

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)
Broad-billed prion: pp 52-53.

Broad-billed Prion (Parara) *Pachyptila vitatta* (Forster 1777), Native
14/4/1773 Dusky Sound, Fiordland

It was apparently recorded off East Cape on Cook's first voyage in 1769. On the 2nd and 3rd October 1769, Banks shot some prions, east of New Zealand at 37° 10'S, 171° 5'W. However, this location is somewhat distant from New Zealand, and so should not be considered to be in New Zealand seas. Banks & Solander named the new species *Procellaria latirostris*. Medway (2002a) is of the opinion that the description could only apply to the Broad-billed Prion. J. R. Forster later described *P. vittata* in 1777.

However, Medway pointed out that the type painting is actually an Antarctic Prion *P. desolata*. The bird depicted was also collected in the southern Indian Ocean, about 56° 31' S, 31° 19' E, and not in New Zealand seas, as Mathews & Hallstrom (1943) have stated.

The Broad-billed Prion was recorded in Dusky Sound, nesting in burrows, on 14th April 1773. "When we came to the creek which was on the N.W. side of Anchor Isle, we found there an immense number of blue peterels, some on the wing, others in the woods in holes in the ground, under the roots of trees and in the crevices of rocks, where there was no getting them, and where we supposed their young were deposited. As not one was to be seen in the day, the old ones were probably, at that time, out at sea searching for food, which in the evening they bring to their young. The noise they made was like the croaking of many frogs. They were, I believe, of the broad-bill kind, which, are not so commonly seen at sea as the others. Here, however, they are in great numbers, and flying much about in the night, some of our gentlemen at first took them for bats" (Cook 1777).

Buller (1888) called it the Broad-billed Dove Petrel, and in 1907 Godman referred to it as the Brown-billed Blue Fulmar. Godman (1907) called many petrels fulmars e.g. Kermadec Fulmar (Black-winged Petrel) and Parkinson's Black Fulmar (Black Petrel).