

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)
Based on: Watola, G. 2009. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (2nd Edition)
Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.
Updated and amended text supplied by George Watola, October, 2011.
Page numbers follow Watola, G. 2009 (2nd Edition)
Blue petrel: p 52.

Blue Petrel *Halobaena caerulea* (Gmelin 1789), Native
1867 Auckland
December 1902 Scott Island, Ross Sea (Shirihai 2002)

A Blue Petrel painted by Richard Laishley in c. 1867 appears to be the earliest record (Sibson 1983). This was painted at Onehunga. This is probably the bird referred to by Buller (1873), when he commented on a Cook's Petrel in the collection of the Rev. R. Laishley. The only known specimen of Blue Petrel at the time (in the Auckland Museum) that Buller referred to cannot now be traced.

Gray (1862) also recorded *Procellaria caerulea* from the north-east coast of New Zealand, but without supporting details. Oliver stated that Buller included Blue Petrel on the basis of the Auckland Museum specimen in 1865, but as no trace or description can be found, the 1867 record should probably stand as the first. One was found at Cape Campbell in 1877 (Buller 1878).