

CHAMBERS, S. 2009.

Birds of New Zealand - Locality Guide. 3rd edn.

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Mottled petrel: pp 61-62.



MOTTLED PETREL

Family Procellariidae

Species *Pterodroma inexpectata*

Common name Mottled Petrel

Status Endemic

Abundance Common

Size 340 mm (cf sparrow 145 mm)

Breeding islands close to New Zealand Breeds on Snares Island, the islands in Foveaux Strait and around Stewart Island including Big South Cape and Codfish Island. On Codfish Island a small colony of Cooks Petrel also breed which can cause confusion when both species are viewed together at sea.

Breeding months November to April. Birds lay 1 white egg in a burrow.

Range worldwide North of New Zealand up the Pacific in a wide band to Alaska.

New Zealand range Around New Zealand near its breeding islands.

Description

Crown Grey with dark grey feather scalation above bill. **Upperparts and upperwings** Dark grey with black open M marking from wing tip across rump to wing tip. **Uppertail** Grey. **Underparts** White with prominent grey abdomen patch. **Underwings** White with bold black incomplete V marking. **Tail** Grey with a broad black tip.

Call A high-pitched “ti ti ti ti ti” is uttered by returning birds at night.

Differences between Mottled Petrel and Cooks Petrel

- Mottled Petrel is a bigger bird.
- Mottled Petrel has a dark grey abdominal patch.
- Mottled Petrel has a noticeable black V underwing marking.
- Mottled Petrel has an overall darker upperwing and a darker M marking on the upperwing than has Cooks Petrel.

Where to find – Stewart Island

Foveaux Strait – From the Foveaux Strait ferry.

Stewart Island waters – Expect it from any waters right around Stewart Island and to the Southland Coast. P. 367.