

RECORDS OF NONBREEDING SEABIRDS FROM THE  
AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC TERRITORY, 1954 - 1988

E.J. WOehler

*Australian Antarctic Division, Channel Highway, Kingston, Tasmania 7050, Australia*

*Received 28 February 1992, accepted 1 October 1992*

Woehler & Johnstone (1991) have documented the current status and population trends of the 10 species of seabirds breeding in the Australian Antarctic Territory (AAT), but did not include records of nonbreeding species made at the three permanent stations (Casey 66 17S, 110 32 E, Davis 68 35S, 77 58E and Mawson 67 36S, 62 53E) or at summer field locations during ANARE (Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions) operations between 1954 and 1988. Records of vagrant birds from an area provide data on dispersal or colonization patterns and, in the Antarctic for which there are few data sets available, information on the avifauna of a region. Recently, Thomas & Bretagnolle (1988), Murray & Luders (1990), van Franeker *et al.* (1990) and Spurr *et al.* (1990) provided similar data for the Pointe Géologie Archipelago (66 39S, 140 01E), the Windmill Islands (66 20S, 110 25E) and Cape Bird, Ross Island (77 15S, 166 24E), respectively.

Observations of nonbreeding seabirds recorded from the AAT between 1954 and 1988 are presented here. Data were compiled from station biology logs, field diaries and previously published records. The locations of records within the AAT are shown in Figs 1 & 2.

King Penguin *Aptenodytes patagonicus*

A King Penguin with very dull colouring was seen on 23 February 1978 by R.B. Ledingham (pers.

comm.) in an Adélie Penguin *Pygoscelis adeliae* colony at Cape Denison (67 00S, 142 40E). No record of moult was made. King Penguins breed on subantarctic islands, and many of the populations are presently increasing (Woehler 1993). The nearest breeding locality is Macquarie Island (54 30S, 158 55E), approximately 2000 km to the northeast.

Chinstrap Penguin *Pygoscelis antarctica*

There have been 12 records of 14 individual Chinstrap Penguins in the AAT (Table 1). The individual observed incubating at Davis on 13 December 1987 is believed to have displaced a breeding Adélie Penguin from the nest and the two records from Cape Denison are believed to be of the same bird. Chinstrap Penguins have also been reported at Cape Bird (three records, Spurr *et al.* 1990), and 40 have been recorded from the Pointe Géologie Archipelago (Thomas & Bretagnolle 1988). The nearest breeding locality is the Balleny Islands (66 55S, 163 20E), where only approximately 10 pairs nest (Woehler 1993).

Macaroni Penguin *Eudyptes chrysolophus*

There have been three records of individual Macaroni Penguins in the AAT: at Mawson on 17 February 1964 (Merilees 1970), at Scullin Monolith (67 47S, 66 42E) on 5 February 1985 and at Magnetic Island (68 33S, 77 54E), near Davis, on 27 January 1987.

