

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)
Black-backed gull: p 154.

Southern Black-backed Gull (Karoro) *Larus dominicanus dominicanus* Lichenstein 1823, Native
January 1770 Tasman Bay, Nelson
15/11/1965 Cape Crozier, Ross Sea
17/9/1983 Norfolk Island

Even though a common and conspicuous bird, Oliver thought it had not been recorded on Cook's voyages. However, Parkinson had recorded it at Tasman Bay in January 1770. He described a "large black and white gull, bright yellow beak, spot of scarlet, irides bright scarlet, legs and feet greenish yellow". The record was mistakenly reassigned to the Endeavour River, Queensland by the editor (his brother) of his journal (Lysaght & Serventy 1956).

Johann Forster also refers to "two kinds of Gulls viz the Herring & the black and white Gull" at Queen Charlotte Sound in May 1773. This seems likely to refer to adult and young Black-backed Gulls.

It was then collected from Mount Egmont, Taranaki, probably by Dieffenbach about December 1839, and the specimen brought to the British Museum by the British Antarctic Expedition (Fleming 1983). Mount Egmont seems a rather unlikely locality, and it may have been collected on the coast nearby. Robert McCor-

