

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON SEABIRDS RECORDED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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The following records and comments relating to species in the Spheniscidae, Diomedidae, Procellariidae, Oceanitidae, Pelecanoididae and Phaethontidae supplement the respective accounts in Parker *et al.* (1979). The article amply illustrates the value of handing in beach-washed seabirds to museums.

Eudyptes chrysocome Rockhopper Penguin.

Three previous records, of beach-washed birds: St Francis I. 10 April 1913, near Millidcent 31 Dec. 1940, and near Beachport 1972.

On 31 December 1978 a moulting immature came ashore at Cape Jaffa in the South-East. Several times taken out to sea by local fishermen, it each time swam back to land. On 9 January 1979 SAP collected it from Mr R. Lindner of Kingston and delivered it to the Adelaide Zoo. Within a fortnight it had completed its moult into adult plumage, and lived

in good health at the zoo for nearly two years before dying rather suddenly of nephritis on 24 November 1980. Now a study skin, SAM B33742, it was identified in life by Mr K. Simpson as *E. c. moseleyi*, the subspecies to which the previous three specimens belong.

Eudyptes robustus Snares Penguin.

The barnacles found on the tail of the single South Australian specimen, from Cape Banks, 8 January 1914 (B1071) and reported by Parker *et al.* (1979) have now been identified as *Lepas australis* by Mr W. Zeidler (1980), Curator of Marine Invertebrates at the South Australian Museum. Zeidler noted that there was only one other report of barnacles on penguins: *L. australis*, on the feet and tail of a Fiordland Penguin *E. pachyrhynchus*, found at Lyall Bay, New Zealand (Foster 1978). Dr J. Warham (*in litt.* 8 May 1980), an authority

on penguins, has written: '*Lepas* barnacles occur on all [species] of *Eudyptes*, usually seen on first return after winter sojourn at sea.'

Eudyptes pachyrhynchus Fiordland Penguin.

Three previous records: Victor Harbour Sept. 1963, Cape St Alban 22 July 1973, ocean beach west of Salt Creek March 1974. Four further records are: Canunda beach, South-East, July 1977 (B31029, donated by I. A. May), Goolwa side of Murray Mouth 8 July 1980 (B33489, don. Miss P. Thwaites), ocean beach, Coorong Nat. Park, 27 Aug. 1980 (B33589, don. D. Wanke), Nora Creina Bay 1957 (B24851, don. B. Gameau). The first three were beach-washed adults, which died under care. The last, a subadult skull with bill-sheaths, has long lain unidentified in the SAM collection; it proves referable to *E. pachyrhynchus* rather than to the similar *E. chrysocome* by the more tapering form of the proximal culmicorn as seen from above.

With some nine records from Victoria (Brown & Corrick 1979) and at least five from southern Western Australia (Condon 1975), this is perhaps the most frequently occurring species of *Eudyptes* in Australia.

Diomedea bulleri Buller's Albatross.

Not listed in Parker *et al.* (1979). Close (in Jaensch & Joseph 1980) reported one bird observed 60 km WSW of Southend on 1 June 1980. Close continued: 'This is the second record of this species in our waters in approximately a year'; the first record alluded to has, however not yet been published.

Diomedea chlororhynchos

Yellow-nosed Albatross

Brooke *et al.* (1980) have recognized two subspecies: *D. c. chlororhynchos* Gmelin, 1789, with head largely grey and the proximal end of the yellow stripe along the culmen rounded, breeding in the Tristan d'Acunha group and on Gough I., and *D. c. bassi* Mathews, 1912, with head largely white and the proximal end of the culminal stripe pointed, breeding on Prince Edward, St Paul and New Amsterdam islands. Of the South Australian material in the SAM, all ten skins and three of the fifteen skulls with bill-plates are determinable as *D. c. bassi*; in the remaining twelve skulls with bill-plates, the culminal stripe is indistinct or absent, a feature of immaturity.

Phoebastria palpebrata

Light-mantled Sooty Albatross.

Four previous records, all beach-derelicts: Cape Jervis 10 July 1966, Goolwa 18 Oct. 1969, Port Gawler early Oct. 1971, Canunda

Feb. or March 1977. Two further records, both of birds blown inland: 16 km east of Carpenters Rocks, South-East, July 1980 (B33488, don. P. Doherty); Willaston, Adelaide Plains, 10 June 1981 (B34107, don. Roseworthy College). Both birds were alive when found but died under care within a few days; the Willaston bird had struck a powerline.

