

FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER *PUFFINUS*
CARNEIPES AND WHITE-FACED STORM PETREL
PELAGODROMA MARINA AT DYER ISLAND,
SOUTH AFRICA

LESLIE G. UNDERHILL¹, KATHLEEN M. CALF¹, ROBERT J.M.
CRAWFORD², MICHELLE DU TOIT¹, LAUREN WALLER³
& PHILIP A. WHITTINGTON¹

Underhill, L.G., Calf, K.M., Crawford, R.J.M., du Toit, M., Waller, L. & Whittington, P.A. 2003. Flesh-footed Shearwater *Puffinus carneipes* and White-faced Storm Petrel *Pelagodroma marina* at Dyer Island, South Africa. *Atlantic Seabirds* 5(1): 35-37. *A Flesh-footed Shearwater Puffinus carneipes and a White-faced Storm Petrel Pelagodroma marina were caught, measured and ringed at Dyer Island, South Africa, in September and October 2001, respectively. The Flesh-footed Shearwater was the second record on land for Dyer Island, and the first to be ringed in southern Africa. The White-faced Storm Petrel was the fourth record for South Africa, the three earlier observations being sight records.*

¹Avian Demography Unit, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa; ²Marine and Coastal Management, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Private Bag X2, Roggebaai 8012, South Africa; ³Western Cape Nature Conservation Board, Breede River Regional Office, PO Box 594, Onrus River 7201, South Africa. E-mail: lgu@adu.uct.ac.za

Dyer Island (34°41'S, 19°25'E), South Africa, 55km west of Cape Agulhas, is the easternmost island in the Atlantic Ocean. This note reports two vagrant seabirds which occurred on the island.

Flesh-footed Shearwater*Puffinus carneipes* - At 01:00 h on 9 October 1999, a Flesh-footed Shearwater was found on the ground within the housing compound. It allowed an approach to within 1 m, but flew off within a few minutes. A second bird was found close to midnight on the night of 18–19 September 2001. It was a dark, misty night with complete cloud cover and occasional light drizzle. The shearwater was on the ground immediately underneath a four-shelf mist net, within 10 m of the place where the 1999 record occurred. It seems likely that it flew into the net without being caught, had dropped to the ground, and was found before it took off. It was ringed (SAFRING 640578) and released. Wing length was 330 mm, exposed culmen

41.9 mm, bill width 6.6 mm, bill depth 11.1 mm, total head length 89.4 mm, tarsus length 55.6 mm. There was no primary moult.

The nearest Flesh-footed Shearwater breeding colony is at St Paul Island (38°43'S, 77°29'E), 5100km to the east (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992). It is a fairly common visitor to South African waters, more abundant in winter than in summer; most records are from beyond the continental shelf on the east coast, well offshore in the Agulhas Current (Ryan 1997a). Flesh-footed Shearwaters have been seen from land in South Africa only once; on 2 April 1990, two were seen close inshore in False Bay (Fraser & McMahon 1990).

White-faced Storm Petrel *Pelagodroma marina* - A White-faced Storm Petrel was caught in a mist net at 02:00 h on 23 October 2001, a blustery night. The net was about 20 m away from the shore. The bird was ringed (SAFRING BC45262) and released. Wing length was 158 mm, culmen 15.3 mm, total head 40.7 mm, tarsus 23.5 mm, foot length 49 mm, tail length 125 mm, body mass 40g. There was no brood patch, and no primary moult.

The nearest White-faced Storm Petrel breeding colonies to South Africa are at Tristan da Cunha and Gough Island, 2600km to the west, southern Atlantic Ocean (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992). In the northern Atlantic, it breeds on islands in the Selvagens Archipelago and in the Cape Verde Islands (Hagemeijer & Blair 1997). The bulk of the population breeds in Australia and New Zealand (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992).

In spite of the fact that the nearest colonies are relatively close to South Africa, there are only three earlier records; all were made 70km to 100km off the Cape Peninsula, in May 1991, May 1993 and April 1995 (Ryan 1997b). It is believed that the Tristan da Cunha and Gough Island birds migrate mostly northwards into the tropical Atlantic Ocean, spreading west almost to South America and east almost to Angola (Cramp & Simmons 1977; Harrison 1983). The birds reaching South Africa are probably from these colonies. Outside the breeding season, this is a species of warm oceanic waters; it is therefore perhaps not surprising that it is so rare along the west coast of South Africa, with its cold Benguela Upwelling System.

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AUSTRALISCHE GROTE PIJLSTORMVOGEL *PUFFINUS CARNEIPES* EN BONT
STORMVOGELTJE *PELAGODROMA MARINA* OP DYER ISLAND, ZUID-AFRIKA

Op Dyer Island (34°41'Z, 19°25'O), een eilandje op ongeveer 55 km ten westen van Kaap Agulhas voor de Zuid-Afrikaanse kust, werden twee zeldzame stormvogels aan land aangetroffen, gevangen en geringsd. Australische Grote Pijlstormvogels, waarvan de dichtstbijzijnde kolonies zich 5100 km

oostelijker bevinden (St Paul), werden gevonden op 9 oktober 1999 en 18-19 september 2001. Een Bont Stormvogeltje, met de dichtstbijzijnde kolonies op Tristan da Cunha (2600 km westelijker), werd gevangen en geringd op 23 oktober 2001. Beide soorten werden tot dusverre zelden of nooit in de buurt van het vasteland van Zuid-Afrika vastgesteld.

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