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The Black-winged Petrel: an Australian specimen record.—

Several of the smaller petrels of the genus *Pterodroma* are superficially so much alike that their status has been a matter of discussion in recent years. In this group are three forms, all with pink or flesh-coloured feet, listed under the specific name of *hypoleuca* (Falla 1942).

The typical subspecies, *hypoleuca* (the Bonin Petrel) breeds on the Bonin and Hawaiian Islands in the north-west Pacific; *axillaris* (the Chatham Island Petrel) breeds on the Chatham Islands, and *nigripennis* (the Black-winged Petrel) nests on the Kermadecs, the Three Kings and the Austral Islands. The four known occurrences of *nigripennis* on Lord Howe Island (450 miles north-east of Sydney) have been listed by McKean and Hindwood (1964). Presumably these birds are stragglers; there is no evidence to indicate breeding on that island, though the *Checklist of New Zealand Birds* (1953) states that such is the case.

I am now able to record an example of *nigripennis* from mainland Australia. On February 2, 1964, Peter Drummond found the decomposed remains of a petrel on Cronulla Beach, near Sydney. The head of this bird was collected and comparison with material in the Australian Museum, Sydney, indicated that it was referable to *nigripennis*, the Black-winged Petrel. Confirmation was sought from Dr R. A. Falla, Dominion Museum, Wellington, New Zealand. In reply to the enquiry Dr Falla stated " . . . there is no doubt that it is *nigripennis*, matching one or two we have here" (*in litt.* 24.4.1964).

Two living examples of *Pterodroma hypoleuca* (? subspecies) were found on Heron Island, Queensland, on January 7, 1962. This interesting record is discussed by A. J. Reid in this issue of *The Emu*.

The head of *nigripennis* from Cronulla Beach has been placed in the Australian Museum collections (specimen no. 0.40847).—
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