

First Maryland Record of Trindade Petrel (*Pterodroma arminjoniana*)

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On Saturday evening, 24 August 2012, a *See Life Paulagics* cruise left Lewes, Delaware, aboard the *Thelma Dale V*. Our objective was to reach the offshore of Baltimore Canyon, off the edge of the continental shelf in over 1,000 fathoms (6,000 ft) of water before daybreak. There had been five straight days of winds with an easterly component.

When we reached our destination, we stopped and drifted in the dark as we put out a heavy slick of ground fish, fish oil, and beef suet chunks. As first light on 25 August 2012, a call of “Storm-petrel!” went out. A quick check and the bird turned out to be a Leach’s Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*). The second storm-petrel was also a Leach’s. The third was a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*O. castro*). As numbers of Wilson’s (*Oceanites oceanicus*), Leach’s, and Band-rumped Storm-Petrels passed by heading upwind towards our slick, we also observed a few shearwaters. A call went out that a dark bird was approaching the boat; we were shocked to see that it was a dark morph Trindade [formerly Herald] Petrel (*Pterodroma arminjoniana*). The bird immediately stood out due to its dark overall coloration. Several leaders aboard had previous experience with this morph of Trindade Petrel and it was quickly identified by its extremely long, thin wings (Figure 1), smallish head and bill (Figure 2), and high arcing flight all of which helped rule out Sooty Shearwater (*Ardenna grisea*). Closer examination showed the jaeger-like pattern of the under primaries and primary coverts (Figures 1 and 2). The bird stayed near us, flying around, heading away, and then flying back towards the boat for nearly an hour. This was a Maryland state bird for all aboard.

The Trindade Petrel was not the only great bird for the trip. We also found 3–5 Black-capped Petrels (*Pterodroma hasitata*), a species that had only two accepted Maryland records prior to this trip (MD/DCRC 2018), and great looks at a White-faced Storm-Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*). The final count for Leach’s was 58, for Wilson’s was 85, and for Band-rumped was a record shattering 122. Other species observed that day were Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*), Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*), and Bridled Tern (*Onychoprion anaethetus*).



Figure 1. Trindade Petrel, *Pterodroma arminjoniana*. Photographed on 25 August 2012 by Paul A. Guris.



Figure 2. Trindade Petrel. Photographed on 25 August 2012 by Paul A. Guris.

This report of Trindade Petrel (2012-075) was accepted in 2013 by the Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee and added to the official list of Maryland birds (MD/DCRC 2018). Besides the Maryland sighting, only four other records of Trindade Petrel have occurred north of Virginia (Table 1). Other than the 1933 New York hurricane-stranded record (eBird 2018a), the four subsequent records have occurred more recently, Maryland (1) in 2012, and Maine (1) and Massachusetts (2) in 2014.

Additionally, an Atlantic Marine Assessment Program for Protected Species (AMAPPS) survey conducted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on 31 July 2013 supplied eight Maryland eBird (2018) reports that documented a mix of 15 light and dark morph Trindade Petrels (including photographs for most). These reports are currently listed in the MD/DCRC (2018) database as “Reviewable” and shortly will be ready for evaluation by the MD/DCRC.

Table 1: East Coast Trindade Petrel records north of Virginia. Listing is north to south.

State	Date	Location	Morph	Source
Maine	10 JUN 2014	Ogunquit Beach, Ogunquit, (43.255417° N, -70.59175° W), York County	dark	Bevier 2017, MBRC 2018, eBird 2018b
New York	24 AUG 1933	Caroline Center, 15 miles southeast of Ithaca, Tompkins County	dark	eBird 2018a, eBird 2018b
Massachusetts	26 JUL 2014	Georges Bank, (39° 57.1' N by 57° 36.1' W), Nantucket County (pelagic)	light	MARC 2018, eBird 2018b
Massachusetts	28 JUL 2014	Georges Bank, (40° 03.6' N by 67° 52.4' W), Nantucket County (pelagic)	light	MARC 2018, eBird 2018b
Maryland	25 AUG 2012	offshore of Baltimore Canyon, Worcester County (pelagic)	dark	MD/DCRC 2018, eBird 2018b

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