

CHAMBERS, S. 2009.

Birds of New Zealand - Locality Guide. 3rd edn.

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Black-winged petrel: pp 59-60.



BLACK-WINGED PETREL

Family Procellariidae

Species *Pterodroma nigripennis*

Common name Black-winged Petrel

Status Native

Abundance Common

Size 300 mm (cf sparrow 145 mm, Cooks Petrel 300 mm)

Breeding islands Kermadec Islands, Three Kings, Motuopao Island off Cape Maria Van Dieman, Poor Knights Islands, East and Portland Islands off Gisborne, and South-east Island off Chatham Island where the population is on the increase. Has attempted to breed on mainland New Zealand at Cape Maria Van Dieman.

Breeding months November to April. 1 white egg is laid in a burrow.

Range worldwide Central Pacific from the Chatham Islands to about latitude 30° north.

New Zealand range Now seen in waters around northern Northland but not common in other New Zealand waters away from the Chatham Islands. A conspicuous small petrel with a widening New Zealand range.

Description

Forehead White with pale grey feather scalation to pale grey crown. **Head** Pale grey, the grey extending down the neck to the rump and forming an incomplete collar to the throat. Dark patch through eye. **Upperwings** Grey with a dark grey open M marking across wings and rump from wing tip to wing tip. **Underparts** White. **Underwings** White with a heavy black incomplete V shaped mark on the leading edge with black wing tips and primary edges. **Tail** Grey with dark grey tip. **Undertail** White, with dark grey tip. **Bill** Black. **Feet** Pink.

Conspicuous features

- Look for the black underwing incomplete V marking.
- The similar Chatham Island Petrel has a much bolder and wider incomplete underwing V marking.

Conspicuous characteristics

- Birds have a habit of flying over their breeding colonies in daylight.
- Birds are attracted to shipping and will land on decks.

Call “Ahhoo – wiwiwiwi” heard at dusk.

Where to find

Northland – Cape Maria Van Dieman from the Cape Reinga lighthouse. P. 278.

Bay of Islands – Beyond Cape Brett.

Chatham Island – Near South-east Island (Rangatira Island) colony.