

WHITE-FACED STORM PETRELS *PELAGODROMA MARINA* IN THE SOUTH-WESTERN ATLANTIC OCEAN AND SOUTH OF TIERRA DEL FUEGO

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We observed three White-faced Storm Petrels at 45°52'S, 51°23'W on 24 December 1992 in the south-western Atlantic Ocean during seabird censuses conducted from the icebreaker *Almirante Irizar* of the Instituto Antártico Argentino. A single bird was seen for several minutes on 4 June 1995 to the south of Tierra del Fuego at 55°04'S, 66°07'W (Fig. 1). This bird was flying in a southerly direction. Veit (1988) only recorded the species in the south-western Atlantic Ocean between c. 37–45°S, although his cruise tracks reached as far south as the coast of Tierra del Fuego and to South Georgia at c. 54°S. Our observations thus extend the at-sea range of the species in the region as shown by Veit (1988) and by del Hoyo *et al.* (1992, Fig. 1).

In the South Atlantic Ocean White-faced Storm Petrels breed at the Tristan da Cunha and Gough Islands (Watson 1975, del Hoyo *et al.* 1992). The species has been recorded to the west of South America as a nonbreeding vagrant (Harrison 1989). It has also been observed at Punta Pinas, Ecuador, off the south coast of Uruguay and on the Mar del Plata and Patagonian coasts of Argentina (Blake 1977, Meyer de Schauensee 1970). According to Ringuelet & Aramburu (1957) its presence is accidental in coastal waters near Buenos Aires, being most common in offshore waters (Olrog & Capllonch 1986).

Records of White-faced Storm Petrels in the south-western Atlantic Ocean are presumed to be of non-breeding birds migrating from lower latitudes.

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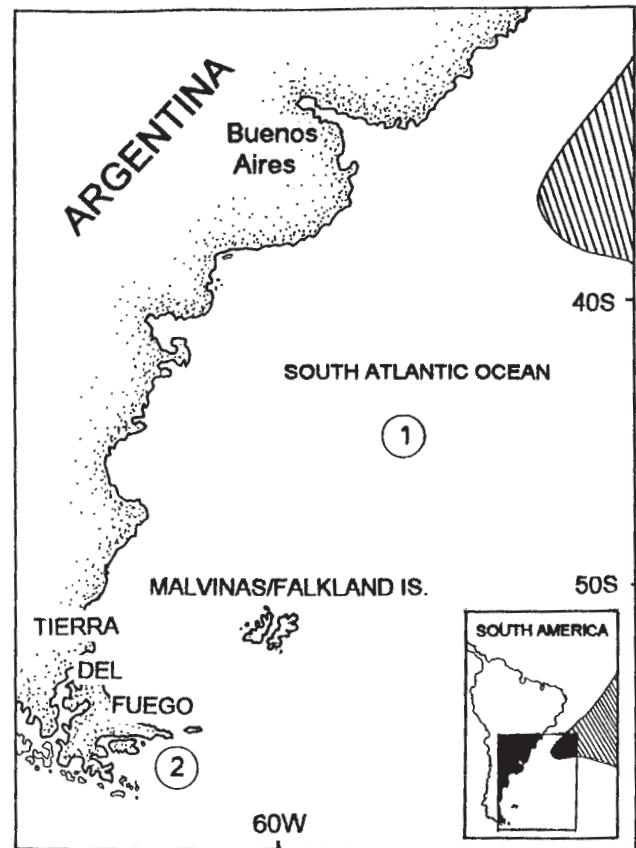


Fig. 1. Records of White-faced Storm Petrels in the south-western Atlantic Ocean. The shaded area represents the distribution according to del Hoyo *et al.* (1992).

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