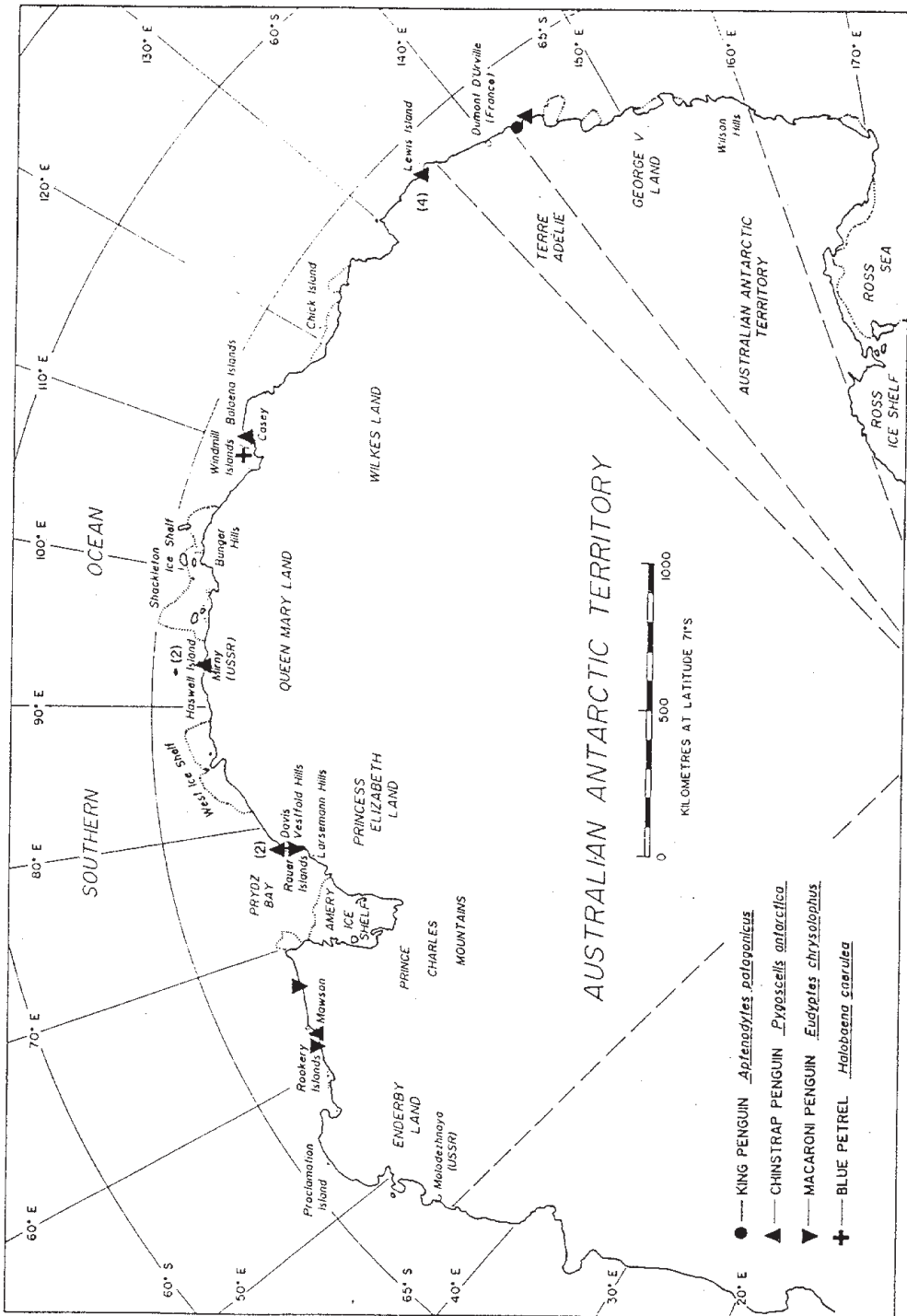


Figure 1  
Records of a King Penguin, Chinstrap Penguins, Macaroni Penguins and a Blue Petrel in the Australian Antarctic Territory.

