Yellow-eyed Penguin. Because I saw only one complete copulation, however, these differences may not be real.

It is a reflection of the secretive nature of the Yellow-eyed Penguin that, despite breeding close to the activities of humans, such a basic behaviour as copulation has not previously been observed.

I thank Lloyd Davis and Yolanda van Heezik for their useful comments on this note and John Darby for his help in the field.

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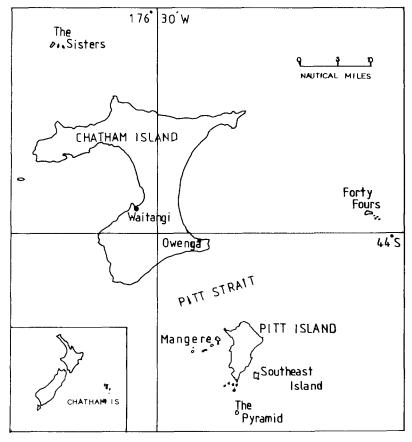
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Cape Pigeons breeding and Westland Black Petrels seen at Chatham Islands

On 2 December 1983, M.J. Imber saw a Cape Pigeon (Daption capense) fly off a cliff ledge on the northern side of the main island of the Forty Fours, Chatham Islands (Imber, pers. comm.). In November and December 1987, SRV Totorore, while assisting with the Taiko research project, visited the Forty Fours and confirmed that the Cape Pigeon is breeding there.

Ten pairs of Cape Pigeons were seen on the four stacks to the eastward of the main island of the Forty Fours and three pairs on the cliff ledges on the main island itself. A landing was made on the third stack from seaward on 28 November, and Roger Mayhill, using ropes and climbing gear, was able to reach the summit, where he watched and photographed the change-over between a pair of Cape Pigeons incubating an egg.

On 2 December 1987, three pairs of Cape Pigeons were seen occupying ledges near the summit of the Pyramid. At the Sisters, about 40 Cape Pigeons were seen flying close around the islands, but none landed there during our visits.



Several probable sightings of Westland Black Petrel (Procellaria westlandica) in association with White-chinned Petrel (P. aequinoctialis) were made in Pitt Strait during November and December. On 13 December 1987, Harro Müller positively identified two P. westlandica in attendance on a trawler near Owenga. Three days later, two more of the same species, again in loose association with P. aequinoctialis, were identified from Totorore about 20 miles south-west of Pitt Strait, having been attracted close by means of fish bait. With the difficulty of separating the two species at sea, it is possible that P. westlandica may habitually be present around these islands at this time of year without being noticed.

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