

Occurrence of the Kerguelen Petrel in New Zealand

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On the same day in July of last year (1934) two Petrels were received at the Dominion Museum from different localities in the Province of Wellington. Both were forwarded by the finders because they appeared new to them, and, consequently, they thought the specimens might be useful to the Museum. Both belonged to the same species which, strange as it may seem, had not hitherto been recorded from New Zealand. The first specimen received was in a very mutilated condition. After a little search it was identified as the Kerguelen Petrel (*Pterodroma brevirostris*). The second specimen was perfect and almost fresh. The mutilated specimen was found on the rocky coast of Kapiti Island by the caretaker, Mr. A. S. Wilkinson. It had been dead for some days before it was discovered. The fresh specimen was found at Ohakia, an inland locality 12 miles from Feilding, on July 16, 1934, and was forwarded to the Museum by Mr. H. A. Fraser.

The following description is taken from the Ohakia specimen.

Above, dark slaty-grey, the feathers with paler margins; upper tail coverts slaty-grey with pale margins; tail slaty-black; wings greyish-black with slaty-grey margins to the feathers; quills black, the inner web brown and edged with grey. Around the eyes greyish-black. Under surface brownish-grey changing to slaty-grey on the under tail coverts; axillaries slaty-grey with paler margins; under wing coverts slaty-grey with whitish margins; under surface of outer quill grey with a well-defined whitish band along the shaft. Bill black. Feet brownish-grey with purplish sheen, nails black. Length 330 mm., bill 26.5, wing 255, tarsus 38, tail 108.

The Kerguelen Petrel ranges over the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans, and is known to breed at Tristan da Cunha and Kerguelen Islands. It occurs as a straggler on the West Australian coast. The present record of the species in New Zealand indicates that it strays far to the eastward of its breeding place.

White-eared Flycatcher.—In the third week of September in a rain forest reserve facing the ocean, about two miles north of the New South Wales border, I heard the characteristic whistle of the White-eared Flycatcher (*Carterornis leucotis*) and soon located the bird fluttering over the leafy tree tops. This is as far south as I have seen the bird, and it would be interesting to know if its range extends into New South Wales.—L. M. MAYO, Brisbane, Qld., 3/12/34.