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Common diving petrel: pp 83-84.

Northern Diving Petrel (Kuaka) *Pelecanoides urinatrix urinatrix* (Gmelin 1789), Native
7/11/1773 Queen Charlotte Sound, Marlborough

This Diving Petrel was discovered on Cook's second voyage. It was found on the second visit to Queen Charlotte Sound, in November 1773 (Hoare 1982). George Forster drew it, Latham described it, and Gmelin gave it the binomial. Gmelin reaped the benefits of Latham not being courageous enough to use binomials, and named 27 species from New Zealand described originally by Latham.

This taxon breeds on islets off Australia, North Island and in Cook Strait.

Southern Diving Petrel *Pelecanoides urinatrix chathamensis* Murphy & Harper 1916, Endemic
January 1871 Pitt Island, Chatham Islands

H. H. Travers found this taxon in (?January) 1871 (but Buller (1888) stated they were obtained in January 1872). Hutton (1872) wrote about these specimens, but referred them to *P.u. berardi*, the Falklands Diving Petrel. Hutton said that the thin bill (0.17 in) distinguished this taxon from the Northern Diving Petrel *P.u. urinatrix* (0.25 in).

Murphy & Harper described it many years later from a specimen obtained in February 1893 by Danaeferd from the Chathams. It was differentiated from the nominate form by its smaller dimensions. This diving petrel breeds at the Snares, Chathams and on islands off Stewart Island. Murphy & Harper (1921) said it also bred at the Auckland Islands, in sympatry with *exsul*. They based this on the close examination of two specimens, with their "*chathamensis*" being smaller, with less mottling of the jugulum and different bill characters. Perhaps these were mislabeled specimens (?).

Holdaway et al. (2001) have recently suggested that *P. u. exsul* and *P. u. chathamensis* may belong to a separate species *P. exsul* of more southerly distribution. These are of a smaller size than the nominate form. Genetic studies are probably required to ascertain their true status. Both forms were collected in the 19th century, but not formally described for many years. Hutton certainly recognised the Chatham birds as different, so perhaps his should be the first record if *exsul* and *chathamensis* are separated.

Subantarctic Diving Petrel *Pelecanoides urinatrix exsul* Salvin 1896, Native
1921 Auckland Islands
21/2/1952 Ross Sea (van Oordt & Krujit 1954)

This taxon was not described until 1896, when Salvin described birds from Kerguelen Island. It had been collected at the Auckland Islands by the *Erebus & Terror* expedition in November 1840. Murphy & Harper (1921) attributed specimens from the Auckland Islands to this subspecies. It was found breeding at Port Ross about 1943 by the ornithologists among the coast-watchers stationed there.

P. u. exsul was believed to breed at the Chathams by Godman (1907), but this was the then undescribed *chathamensis*. Murphy & Harper (1921) said Godman treated the Diving Petrels in an "exceedingly casual and uncritical manner", so his decisions in respect of subspecific attribution should be ignored.

P. u. exsul breeds widely in higher latitudes from South Georgia, through the Indian Ocean to Macquarie Island, Auckland Islands and the Antipodes.

Van Oordt & Krujit (1954) saw a Diving Petrel near the Balleny Islands in February 1952, which they thought may have been *P. georgicus*, but this seems unlikely in view of their rarity.