Macronectes giganteus Southern Giant-Petrel.

Further locality records for inshore and inland (all of immatures): western coast of Eyre Pen.: Streaky Bay July 1978 (B32452) and Sceale Bay 10 June 1980 (examined by SAP, not retained), both donated by T. Dennis; eastern shore of L. Alexandrina 12 July 1980, don. G. Harvey (examined, not retained).

Bands found on two South Australian immatures revealed that both originated from Signy I., South Orkney: B26848, found at Glenelg, Adelaide, 16 Sept. 1963, banded Signy 21 March 1963; second, not retained, found on Brighton beach 28 July 1977, banded Signy 10 Feb. 1977 (staff of British Trust for Ornithology, *in litt.*).

Macronectes halli Northern Giant-Petrel.

No previous records west of Kangaroo I. and Gulf St Vincent. An immature was picked up dying in Streaky Bay in June 1981 by T. Dennis (B34131).

Pterodroma brevirostris Kerguelen Petrel.

Listed by Parker *et al.* (1979) as uncommon over seas beyond Continental Shelf, and rare visitor and beach-derelict in coastal regions July-Dec., mainly Sept., north-east to Adelaide dist., with inland records from Crafers, Milang and Langhorne Creek. The fierce southerly gales of August and September 1981 drove inshore the largest number of this species so far recorded in this State:

9 Aug.: beach 16 km SSE of Drummond Point, south-western Eyre Pen., one recently dead (B34374, don. D. Morgan).

14-15 Aug.: Tanunda golf course and Freeling dist., two picked up dying (B34058-9, don. R. Wehr).

21-22 Aug.: Coffin Bay, at least nine flying repeatedly over bay, three picked up dying (B34071-2, B34373, don. L. Pedler and A. Spiers).

23 Aug.: South Para R. 1.6 km upstream from Gawler (B34060, don. K. McClure).

- 1 Sept.: ocean beach of Coorong a few km south of Salt Ck, about 20 beach-washed, three picked up dying¹ (B34084-6, don. D. Wanke); Aldinga Beach, one picked up freshly dead (B34120, don. N. Hudson).
- 2 Sept.: Sellick's Beach, freshly dead (B34083, don. J. Matthews); Aldinga Beach (B34088, don. F. Smeaton).
- 4 Sept.: Somerton Park beach, freshly dead (B34087, don. S. Thornley).
- 6 Sept.: ocean beach of Coorong between 30- and 42- mile crossings (north from Kingston), at least five, all decomposed (S. Bourne pers. comm., remains examined by SAP).

All specimens retained were prepared as study skins, except for B34120 and B34374, which were skeletonized, and B34373, preserved in spirit. All had in their stomachs the beaks of small cephalopods; one had in addition a small fish.

Weights: 6 ♂ 182-226 gms, 4 ♀ 194-223; wingspan 6 ♂ 835-880 mm., 6 ♀ 815-898; total length (bill-tip to tail-tip) 6 ♂ 310-345, 6 ♀ 304-330; wing-length in dried skin 5 ♂ 248-260, 6 ♀ 248-268.

During the same period, similar relatively large numbers were recorded in Victoria (Peake 1981).

Pterodroma mollis Soft-plumaged Petrel.

One previous report, from south-eastern sector of Great Australian Bight, Aug. 1974. Two further records, both beach-derelicts: ocean beach west of Salt Creek 12 Sept. 1980, one found alive (B33590, don. D. Wanke); Aldinga Beach 27 Sept. 1981, one found freshly dead (B34119, don. C. Ashton).

Clancey *et al.* (1981) recognized two subspecies among the populations breeding in the Southern Hemisphere: *P. m. molis* (Gould, 1844) breeding in the Tristan d'Acunha group and on Gough I., and the darker *P. m. dubia* Mathews, 1924, breeding on Prince Edward, the Crozets and the Antipodes islands. Dr Clancey (*in litt.* 21 Dec. 1981) has kindly examined the two South Australian specimens and has identified them as *P. m. dubia*.

Pterodroma inexpectata Mottled Petrel.

One previous record, a beach-derelict from Yilki, 9 March 1974. Two further beach-derelicts (feathered skeletons), picked up by IAM in the South-East: Canunda beach 26 Feb. 1977 (B31191); Little Dip Conservation Park 5 Oct. 1977 (B31462).

1. Not 25-31 Aug. as reported in *S. Aust. Orn. Newsl.* 100: 7.

Pterodroma leucoptera Gould's Petrel.

