

RARELY REPORTED SEABIRDS AT THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS,

JUNE 1981 - NOVEMBER 1983

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Received 22 February 1984, accepted 21 May 1984

This note lists records of rarely reported seabirds at the Prince Edward Islands (46 50S, 37 45E) in the Southern Ocean for the period 1 June 1981 to 17 November 1983. All records are from Marion Island. No rare seabirds were seen during a seven-day visit in May 1982 and a five-day visit in May 1983 to nearby Prince Edward Island.

Previous reports of new and rarely reported seabirds deal with the periods 1974-1977 (Williams & Burger 1978), October 1978 - April 1979 (Sinclair 1981), April 1979 - February 1980 (primarily for Prince Edward Island, Berruti *et al.* 1981) and September 1980 - May 1981 (whitefaced 'Royal' Macaroni Penguins *Eudyptes chrysolophus*, Berruti 1981). Records of nonmarine vagrant birds at the Prince Edward Islands over this period are given elsewhere (Newton *et al.* 1983 and references therein).

Chinstrap Penguin

Pygoscelis antarctica

A nonmoulting individual was observed among King Penguins *Aptenodytes patagonicus* at Trypot Beach on 8 February 1983 by S.R. Fugler and I.P. Newton. This is only the second record for the Prince Edward Islands (Williams & Burger 1978).

Whitefaced Macaroni Penguin

Eudyptes chrysolophus

A total of 27 new sightings (Table 1) can be added to those already published. Some of these sightings are most likely to be of the same individuals. Since many of these birds were seen incubating and at least one raised a chick (which was a dark faced individual) it now seems certain that Whitefaced Macaroni Penguins are simply a rare variant within the population and are not vagrant Royal Penguins *E.c. schlegeli* from Macquarie Island. For this reason it is not intended to record them in future lists of rarely reported seabirds at the Prince Edward Islands. The large numbers of whitefaced birds seen on the less visited west coast of Marion Island supports the suggestion of Berruti (1981) that they are relatively more abundant there.

White phase Southern Giant Petrel

Macronectes giganteus

Six new sightings have been made (Table 2) and may be added to the eleven previously reported. Although copulation has been observed, breeding by white phase birds has not yet been

TABLE 1
 RECORDS OF WHITEFACED MACARONI PENGUINS *EUDYPTES CHRYSOLOPHUS* AT
 THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS, 1981-1983

Date	Locality	No.	Activity	Observer
1981	Ship's Cove	1	?	P.J.J. van Rensburg
Oct 1981- Jan 1982	Macaroni Bay	1	bred with darkfaced bird and reared darkfaced chick	N.J. Adams, B.P. Watkins
Dec 1981- Jan 1982	Macaroni Bay	1	apparently did not breed	C.R. Brown
Mar 1982	Macaroni Bay	1	moulting, probably same individual as above	N.J. Adams
7 Apr 1982	Swartkop Point	10	moulting	N.J. Adams
7 Apr 1982	Kaalkoppie	1	moulting	N.J. Adams
21 Apr 1982	Macaroni Bay	1	loafing	J.W. Enticott
11 Nov 1982	Ship's Cove	1	paired with darkfaced bird	I.P. Newton & S.R. Fugler
5 Dec 1982	Swartkop Point	1	loafing	I.P. Newton
7-11 Mar 1982	Swartkop Point	3	?	S.R. Fugler
13 Nov 1983	Kildalkey Bay	2	incubating	J. Cooper
13 Nov 1983	1st colony north east of Kildalkey Bay	1	incubating	J. Cooper
13 Nov 1983	2nd colony north east of Kildalkey Bay	2	incubating	J. Cooper
16 Nov 1983	Macaroni Bay	1	incubating	J. Cooper (Fig.1)
17 Nov 1983	Ship's Cove	1	bathing offshore	R.P. Prŷs-Jones

TABLE 2
 RECORDS OF WHITE PHASE SOUTHERN GIANT PETRELS *MACRONECTES GIGANTEUS*
 AT THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS, 1981-1983

Date	Locality	No.	Activity	Observer
23 Nov 1981	Bullard Beach	1	flying over Macaroni Penguin colony	N.J. Adams
Oct 1981	Swartkop Point	1	sitting on sea	S.R. Fugler
8 Sept 1982	off Prince Edward Island	1	flying, seen from R.V. <i>Africana</i>	J.W. Enticott
12 Oct 1982	Macaroni Bay	1	flew over coast	I.P. Newton
1 Dec 1982	Bullard Beach	1	flying over Macaroni Penguin colony	I.P. Newton
Summer 1982/83	Meteorological Base	1	flying past base	I.P. Newton

recorded (Williams & Burger 1978, Berruti *et al.* 1981).

Pintado Petrel

Daption capense

More than 10 new observations have been made (Table 3) in addition to those previously reported (Williams & Burger 1978). These records include the first of an individual found dead ashore at Marion Island. The remains were typical of a feral cat *Felis catus* or Subantarctic Skua *Catharacta antarctica* kill (N.J. Adams pers. comm.) The species has not yet been reported alive on land at the Prince Edward Islands. Previous to the time period reported here, a single bird was seen feeding on discarded galley refuse at Gunner's Point on 13 December 1980 (A. Berruti *in litt.*). Pintado Petrels are regular visitors to the surrounding waters of the Prince Edward Islands and for this reason it is not intended to list offshore records in future reports.

