

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)
Soft-plumaged petrel: p 60.

Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis* (Gould 1844), Coloniser
12/2/1969 Antipodes Island

Bourne (1981) suggested that a 1956 gadfly skull from Macquarie Island was probably a Soft-plumaged Petrel. They are now colonizing Macquarie Island (Clarke & Shulz 2005). The first definite record was one caught by R.H. Taylor on Antipodes Island in February 1969 (Warham & Bell, 1979). They were present in some numbers. This discovery was quite unexpected as the nearest known breeding site is the Isles de Crozet, 8300 km west. The mournful, low-pitched fluting calls attracted attention, as they are very different from White-headed Petrel, which breeds abundantly on the Antipodes Island.

[Marchant & Higgins (1990) mysteriously refer to a record from Mokohinau Island lighthouse in September - December 1904, which I have been unable to verify so far. The reference given appears to be in error].