

These counts were probably made during years of relatively-light sea-bird mortality around Sydney for records indicate that at intervals the mortality reaches considerable dimensions. D. L. Serventy (1941, p. 89) records finding 88 *P. griseus* along the $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles stretch of beach at Bate Bay on November 6, 1938, which was a year of heavy mortality. All of the birds examined by Serventy had gonads in an advanced state of development.

Data are as yet lacking as to whether the Sooty Shearwater is present throughout the year in its Australian range, or only during the spring and summer months. Because of its similarity in the field to other shearwaters no assessment of numbers, other than of birds washed up on beaches, has as yet been made.

It can now be stated that the Sooty Shearwater breeds or has bred on at least three islands off the eastern coast of Australia. Location of these is given in the accompanying map.

We wish to extend our thanks to Mr. K. A. Hindwood for the loan of literature otherwise unavailable to us.

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Albatross in Port Phillip Bay.—While with a party in Port Phillip Bay, in the vicinity of Mud Island, during rough weather on November 9, 1947, I had the pleasure of observing the Black-browed Albatross (*Diomedea melanophris*). Although only two birds were noted at one time I feel sure there were at least four birds in the Bay. As the birds flew within twenty yards of our boat at times identification was made simple. The bright yellow beak, the black eye-brow, and wings, tail and size spoke for themselves. One particular bird indulged in a deal of wing-flapping when flying low over the water whilst others just appeared to tilt the end of their wings while gliding over the water.—HAROLD E. TARR, Middle Park, Vic., 12/11/47.