Soft-plumaged Petrel, *Pterodroma mollis* (Gould 1844), Coloniser
12/2/1969 Antipodes Island

Bourne (1981) suggested that a 1956 gadfly skull from Macquarie Island was probably a Soft-plumaged Petrel. They are now colonizing Macquarie Island (Clarke & Shulz 2005). The first definite record was one caught by R.H. Taylor on Antipodes Island in February 1969 (Warham & Bell, 1979). They were present in some numbers. This discovery was quite unexpected as the nearest known breeding site is the Isles de Crozet, 8300 km west. The mournful, low-pitched fluting calls attracted attention, as they are very different from White-headed Petrel, which breeds abundantly on the Antipodes Island.

[Marchant & Higgins (1990) mysteriously refer to a record from Mokohinau Island lighthouse in September - December 1904, which I have been unable to verify so far. The reference given appears to be in error].