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Antarctic petrel: pp 50-51.

Antarctic Petrel *Thalassoica antarctica* (Gmelin 1789), Native
January 1841 Ross Sea
August 1970 Macquarie Island

It was recorded on the *Erebus* and *Terror* expedition in January 1841, in the Ross Sea (770 S 1810 E) (British Museum (Nat. Hist.) 1902). The first record north of the Antarctic Circle appears to be one observed at Macquarie Island in 1970 by G. W. Johnstone (Green 1989). Skeletal specimens were also collected. It is not certain if these records were accepted*.

The first mainland record was of one found beach-washed by Alan Poulton and Pen Smith in September 1973. It was found between Maunganui Bluff and Bayleys Beach on the Dargaville west coast, Northland. The occurrence was considered unusual as the weather was relatively settled at the time. However, from its condition it could have been beach-cast much earlier. Two more were found the same year in October (Oreti Beach) and December (Cape Kidnappers).

Since the mid-1970s it has been more frequently found, possibly as a result of a change in wintering distribution, because of a population increase, or a change in feeding patterns (Heather & Robertson 1996).

*Marchant & Higgins (1990) also mentioned nine records from New Zealand between 1936 and 1965, but these actually referred to Antarctic Fulmar.