1968). The narrow straight entrance tunnel entered a chamber, but because Burton covered it with a wooden lid, no account of the original size of the chamber can be given.

An egg was laid on 20 December 1973 and was placed on a small bed of tussock grass (*Poa flabellata*). No adult was obviously present when the nest chamber was photographed on 22 December, though one may have been present in the entrance tunnel whose situation was not known at the time. An adult was incubating the egg on the next day.

The egg hatched 35 days later on 24 January 1974 (cf. Beck & Brown 40, 45, and 38 days), and the chick was alone on the following day. It was well feathered by 25 March and weighed 112 g. Three days later it weighed 96 g and on 31 March 87 g. The culmen was then 15 mm, the tarsus 39 mm and the wing 169 mm. On 2 April

it weighed 81 g, and the wing measured 171 mm. It left the site that evening, 69 days after hatching (cf. Beck & Brown, 65 and 61 days).

Contrary to Beck & Brown, whenever the site was examined neither the parents nor the chick was facing the entrance tunnel. Perhaps human noise had caused the birds to do so in their case. The adult's call was never heard. The chick called in its early days when handled.

REFERENCES

- BECK, J. H.; BROWN, D. W. 1971. The breeding biology of the Black-bellied Storm Petrel *Fregetta tropica*. Ibis 113: 73-90.
TICKELL, W. L. N. 1968. The biology of the grand albatrosses *Diomedea exulans* and *Diomedea epomophora*. Antarctic Research Series Vol. III. American Geophysical Union.

D. TURNER, *Libyan Higher Institute of Technology, P.O. Box 68, Brack, Libya.*



GIANT PETREL IN FIJIAN WATERS

At 1500 on 6 August 1979 at 18°23'S 177°04'E, which is some 22 n. miles from the south-west corner of Viti Levu, a Giant Petrel (*Macronectes* sp.) with uniformly dark plumage and a light bill followed in the wake of the ship for about ten minutes.

This sighting supports the hypothesis that Giant Petrels have a "maximum northerly extension of range during August" made by Jenkins, Cheshire & Nesfield in "Some data on the distribution of the Giant Petrel in the Tasman Sea and the South-west Pacific," *Australasian Seabird Bull.* 8: 12-19.

JOHN JENKINS, 14 Lochiel Road, Remuera, Auckland.



TWO MORE GIANT PETREL RECORDS FROM FIJI

Giant Petrels (*Macronectes* sp.) have only rarely been seen in Fiji, King (1967: 104) knowing of only two records, one of which was that of the Morgans (1965: 158) who saw an exhausted immature bird near Suva on 22 August 1961. I am not familiar with the other record. Two more definite records of immature Giant Petrels were made in Fiji in 1979.

During the first week of July a dying bird was found at Natadola reef on the south-west Viti Levu coast by Mr Kaliova Segaturaga. A photograph of its body was printed in the *Fiji Sun* newspaper on 18 July 1979.

On 11 August 1979 Mr Ian Goodlet was shown an exhausted bird captured by villagers of Namara on Waya Sewa island, one of the southernmost islands of the Yasawa chain, which lies north-west of Viti Levu.

The handful of records to date suggests that there may be a movement of immature Giant Petrels through Fiji in July and August.

LITERATURE CITED

- KING, W. B. 1967. Seabirds of the Tropical Pacific Ocean. Smiths. Inst. Washington DC.
MORGAN, B.; MORGAN, J. 1965. Some notes on the birds of the Fiji Islands. *Notornis* 12: 158-168.

FERGUS CLUNIE, *Fiji Museum, P.O. Box 2023, Suva, Fiji.*