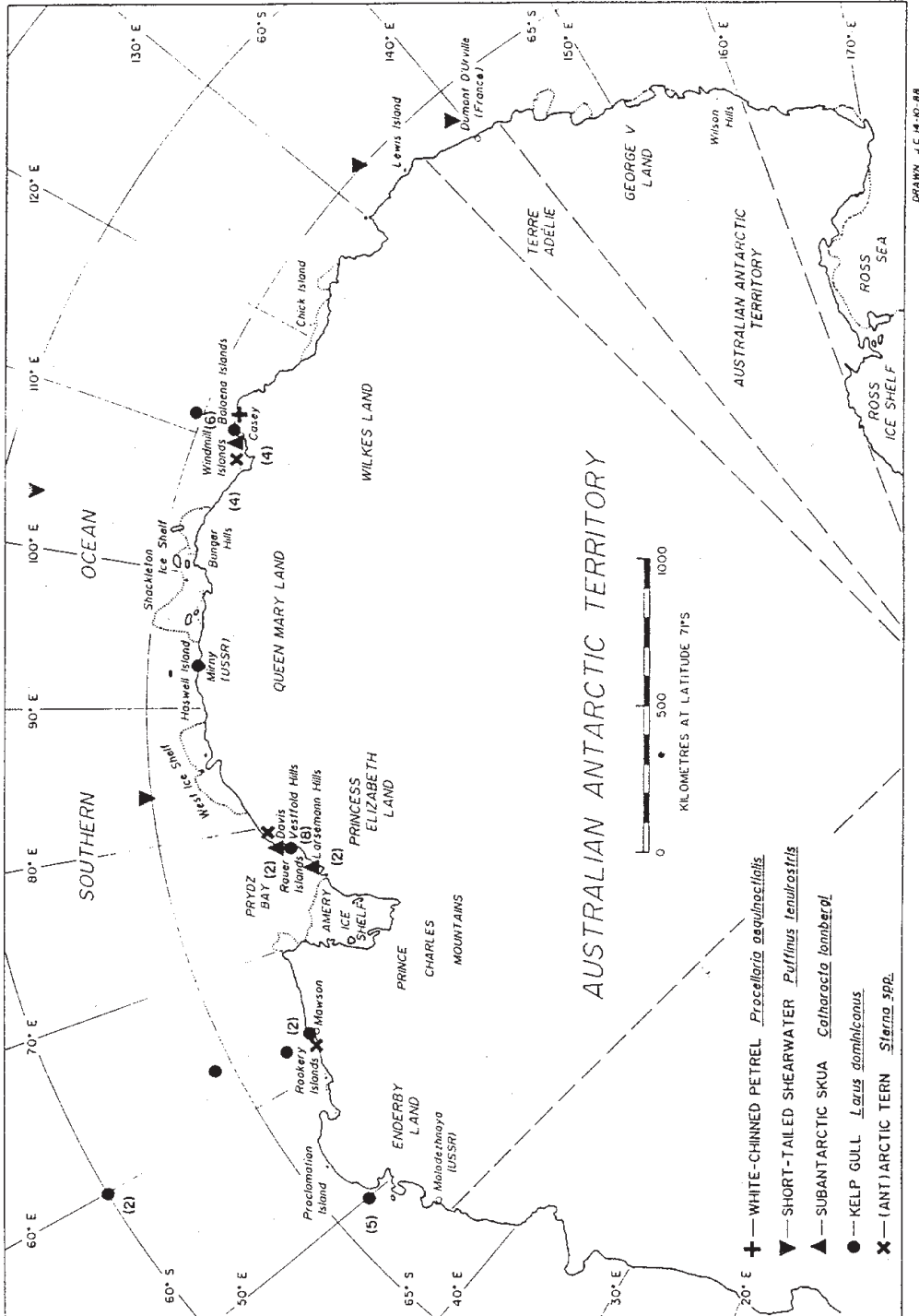


Figure 2

Records of Whitechinned Petrels, Short-tailed Shearwaters, Subantarctic Skuas, Kelp Gulls and terns in the Australian Antarctic Territory.

TABLE 1  
RECORDS OF CHINSTRAP PENGUINS *PYGOSCELIS ANTARCTICA* IN THE AUSTRALIAN  
ANTARCTIC TERRITORY

Locality	Date	Number	References
Mawson	17 Feb 1957	1	Ingham (1962)
Davis	early Jan 1976	1	A.L. Larsen, ANARE
Davis	2 Jan 1979	1	ANARE
Davis	28 Jan 1987	1	ANARE
Davis	13 Dec 1987	1	ANARE
Haswell Island	Not reported	1	Pryor (1968)
Haswell Island	21 Nov 1962	1	Markov <i>et al.</i> (1970)
Casey	Jan 1987	1	van Franeker <i>et al.</i> (1990)
Lewis I (66 06S, 134 22E)	7 Jan 1956	1	Ingham (1962)
Lewis Island	28 Feb 1960	3	Ingham (1962)
Cape Denison	28 Dec 1981	1	Shaughnessy & Shaughnessy (1982)
Cape Denison	Jan 1982	1	Lewis & George (1984)

#### Blue Petrel *Halobaena caerulea*

An emaciated juvenile Blue Petrel was observed at Casey on 11 March 1987 (van Franeker *et al.* 1990).

#### Whitechinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis*

Two observations of flying Whitechinned Petrels were made at Casey on 23 November and 28 December 1961 (Orton 1963, Murray & Luders 1990). The observations reported at Davis of several birds on 21 and 22 January 1973 were considered doubtful by Johnstone *et al.* (1973).

#### Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris*

Kerry *et al.* (1983) reported collections of 37 Short-tailed Shearwaters at four localities in the Southern Ocean between 84 03E and 138 30E, between February 1980 and March 1981.

#### Subantarctic Skua *Catharacta antarctica*

Eight records of Subantarctic Skuas have been made in the AAT (Table 2). The bird reported at

Amanda Bay (69 15S, 76 50E) may have been the same bird seen later at Davis, and the bird reported at Casey on 22 December 1971 remained at the Station until 15 January 1972. Subantarctic Skuas have been recorded at Ross Island (Spurr *et al.* 1990), and are regular visitors to Pointe Géologie Archipelago, where one or two permanent residents hybridize with South Polar Skuas *C. maccormicki* (Thomas & Bretagnolle 1988).

#### Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

A review of the status of this species in the AAT to January 1987 appeared in Bassett *et al.* (1988). Recent sightings, not included in Bassett *et al.* (1988), are listed in Table 3 and a total of 27 records now exists for this species from the AAT. Kelp Gulls have been recorded at Ross Island (Spurr *et al.* 1990) and Pointe Géologie (Thomas & Bretagnolle 1988). This species is attracted to stations, scavenging for food. The birds seen at Mawson and Casey ice edges were both adults. There were two sightings of an adult, probably the same bird, at Casey in November 1984 (van Franeker *et al.* 1990). Korotkevich (1964) and

Markov *et al.* (1970) reported Kelp Gulls to be infrequent visitors to Mirny (66 33S, 93 01E) and Haswell Island (66 31S, 93 00E), respectively.

Terns *Sterna* spp.

There have been five records of observations of over a 100 terns in the AAT (Table 4). Although

specific identities have not been made, most records are believed to be of Arctic Terns *S. paradisaea* (Johnstone *et al.* 1973). Four terns, either Antarctic *S. vittata* or Arctic, have been recorded at Pointe Géologie (Thomas & Bretagnolle 1988), but there have been no records of this species from Cape Bird (Spurr *et al.* 1990).

TABLE 2  
RECORDS OF SUBANTARCTIC SKUAS *CATHARACTA ANTARCTICA* IN THE AUSTRALIAN  
ANTARCTIC TERRITORY

Locality	Date	Number	References
Larsemann Hills (69 24S, 76 13E)	6 Oct 1983	1	Lewis & George (1984)
Amanda Bay	Dec 1987	1	ANARE
Davis	3 Feb 1970	1	Johnstone <i>et al.</i> (1973)
Davis	Dec 1987	1	ANARE
Casey	1961	1	Orton (1963)
Casey	Jan 1987	1	van Franeker <i>et al.</i> (1990)
Casey	22 Dec 1971	1	Murray & Luders (1990)
Casey	23 Dec 1973	1	Murray & Luders (1990)

TABLE 3  
RECENT SIGHTINGS OF KELP GULLS *LARUS DOMINICANUS* IN THE AUSTRALIAN  
ANTARCTIC TERRITORY

Locality	Date	Number	References
Mawson Ice Edge	10 Nov 1987	1	ANARE
Inner Hovodoyana I (69 14S, 76 45E)	17 Oct 1983	1	Lewis & George (1984)
Outer Hovodoyana I (69 13S, 76 45E)	18, 19 Oct 1983	1	Lewis & George (1984)
Rauer Islands (68 51S, 77 50E)	9 Nov 1983	1	Lewis & George (1984)
Mirny/Haswell I	Not reported	>1	Korotkevich (1964), Markov <i>et al.</i> (1970)
Casey Nov 1984		2	van Franeker <i>et al.</i> (1990)
Casey Ice Edge	26 Oct 1987	1	ANARE

TABLE 4  
RECORDS OF TERNS *STERNA* SPP. IN THE AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC TERRITORY

Locality	Date	Number	References
Mawson	7 Dec 1956	1	ANARE
Davis	Jan 1973	6	Johnstone <i>et al.</i> (1973)
Casey	1957/1958	1	Murray & Luders (1990)
Casey	1976	1	Murray & Luders (1990)
Casey	Mar 1985, 1987	c. 100	van Franeker <i>et al.</i> (1990)

A total of 19 species of seabirds has been recorded from the AAT up to 1988: 10 breeding and nine nonbreeding. Future observations would be expected to record further details of vagrants, providing a clearer understanding of their spatial and temporal movements.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank J.A.E. Gibson, A. Howard, R.B. Ledingham, J.A. van Franeker and M.D. Whitehead for access to their unpublished data. V. Bretagnolle, L.S. Davis and P.D. Shaughnessy provided valuable comments on drafts.

