

SOUTHERN AFRICAN RECORDS OF THE KERGUELEN PETREL

PTERODROMA BREVIROSTRIS

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The Kerguelen Petrel *Pterodroma brevirostris* was first obtained in South Africa in 1820 by Delalande at the Cape of Good Hope (Pucheran 1850, Murphy & Pennoyer 1952, Brooke 1981), the specimen being the type of the species. Thereafter it was not recorded in southern Africa and its offshore waters until 1964 (Table 1). Now there are seven specimen records and eight sight records of individuals. Of the 15 records five were made in 1980 and it is possible that there are other 1980 records which have not yet come to hand in view of the wide geographical spread of the 1980 records (Table 1). Seven of the records were made in August and September, i.e. just before the return to the breeding grounds (Gough, Prince Edward, Crozet and Kerguelen Islands) where egg laying takes place from mid September to late October (Watson 1975). It seems clear that August to November are the principal months of occurrence of the species in South African waters. It would also seem that the Kerguelen Petrel may be present in numbers only in some years, particularly 1964 and 1980. However, there are too many records for the species to be regarded as only a vagrant and southern African waters must be regarded as part of the normal nonbreeding range of the species. There are no records from any part of Africa north of South West Africa/Namibia or Natal.

We agree with Bourne (1959) that Fiskens's claim to have seen two solitary Kerguelen Petrels while coasting between Durban and East London in March 1959 should probably be interpreted as Great-winged Petrels *P. macroptera*, a regular summer visitor to that area (Brooke & Sinclair 1978).

The three specimens obtained from African Seabird Group beach patrols at Yzerfontein were all in very fresh plumage and markedly slategrey in colour, the dark brown tint seen in some specimens being the effect of wear exacerbated by fat staining.

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TABLE 1

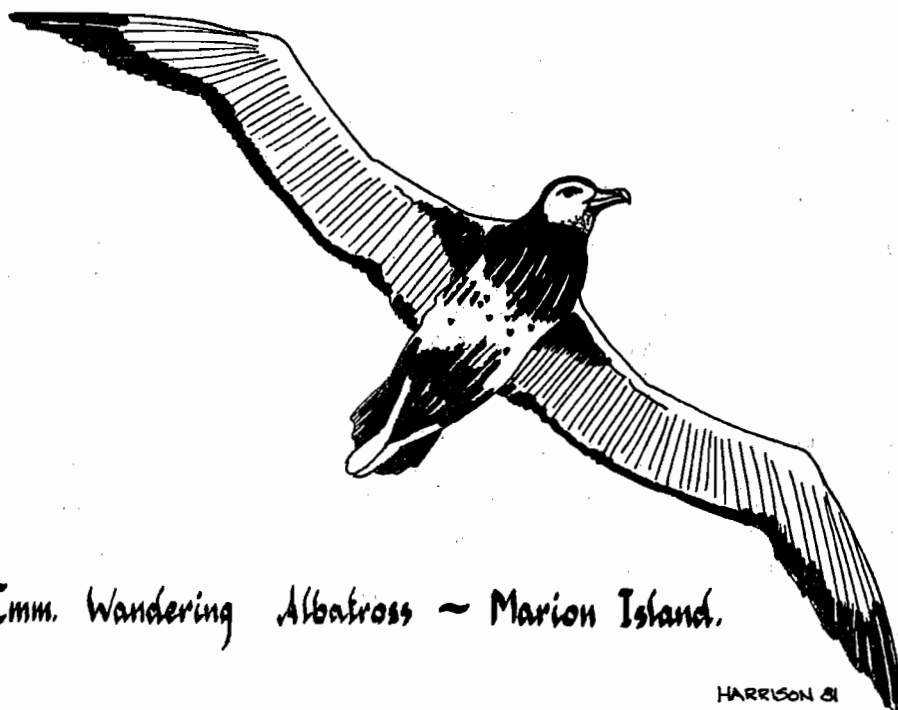
RECORDS OF KERGUELEN PETRELS *PTERODROMA BREVIROSTRIS* IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA

Locality	Date	Nature & source of record
off Swakopmund 22 40S, 14 34E	16 Nov 1964	one seen, Becker (1976)
off Pelican Point Walvis Bay 22 45S, 14 25E	19 Nov 1964	one seen, Becker (1976)
40 nautical miles west of Walvis Bay 22 59S, 13 51E	17 Nov 1964	c. four seen, Becker (1976)
Yzerfontein 33 21S, 18 09E	22 Aug 1980	two specimens, ASG beach patrol (South African Museum)
Yzerfontein	20 Sept 1980	one specimen, ASG beach patrol (South African Museum)
Bothasig 33 52S, 18 33E	31 Aug 1978	Durban Museum specimen, Cooper & Sinclair (1978)
Cape of Good Hope	1820	Museum d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris specimen (type of the species), Puchéran (1850), Murphy & Pennoyer (1952), Brooke (1980)
8 km off Cape Aguilhas 34 54S, 20 01E	21 Feb 1966	one seen, Bourne (1970)
Shalemar Farm, Port Shepstone 30 43S, 30 18E	8 Sept 1980	Durban Museum specimen, P.A. Clancey (<i>in litt.</i>)
12 km east of Amanzimtoti 30 03S, 31 01E	17 Aug 1975	one seen, Sinclair (1978)
Durban 29 50S, 31 00E	27 Aug 1980	Durban Museum specimen, P.A. Clancey (<i>in litt.</i>)

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Imm. Wandering Albatross - Marion Island.