

NOTES ON WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PETRELS AND ALBATROSSES.

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(Read on 10th August, 1920.*)

These notes on species of Turbinares obtained on the coast of Western Australia during the winter of 1920, include the first authentic record of the presence of the Cape Petrel (*Petrella capensis*) in Australia, and extend the known range of several other species. The specimens referred to are now in the collection of the Western Australian Museum, Perth.

The nomenclature is that of the R.A.O.U. Check List of 1913 with alterations adopted by the Check List Committee.

Pterodroma mollis Gld.—Soft plumaged Petrel or Shearwater.—On May 29th, I found an injured specimen of this rare bird some distance from the beach at Cottesloe. Its wing was broken when found and the bird died about half an hour later.

When dissected the stomach was found to contain cephalopod beaks and the remains of a cephalopod eye.

A specimen of this bird was picked up dead on the beach at Cottesloe on August 8th, 1919, by the late Mr. F. L. Stronach, as a result of which the bird was restored to the Australian list from which it was removed by Mr. Gregory Mathews in 1913.

The only known examples are in the Western Australian Museum.

The type locality is the Southern Atlantic Ocean.

Macronektes giganteus (Gmelin)—Giant Petrel.—Several specimens of this bird were received at the Museum during 1920. It appears to have been rather abundant.

The type locality is Staten Island, Tierra del Fuego.

Petrella capensis (Linné)—Cape Petrel or Cape Pigeon.—On June 23rd, Mr. F. L. Stronach presented a fine specimen of this bird which he had found on the beach some little distance north of Cottesloe. When examined it proved to be an immature male.

* By permission of the Trustees of the Museum.

On October 26th, Mr. Stronach donated a second specimen, also found to the north of Cottesloe. The specimen was mummified and had evidently been dead for some considerable time. In spite of its poor condition it has been added to the reserve collection on account of its rarity. The sex of this bird could not be determined.

This species has often been seen off the Australian coast, but prior to Mr. Stronach's first discovery had never been actually captured in Australia.

The type locality of the species is the Cape of Good Hope.

Pachyptila vittata (Gmelin)—Broad Billed Prion or Dove Petrel.—This bird does not seem to have been at all plentiful in 1920. No specimens arrived at the Museum and I saw very few on the beach. The first specimen to reach the Museum was one I collected north of Osborne on July 3rd, 1917, at which time only one specimen, then in the collection of Mr. Gregory Mathews, and now in the British Museum, was known.

Pachyptila desolata (Gmelin)—Prion or Dove Petrel.—As usual large numbers of Prions were lying dead on the beach. They can be distinguished from the preceding by the shape of the bill and smaller size.

Diomedea (Thalassarche) melanophrys Temm.—Black-browed Albatross.—This albatross, which is exceedingly common off the south coast of Australia, is rarely met with along the west coast, the extreme limit being Cape Naturaliste (Ferguson).

By the taking of a specimen at Cottesloe on August 21st its range is considerably extended.

The type locality of the species is the Cape of Good Hope.

Diomedea (Thalassogeron) chrysostoma Forster.—Grey-headed Albatross.—A specimen of this Albatross or Mollyhawk was a welcome addition to the collection, though not of particular interest, as a living bird had been captured by Mr. Stronach at Cottesloe in 1917.

Diomedea (Thalassarche) chlororhynchus Gmelin—Yellow-nosed Albatross—Two decomposed specimens were seen on the beach south of Cottesloe on August 21st.



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