

CHAMBERS, S. 2009.

Birds of New Zealand - Locality Guide. 3rd edn.

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Southern giant petrel: pp 50-51.



SOUTHERN GIANT PETREL

Family Procellariidae

Species *Macronectes giganteus*

Common name Southern Giant Petrel

Status Native

Abundance Common

Size 800mm – 900 mm (cf sparrow 145 mm, Black-backed Gull 600mm)

Breeding islands close to New Zealand Nearest is at the Macquarie Islands.

Range Found around oceans of the southern hemisphere below latitude 18°.

Discussion The Southern Giant Petrel comes in variable plumages. There is a dark phase, which is similar to the Northern Giant Petrel except for bill colour. There are also white and variable phases showing marked differences.

Differences between Southern Giant Petrel and Northern Giant Petrel

- Southern has a whitish head and breast or may be all white.
- Southern has yellowish bill.
- Northern has yellowish bill tipped with tan.

Where to find – South Island

Kaikoura – Regularly seen from seabird excursions. P. 289.

Otago – Often seen offshore along the Otago and Southland coasts. P. 361.