

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)  
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Page numbers follow Watola, G. 2009 (2nd Edition)  
Fairy prion: pp 55-56.

**Fairy Prion** (Titi Wainui) *Pachyptila turtur* (Kuhl 1820), Native  
1850 Cook Strait, Wellington  
15/5/1995 Norfolk Island

This common prion was first collected in Cook Strait by Dr. Lyall before 1850 (Oliver 1955). Lyall was surgeon and naturalist aboard the *Acheron*, captained by Stokes. He was aboard from 1847-49 during the survey of the South Island. Lyall discovered the Mountain Lily or Mount Cook Lily *Ranunculuis lyalli* on this expedition. Oliver appears to have obtained his information from museum specimens, possibly in the Te Papa Museum, Wellington. I cannot trace the original documentation for this record. Richardson & Gray (1844) recorded *Procellaria turtur*, but their plate shows *P. vittata*. *P. ariel* (Gould 1844) and *P. brevirostris* (Gould 1855) were names used by Buller and are synonyms of Fairy Prion.

The Fairy Prion was named by Kuhl from a painting by Parkinson drawn on 1/02/1769 at 580 780, just to the west of Cape Horn. The painting appears to be a Narrow-billed Prion *P. desolata*, but as no bill dimensions were given must become indeterminate (Lysaght 1959). The name has been conserved as it has been in use continuously for many years.