

NOTES ON WILSON'S STORM PETREL

John Eckert (*S. Aust. Orn.* 25, 1969, p. 110) records a single Wilson's Storm Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* close inshore at Encounter Bay on June 2, 1968, and mentions a report of several others which frequented Smoky Bay on the West Coast for some weeks from late May often feeding close to the jetty. He also refers to a suggestion by Wood-Jones (*S. Aust. Orn.* 14, 40) that the species is probably commonly seen from ships.

As John Eckert remarks records have been rare, most being of beachwashed derelicts after storms, although R. H. Lake (*S.A.O.A. "Newsletter"* December, 1968), also saw two flying birds from The Bluff at Encounter Bay on July 6, 1968.

I believe Wood-Jones' conjecture about the species' numerical status in South Aus-

tralian waters is correct. Although a deeper interest in birds has asserted itself only over the past 15 years, I have been fishing offshore about Kangaroo Island for 35 years, and live at sea for a considerable part of each year. I have seen many Wilson's Storm Petrels, although I cannot recall seeing more than six at any one time. Sightings have usually been single birds, couples, or threes. I have not noticed that sightings occur at any particular period during the year.

My last record is four birds on June 23, 1969, in Backstairs Passage, one mile north of Cape St. Albans at the eastern end of Kangaroo Island.

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(Recd. October, 1969.)