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White-chinned petrel: pp 66-67.

White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis* Linnaeus 1758, Native
1891 Auckland Islands.
1971 Ross Sea (Watson et al 1971)

It was mentioned by G.R. Gray (1846; 1862), but this was possibly a misidentification of Black Petrel. [Gray (1846) did state “more or less white on the chin and head, bill white, with the sutures black”, which might indicate he knew the species.] Hutton (1871) struck this species off the New Zealand list. It was first collected from the Auckland Islands in 1891 by the carpenter of the *Hinemoa* (Buller 1892) and then from the Antipodes about December 1893 (Hutton 1894).

Buller described the Auckland Islands specimens as blackish-grey, with a triangular white throat patch, which he thought could only be this species. These specimens are possibly the ones described by Mathews (1912) as *P. a. steadi*. The White-chinned Petrel has been regarded as monotypic.

A recent short paper suggested that White-chinned Petrels breeding on the Antipodes are distinct from all other White-chinned Petrels, based on significantly larger measurements. (Fraser et al. 2005). More recently Techow et al. (2009) found that White-chinned Petrels consist of two populations, a New Zealand one and a South Atlantic/ Indian Ocean population. These separated 0.35 million years ago, and are probably worthy of subspecific recognition.

Mathews described *P. a. steadi* in 1912, including both Antipodes Islands and Auckland Islands birds in his taxon. His type was based on Antipodes Islands specimens taken in c. 1894.

Miskelly (2009) recently photographed a well-marked white-chinned individual off Kaikoura on 1 June 2008. He considered this bird had come from a population in the southern Indian Ocean.