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Southern royal albatross pp. 40-41.

**Southern Royal Albatross** (Toroa) *Diomedea epomophora* Lesson 1825, Endemic  
1891 Campbell Island  
February 1973 Ross Sea (630 S (Fowler 1973))

This taxon was described by Lesson in 1825, from a specimen taken at sea by Duperry's expedition in 1822. The type locality is variously given as at sea off the north of New Zealand (Oliver 1955), no locality given (Turbott 1990), or 400 S (Marchant & Higgins 1990). Penhallurick (2008) stated that "no locality given; probably Australian waters". Lesson's account was overlooked until 1912, when Mathews rediscovered it. Mathews's research unearthed Lesson's lost description, and although Lesson's name had not been used since its original publication, Mathews declared it to have priority (Tickell 2000). Mathews (1912) said that *D. regia* was a mixture of the two subspecies, and *D. epomophora* had over 60 year's priority.

Mathews also named the Royal Albatross from Enderby Island *D. e. mccormicki*, but this was another synonym. Westerskov (1961) comprehensively dismissed Mathews's arguments, saying that Lesson's description was also a mixture of both forms, and moreover based purely on observations at sea. Apparently Sir R.A. Falla planned to have Lesson's name declared a nomen nudum.

During the 19th century, ornithologists such as Filhol in 1875 suspected the existence of two large albatrosses in New Zealand seas, but it was not until 1891 that Buller (1890a) described *Diomedea regia* from Campbell Island and Port Chalmers (Oliver put the type locality as Otago Heads). Buller exhibited 16 specimens of Royal Albatross at a meeting of the Royal Society in Wellington, two from Campbell Island, one from Auckland Island and 13 from Port Chalmers, Otago. In his description Buller emphasized the broad black line along the cutting edge of the upper mandible as a diagnostic feature. He also mentioned that he had thought there were two species of Great Albatross in 1885. McCormick collected Royal Albatrosses on Enderby Island, Auckland Islands in November 1840.