

FIRST RECORD OF GREY PETREL FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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While at Vivonne Bay (Kangaroo Island) in January, 1971, the author found a desiccated petrel well above high tide mark. Because of the specimen's desiccated state, no accurate estimate of the time when it was washed up could be made. As the author had no room to carry the whole body, the head alone was taken, and subsequently given to the Museum. The author's identification of the specimen as the Grey Petrel *Procellaria cinerea* was recently confirmed by S. A. Parker and J. B. Cox.

According to P. J. Fullager in Slater's *Field-Guide*, the species breeds on sub-antarctic islands and generally moves as far north as 25° S. Lat. after breeding, rarely crossing the equator. Three previous Australian records are known to the author (W.A. 1941; Victoria

1955, 1959). The bill, when seen in the hand is unmistakable.

The following description was kindly provided by S. A. Parker, and written on August 21, 1975.

Plumage: feathers of head much disarranged; forehead and crown light brownish grey; chin dull white.

Bill: length from tip to base of frontal feathering 47 mm. Nostrils, naricorn, culminicorn and sulcus black; maxillary and mandibular unguis, latericorn and ramicorn mainly horn-coloured, with tip, tomia and summit of maxillary unguis blackish. (According to Serventy *et al*, *Handbook of Australian Seabirds*, 1971, p.115, the latericorn and ramicorn (the 'side plates') are in the living bird pea green.

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