

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)
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Grey petrel: p 66.

Grey Petrel *Procellaria cinerea* Gmelin 1789, Native
September 1891 seas west of the Chatham Islands
1990 Ross Sea (Marchant & Higgins 1990)

The Grey Petrel was added to the New Zealand list by Hutton (1871a) but without supporting details. He described it well, but without any locality records or specimens. The first acceptable record was ~September 1891, when Captain Fairchild shot two specimens midway between Wellington and the Chathams (Buller 1891b). These were forwarded to Buller. He read his paper on 9/9/1891, stating that the birds had been shot “a few days previously”.

The species was described from a specimen in the British Museum, and a painting of a bird collected by the Forsters on Cook's second voyage in 1773. These were supposedly from the seas south of New Zealand, according to Mathews (1912), but Lysaght (1959) stated that one was captured on 10th January 1774, midway between New Zealand and Cape Horn. Another was collected on 2/10/1769, at a considerable distance east of New Zealand (Lysaght 1959).