

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)
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Australasian gannet: pp 86-87.

Australasian Gannet (Takapu) *Morus serrator* (G.R. Gray 1843), Native

24/12/1769 Three Kings, Northland

November 1961 Norfolk Island

Gannets were shot near the Three Kings by Banks, and made into a "Goose pye" for Christmas dinner. Banks (Beaglehole 1963) wrote: "Land in sight, an Island or rather several small ones most probably 3 Kings, so that it was conjectured that we had Passed the Cape which had so long troubled us. Calm most of the Day: myself in a boat shooting in which I had good success, killing chiefly several Gannets or Solan Geese so like Europaean ones that they are hardly distinguishable from them. As it was the humour of the ship to keep Christmas in the old fashiond way it was resolvd of them to make a Goose pye for tommorrows dinner."

Most of the birds collected on Cook's first voyage appear to have been destined for the pot, rather than for specimens (Medway 1993). One of these specimens was, however, drawn by Parkinson, and described by Solander. The drawing is the holotype of Gray's later description of *Morus serrator* in 1843, *serrator* being a mis-spelling of *sectator*, as Solander had named the bird. Solander & Banks both recognised the New Zealand Gannet as distinct, based on plumage features.

