

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)
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Providence petrel: p 59.

Providence Petrel *Pterodroma solandri* (Gould 1844), Native
4/10/1788 Norfolk Island
January 1921 Muriwai Beach, Northland

It was first recorded by Philip Gidley King in October 1788, when he discovered a large breeding colony of petrels on the summit of Mt. Pitt (King 1786-1790). Latham described the "Norfolk Island Petrel" from a specimen possibly obtained by King at the same time. Gray later described *Procellaria phillipii* (a junior synonym) from Latham's description. By 1825 over one million petrels had been harvested by the settlers, and it became locally extinct on Norfolk Island. It was over 150 years later before it recolonised Norfolk Island.

Considering it breeds in large numbers on Lord Howe Island and Philip Island (Norfolk Island), this species is extremely rare in mainland New Zealand seas. The first record was a beach-washed bird found by R.A. Falla (1933) on Muriwai Beach in January 1921.