One previous record, a beach-derelict from Middleton, west of the Murray Mouth, 2 May 1976. A second specimen was found by IAM in the Southend district, South-East, in Oct. 1979 (B33694).

Imber & Jenkins (1981) have further characterized the recently described *P. l. caledonica* de Naurois, 1978, the breeding population of the mountains of New Caledonia, and have reassigned all New Zealand records of the species from *P. l. leucoptera* (breeding Cabbage Tree I., NSW) to *P. l. caledonica*. They found the most reliable feature distinguishing *P. l. caledonica* from *P. l. leucoptera* to be the colour of the inner web of the outermost tail-feather, grey to brownish-grey (basally off-white) in *P. l. leucoptera*, and white or mainly white in *P. l. caledonica*. The two South Australian specimens, which are feathered skeletons, agree with *P. l. caledonica* in this respect, and their identification as such has been confirmed by Dr Imber (*in litt.* 17 Feb. 1982).

Halobaena caerulea Blue Petrel.

Rare, previously recorded in coastal districts from Adelaide to Goolwa, also Robe, July-Dec., once April. Further records: fresh specimen handed in to SAM early Oct. 1979, no details but possibly a local bird (B32555, anon.); Sellick's Beach 31 Aug. 1981, decomposed (B34090, don. J. Matthews); Aldinga Beach 2 Sept. 1981, freshly dead (B34089, don. F. Smeaton).

Puffinus tenuirostris Short-tailed Shearwater.

Additional locality-records: Reevesby I., Jan. 1979, beach-derelict (B32036, don. N.C.H. Reid), colony nesting on Goat I., Pondalowie Bay, Jan. 1916 (White 1916); Baudin Rocks, dead bird found 18 Jan. 1937 (Brummitt 1937).

Puffinus assimilis Little Shearwater

Not previously recorded in South Australia. On 23 Aug. 1978 IAM picked up a freshly-dead bird on Canunda beach (B31578). By its wing-length, 167 mm., the specimen is referable to the smallest subspecies *P. a. tunneyi* Mathews, 1912, which breeds on islands off Western Australia (Fleming & Serventy 1943).

Pelagodroma marina White-faced Storm-Petrel

Only one previous breeding report from Kangaroo I.: egg-shell attributed to this species found on Kingscote Spit, March 1905. On 28 April 1980, L. Joseph found a feathered skeleton (B33149) on the DeMole River, 0.5 km up from its mouth. The specimen,

which had the feet and the ends of the tarsi missing, was lying on a shaly bank of the river in woodland of *Casuarina stricta*. In the bank were several small burrows. The possibility that the species breeds at this spot should be investigated.

Pelecanoides urinatrix Common Diving-Petrel
Parker *et al.* (1979) listed seven beach-derelicts. A recent (eighth is of an adult female found freshly dead on a rock-platform at Hallett Cove, 7 Oct. 1979 (B32556, don. Mr Callen). In addition, there is an undated report of a live individual seen at close quarters 16 km off Shoalwater Point, Spencer Gulf (Garrett *in* Jaensch 1981).

We had intended in this article to review the evidence for the inclusion of the Kerguelen Diving-Petrel *P. exsul* on the South Australian and Australian lists (Cox 1976, Storr & Johnstone 1976, Johnstone 1979). However, we found the matter too complicated to be included here, and so have reserved our conclusions to a later paper. Suffice it to say at this juncture that all six available study skins of *Pelecanoides* from SA are typical in their dimensions and appearance of the Victorian and Tasmanian breeding population of *P. u. urinatrix* (of the other two recorded specimens, one is the skeleton from Sellick's Beach, still under review, the other the specimen from Robe, 1958, reported by Condon (1969) but apparently not preserved). Furthermore, we consider the classification and characterization of the forms of this genus not sufficiently elaborated for unsubstantiated sight-records to be identifiable, irrespective of such circumstantial evidence as time and place.

Phaethon rubricauda Red-tailed Tropicbird

A rarely reported visitor, Dec-May; no breeding records. Two recent sightings in the South-East, whence Parker *et al.* (1979) list no reports. Rundell (*in* Rix 1980) reported seeing up to three at Beachport each day between 19 and 24 Jan. 1977. On 10 Jan. 1980 an adult with red tail-streamers was

observed flying low over the township of Robe by Miss M. Walker and Mr A. Dawson. Miss Walker forwarded to SAP a full description and coloured sketch of the bird, together with the information that Mr Dawson had seen one of the same species at Robe about ten years previously.

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