Little Shearwater

Puffinus assimilis

Although before the time period reported here, it is worthwhile reporting a Little Shearwater seen offshore from the Meteorological Base on 23 January 1981 (A. Berruti *in litt.*). This is apparently the first record from Marion Island, although the species has previously been seen offshore from nearby Prince Edward Island (Williams & Burger 1978).

Australasian Gannet

Sula serrator

Sightings of a single ringed individual which has been seen several times during 1980-1982 among King Penguins at Archway Bay are reported elsewhere (Brown & Oatley 1982). The species has not previously been recorded at the Prince Edward Islands.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ornithological research at the Prince Edward Islands is conducted under the auspices of the South African Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research with the financial and logistical support of the Department of Transport. I thank my colleagues mentioned in the text for their observations.

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TABLE 3

RECORDS OF PINTADO PETRELS *DAPTION CAPENSE* AT THE
PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS, 1981-1983

Date	Locality	No.	Activity	Observer
Oct 1981	Meteorological Base	1	sitting on sea	S.R. Fugler
Nov 1981	Meteorological Base	1	feeding close inshore in association with Killer Whales <i>Orcinus orca</i>	N.J. Adams
Dec 1981	Archway Bay	1	remains found, probably killed by a feral cat or Subantarctic Skua	N.J. Adams
20 Apr 1982	off Met. Base	5	flying over sea, seen from M.V. <i>S.A. Agulhas</i>	J.W. Enticott
7 Sept 1982	within sight of Marion Island	Nos.	seen from R.V. <i>Africana</i>	J.W. Enticott
8 Sept 1982	between Marion and Prince Edward Islands	Nos.	seen from R.V. <i>Africana</i>	J.W. Enticott
7 May 1983	Kildalkey Bay	1	flying just offshore	J. Cooper
8 May 1983	Kildalkey Bay	1	flying just offshore	J. Cooper

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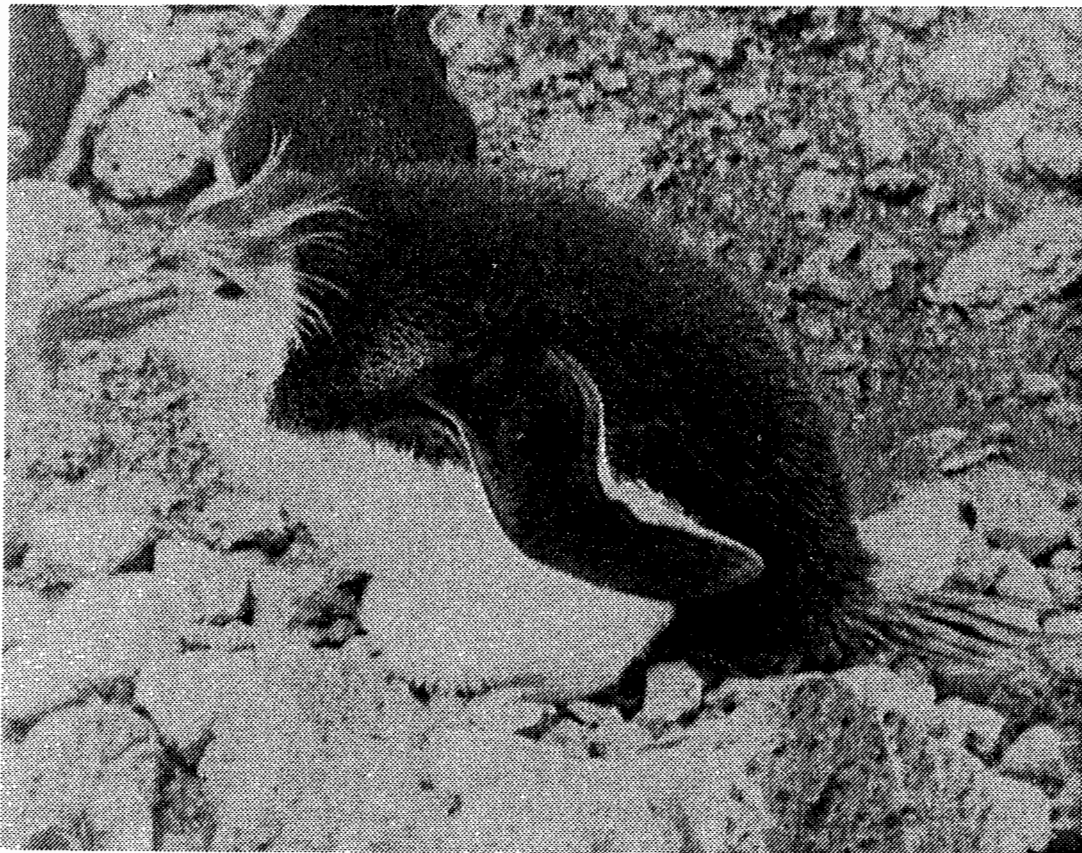


Figure 1

Whitefaced Macaroni Penguin *Eudyptes chrysolophus* at Macaroni Bay, 16 November 1983.

Photographed by J. Cooper