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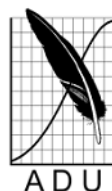
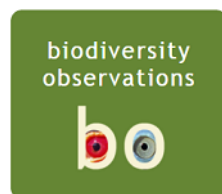
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First breeding record of Pintado petrel (*Daption capensis*) at Marion Island

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Pintado or Cape petrels *Daption capense* have a circumpolar distribution and have been recorded breeding at 23 localities in the Southern Ocean (Marchant and Higgins 1990). The sub-species, *Daption c. australe* breeds only at five islands off New Zealand (Marchant and Higgins 1990). After breeding, many of the nominate sub-species disperse northwards towards southern Africa, while *D. c. australe* disperses mostly eastwards, although one was observed in the Prince Edward Island Exclusive Economic Zone (PEI-EEZ) in 1996.

Marion Island (46° 54' S, 37° 45' E) is the larger of the two islands comprising South Africa's Prince Edward Islands (PEIs) in the southwest Indian Ocean. The islands are volcanic with rugged coastlines and few beaches. A Base was established on Marion Island in 1950 and is still in use to date.

Pintado petrels have been recorded as vagrants to Marion Island since 1951 (Crawford 1952; Burger *et al.* 1980; Cooper 1984; Gartshore 1987; Oosthuizen *et al.* 2009). On 29 November 2016, whilst conducting a coastal seabird census, a Pintado petrel was noted ashore on a narrow ledge covered with *Crassula* sp. near cliffs at Cape Hooker (Fig. 1). On closer investigation it was noted that the bird was incubating an egg. The nest, a shallow scrape against a rock (Fig. 2), was similar to nests of the species observed at Bouvet Island in 1996 by Bruce M Dyer. Its discovery led to a more careful search along the adjacent coastline and four more active nests were found in similar habitat. Two of the nests subsequently produced a downy chick, one of which was photographed on 30 January 2017 (Fig. 3). This is the first record of the species breeding at the PEIs and brings the number of seabird species, including the lesser sheathbill, reported breeding there to 31 (Crawford and Cooper 2003; Ryan *et al.* 2009).

Pintado petrels have previously been recorded at Marion Island since 1951 (Crawford 1952) and were regarded by Oosthuizen *et al.* (2009) as occurring too frequently for the species to be regarded as a vagrant. They have been reported from two regions of Marion Island. There were 19 observations between King Penguin Bay and Archway from 1952-2015 (Table 1). In this area numbers of birds seen ranged from 1-6 individuals and occurred from April to December, with no records from January to March. There were 16 observations at Kildalkey Bay from 1986 until January 2017 (Table 1). At this locality birds were seen from June to December and numbers

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Figure 1: A pair of Pintado petrels nesting on a *Crassula* covered ledge on Marion Island.



Figure 2: An incubating Pintado petrel at a typical nest site.



Figure 3: A Pintado petrel chick showing a tuft of downy feathers.

were usually from 1-13 individuals. However, 20 birds were observed in August 1986, 25 in September 1986 and c. 200 in July 1991.

Pintado petrels breed at the nearest archipelagos to the west (Bouvet Island) and east (Crozet Islands) from October to March (Bakken 1991; Marchant and Higgins 1990). It is possible that previous breeding by the species at Marion Island was overlooked. The coastline from Kildalkey Bay around Cape Hooker to Puisie is difficult terrain and is thus seldom visited. However, there have been sustained ornithological studies at the Marion Island since the 1970's (Cooper and Brown 1990) that included two dedicated summer surveys of widely-distributed species (Crawford and Cooper 2003; Ryan *et al.* 2009). Therefore, it is also possible that breeding by Pintado petrels at Marion Island was recently initiated. At Kildalkey Bay, in their summer breeding season they have fed on scraps of food generated from kills of penguins made by Antarctic fur seal *Arctocephalus gazelle* (Bruce M Dyer & Azwianewi B Makhado, *pers. obs.*).

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Table 1: All documented records of Pintado petrels observed at Marion Island from 1952-2017. Information for 1952-2015 is from Crawford 1952, Burger *et al.* 1980, Cooper 1984, Gartshore 1987, Oosthuizen *et al.* 2009 and several unpublished records from 1988-2007.

Date	Numbers seen	Location
1952	1	Base
1971	2	Base
11 May 1975	1	Base
29 August -31 December 1976	6	Base
1976	1	Base
October 1981	1	Base
November 1981	1	Archway
December 1981	5	Offshore of Base
20 April 1982	1	between Marion and PEI
7-8 September 1982	1	between Marion and PEI
7-8 May 1983	2	Kildalkey
26 June 1986	2	Kildalkey
29 July 1986	20	Kildalkey
8-10 August 1986	25	Kildalkey
23-24 September 1986	1	Duiker's Point
30 November 1986	1	Trypot
1 December 1986	1	Macaroni Bay
20 December 1986	2	Duiker's Point
20 December 1986	c. 200	Kildalkey
21 July 1991	2	Kildalkey
16 August 1993	5	Transvaal Cove
16 November 1994	2	Kildalkey
22 November 1994	1	Kildalkey
23 November 1994	1	Kildalkey
November 2001	1	Trypot
November 2001	1	King Penguin Bay
14 July 2005	1	Base
13 May 2010	3	Cape Hooker
3 August 2011	> 7	Kildalkey
9 October 2011	1	Kildalkey
2 November 2011	1	Kill Point
19 November 2013	6	Kildalkey
1 December 2013	1	Kill Point
2 December 2013	1	Base
5 May 2015	13	Kildalkey
November 2016	7	Hooker Cove
November 2016	4	Hooker Cove
December 2016	2	Hooker Cove
January 2017	2	Hooker Cove