

found. When sent to Melbourne for identification this was confirmed, and the following letter, addressed to Mr. Beaglehole, received from the Curator of Birds, Mr. Allan McEvey.

Many thanks to you and your friends for the valuable specimen you have forwarded. It is *Phoebastria palpebrata* (Forst.), Grey-mantled Albatross, and here are the data:

*Reg. No.* B. 6283 comprising chiefly skull, cervical vertebrae, right foot, tarso-metatarsus, tibia, fibula, femur, and pelvic girdle.

*Measurements:* Culmen (total) 115 mm. Tarsus 81 mm. Middle toe with claw, 120 mm. (est).

*Colour:* The sulcus (groove on side of lower mandible containing fleshy skin) varies from light brownish olive to greyish-olive (Ridgway colors) and while this is not as dark as that in other specimens of *P. palpebrata* available, it is still distinct from the straw-coloured sulcus of *P. fusca* as illustrated in our specimen of the latter.

*Leg:* Horn brown with a vinaceous tinge (not Ridgway colors). There is also a pinkish tinge on one claw. The culminicorn and right ramicorn are missing.

Among the feathers which remained, none was found to show any distinct sign of juvenile scalloped pattern, nor were any feathers found as light as those of the mantle of the immature specimen, B. 3074. This, in conjunction with the bill measurement, strongly suggests the bird was adult. This is, of course, the second Australian specimen of the species, the previous one being Nat. Mus. no. B. 3074 as recorded W. B. Hitchcock, *Emu*, vol. 50, pp. 16, 135-7.

The remains of this Albatross had evidently been on the beach for some days as they were quite dry. This conjecture is borne out by the meteorological conditions preceding the find. From July 1 to July 7 the winds were from dead calm to light north. From June 27 to 30 there was a succession of heavy gales from the north to south-west with barometer as low as 29.15 at 2 p.m. on June 27. These storms accounted for a number of sea-bird tragedies on other local beaches and gave us some good petrel and prion records.

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**Another Victorian Specimen of the Sooty Shearwater.**—On December 14, 1955, while searching for beach-washed birds on the shore half a mile east of Seaspray (near Sale, Vic.), Mr. Ian Cross and I recovered a recent specimen. At first glance it resembled a Short-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus tenuirostris*), but on closer examination it was found to be darker in colour, and the underwing was white, the feathers showing black shafts; the beak was longer and heavier. The head and wing were removed, and later taken to the National Museum where they were identified as belonging to the Sooty Shearwater—*Puffinus griseus* Gmelin. This is, I believe, the fifth record of this bird in Victoria within recent years. The measurements as taken were: culmen length, 39 mm.; wing span, 38 in.; and body length, 17 in.—TREVOR PESCOTT, Geelong, Vic., 20/1/56.