#### REFERENCES

- BASSETT, J.A., JOHNSTONE, G.W. & WOEHLE, E.J. 1988. Kelp Gulls *Larus dominicanus* in the Antarctic pack ice and at Australian Antarctic Stations. *Emu* 88: 258-259.
- INGHAM, S.E. 1962. New records for Australian Antarctic Stations. *Emu* 62: 126-128.
- JOHNSTONE, G.W., LUGG, D.J. & BROWN, D.A. 1973. The biology of the Vestfold Hills, Antarctica. *ANARE Sci. Rep. B* 1: 1-62.
- KERRY, K.R., HORNE, R.S.C. & DORWARD, D.F. 1983. Records of the Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris* in Antarctic waters. *Emu* 83: 35-37.
- KOROTKEVICH, Y.S. 1964. Observations of birds during the first wintering of the Soviet Antarctic Expedition, 1956-1957. *Sov. Antarct. Exp. Inf. Bull.* 1: 149-152.
- LEWIS, D. & GEORGE, M. (Eds.). 1984. The initial scientific reports of the Mawson Anniversary and Frozen Sea Expeditions. Australia: Oceanic Research Foundation.
- MARKOV, K.K., BARDIN, V.I., LEBEDEV, V.L., ORLOV, A.I. & SUETOVA, L.A. 1970. The geography of Antarctica. Jerusalem: Israel Program for Scientific Translations.
- MERILEES, W.J. 1970. A record of the Macaroni Penguin for Australian Antarctic. *Emu* 70: 88-89.
- MURRAY, M.D. & LUDERS, D.J. 1990. Faunistic studies at the Windmill Islands, Wilkes Land, East Antarctica, 1959-80. *ANARE Res. Notes* 73: 1-45.
- ORTON, M.N. 1963. A brief survey of the fauna of the Windmill Islands, Wilkes Land, Antarctica. *Emu* 63: 15-22.
- PRYOR, M.E. 1968. The avifauna of Haswell Island, Antarctica. In: AUSTIN, O.L. (Ed.). Antarctic bird studies. *Antarct. Res. Ser.* 12: 57-82.
- SHAUGHNESSY, P. & SHAUGHNESSY, G. 1982. A tourist cruise on the Lindblad Explorer. *Aurora* 5: 26-28.
- SPURR, E.B., WILSON, K-J. & SAGAR, P.M. 1990. Bird species recorded at Cape Bird, Ross

- Island, Antarctica. *Notornis* 37: 37-44.
- THOMAS, T. & BRETAGNOLLE, V. 1988. Non-breeding birds of Pointe Géologie Archipelago, Adélie Land, Antarctica. *Emu* 88: 104-106.
- VAN FRANEKER, J.A. BELL, P. & MONTAGUE, T.L. 1990. Birds of Ardery and Odbert Islands, Windmill Islands, Antarctica. *Emu* 90: 74-80.
- WATSON, G.E., ANGLE, J.P., HARPER, P.C., BRIDGE, M.A., SCHLATTER, R.P., TICKELL, W.L.N., BOYD, J.C. & BOYD, M.M. 1971. Birds of the Antarctic and sub-Antarctic. *Antarct. Map Folio Ser.* 14: 1-18.
- WOEHLER, E.J. 1993. The distribution and abundance of Antarctic and Subantarctic penguins. Cambridge: Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research.
- WOEHLER, E.J. & JOHNSTONE, G.W. 1991. Status and conservation of the seabirds of the Australian Antarctic Territory. In: CROXALL, J.P. (Ed.). Seabird status and conservation: a supplement. *Int. Council Bird Preserv. Tech. Publ.* 11: 279-308.