

SHORT NOTE

White-faced Storm Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*) eating offal

Marchant & Higgins (1990) summarised the food of the White-faced Storm Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*) as pelagic crustaceans, small fish and other small surface plankton. They note the species often forages off the bows and to the sides of stationary fishing trawlers.

Parrish & Lock (1996, p. 122) published a reference to a White-faced Storm Petrel off Mayor Island on 31 December 1994, eating offal at boatside, with the comment that this is 'very unusual for this species'. The following observation therefore seems worthy of record.

On 27 January 1990, a solitary White-faced Storm Petrel came to a stationary small boat about 2.5 km off New Plymouth from which pieces of fish offal were being thrown overboard to attract birds. It stayed around the boat for a short while during which time it alighted on the water to pick up a sizeable piece of offal and flew away with it. The storm petrel picking up the offal is well illustrated in Fig. 1.



FIGURE 1 – White-faced Storm Petrel eating fish offal off New Plymouth. Photo: D.Medway.

LITERATURE CITED

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- PARRISH, G.R.; LOCK, J.W. (Compilers). 1996. Classified Summarised Notes. North Island, 1 July 1994 to 30 June 1995. Notornis 43: 117-145.

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