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Greater snow petrel and Lesser snow petrel: pp 51-52.

Greater Snow Petrel *Pagodroma nivea major* (Schelgel 1863), Native
January 1841 Ross Sea

It breeds on the Balleny Islands north of the Ross Sea. Two were collected by the *Erebus & Terror* expedition in January 1841, one in the Ross Sea and one 400 kms from the Balleny Islands (Lowe & Kinnear 1930).

Lesser Snow Petrel *Pagodroma nivea nivea* (G. Forster 1777), Native
31/12/1898 Ross Sea
15/7/1994 Macquarie Island

A Lesser Snow Petrel was collected by Hanson in the Ross Sea, amongst Greater Snow Petrels in December 1898 (British Museum (Nat. Hist.) 1902). Six birds of this small form were also shot at Cape Adare in April and December 1899.

The first record north of the Antarctic Circle appears to be a specimen found at Macquarie Island on 15/7/1994 by Alan Wiltshire (Scofield & Wiltshire 2004). Measurements indicated it was the smaller form *P. nivea nivea*. Two birds were then seen 180 nautical miles south-west of Macquarie Island on 7/10/1994 by P. Schofield. There were further records in March 1995; June 2000; August & September 2003. For a long time Snow Petrels were only recorded around Antarctica, so this recent flurry of records is a little surprising.

Scofield & Wiltshire (2004) considered that the 1991-1993 El Nino Southern Oscillation may have caused global cooling, resulting in a northward shift of the Antarctic polar frontal zone. This probably made conditions suitable for Snow Petrels to occur in areas further north. Although northern *P. n. nivea* and southern *P.n.major* breeders are separable on measurements, significant sexual dimorphism in both forms and extensive hybridization where their ranges meet, suggest species status for the two taxa is not warranted (Christidis & Boles 1994; 2008). Scofield & Onley (2007) recognised both species.