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- COLIN F.J. O'DONNELL, *Science and Research Division, Department of Conservation, Private Bag, Christchurch, New Zealand*



### **Birds and mammals of Solander (Hautere) Island**

Visits to the Solander Is are rare, thus during our survey of the Fiordland Crested Penguin *Eudyptes pachyrhynchus* on and around Solander I. from 21-23 August, 1983, we kept notes about all bird and mammal species seen and present a summary here (for details of the penguin survey, see Studholme *et al.* 1994).

Bird species seen either on the island or immediately offshore are listed in Table 1. Seven Red-crowned Parakeets (*Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae*) were positively identified, some individuals being independently identified by two observers, and no Yellow-crowned Parakeets (*C. auriceps*) were seen. Large numbers of Buller's Mollymawk (*Diomedea bulleri*) nests were scattered across the cliffs; the chicks were fully feathered and were close to fledging. No seabirds were heard flying over at night other than species also seen during the day.

TABLE 1 – Bird species seen on and around Solander (Hautere) I., August 21-23, 1993.

Species observed	Abundance*
<u>On the island</u>	
Buller's Mollymawk, <i>Diomedea bulleri</i>	common
Weka, <i>Gallirallus australis</i>	common
Variable Oystercatcher, <i>Haematopus unicolor</i>	moderate
Red-crowned Parakeet, <i>Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae</i>	moderate
Dunnock, <i>Prunella modularis</i>	common
Song Thrush, <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	rare
Grey Warbler, <i>Gerygone igata</i>	rare
Fantail, <i>Rhipidura fuliginosa</i>	moderate
Pied Tit, <i>Petroica macrocephala</i>	common
Silvereye, <i>Zosterops lateralis</i>	moderate
Bellbird, <i>Anthornis melanura</i>	common
Starling, <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	one small flock
<u>Offshore</u>	
Diving Petrel, <i>Pelecanoides urinatrix</i>	one large flock
Giant petrel, <i>Macronectes halli</i>	common
Gannet, <i>Morus serrator</i>	rare
Brown Skua, <i>Catharacta maccormicki</i>	one seen
Black-backed Gull, <i>Larus dominicanus</i>	common
Red-billed Gull, <i>Larus novaehollandiae</i>	common
White-fronted Tern, <i>Sterna striata</i>	common

\* common = seen frequently, moderate = daily sightings, rare = 1-2 sightings

Seal (*Arctocephalis forsteri*) pups were abundant, but were generally smaller than those seen by IGM on Taumaka (Open Bay) I. two weeks previously. Also in contrast to Taumaka where the seals were having a very good year, some very small pups ("runts") were seen, and several dead pups were found. It appeared that seals on the Solanders were not doing quite as well as on Taumaka in 1993.

One young Elephant Seal (*Mirounga leonina*) was in Southwest Bay.

It appears that some variation has occurred in species abundance and presence on Solander I. since record-keeping began. Yellow-crowned Parakeets appear to have been replaced by Red-crowned Parakeets since Falla's report (Falla 1948) and we found Grey Warblers (*Gerygone igata*) to be rare and Dunnocks (*Prunella modularis*) to be common, whereas Wilson (1973) found the reverse.

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- IAN G. McLEAN, *Department of Zoology, University of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch, New Zealand*
- RODNEY B. RUSS, *Southern Heritage Tours, P.O. Box 22, Waikari, New Zealand*



**First Specimens of Sooty Shearwater, Newell's Shearwater, and  
White-faced Storm-Petrel from American Samoa**

Seabird distribution in the waters around American Samoa (14° S, 170° W) is incompletely known despite visits by numerous ornithologists (Clapp and Sibley 1966, Fry 1966, Clapp 1968, Amerson *et al.* 1982, Banks 1984, Pratt *et al.* 1987, Pyle *et al.* 1990). In this note we document specimens of three species of seabirds new to American Samoa.

**Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus* (USNM 597680)**

A male (testes 2 x 1 mm) collided with a structure near the runway of Pago Pago International Airport, Tafuna, Tutuila, on 20 May 1992. When collected by PWT, its left wing was broken and it died on 22 May 1992. A second specimen, a female (ovary 12 x 6 mm) in emaciated condition, was obtained from Lions Park, Tafuna, Tutuila, on 17 May 1994. Both birds were probably recently fledged juveniles at they had moderate fat deposits, fresh plumage, and were not undergoing moult.

Sooty Shearwaters are not unexpected but have not been reported previously from American Samoa. Jenkins (1980) reported large numbers in Tongan waters during May and thought this species might pass east of Samoa during its northern migration. Sooty Shearwaters have been recorded from waters of Fiji (Watling 1982), Kiribati, the Cook Islands, Society Islands and Marquesas (Pratt *et al.* 1987). Sooty Shearwaters depart from nesting colonies at the Snares Islands, New Zealand, in late March-early May (Warham *et al.* 1982). The migratory pathways are still unclear but most seem to fly north probably through the Central Pacific up towards the Aleutians rather than around towards Japan (J. Warham, pers. comm.).