

FIRST RECORD OF THE AUSTRALASIAN GANNET *MORUS SERRATOR* FOR NAMIBIA

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Ichaboe Island (26°17'S, 14°56'E) is situated about 30 km north of Lüderitz, Namibia. The 6.5-ha island was ceded to Namibia by South Africa on 28 February 1994. It supports a large number of breeding seabirds, including the largest Cape Gannet *Morus capensis* colony in Namibia (Crawford *et al.* 1983).

During a seabird census on 23 November 1993, I heard the distinctive higher-pitched call of an Australasian Gannet *M. serrator* (Berruti 1988, Dyer 1990) at one of the colonies of Cape Gannets near the island's summit. After a brief search an Australasian Gannet was located and identified by its much darker eye, very short gular stripe and white outer tail feathers (Berruti 1988, Dyer 1990). The bird was photographed, captured and banded (9-87201). Repeated bowing and calling by the Australasian Gannet and a quick return to its site of capture after release suggested it was a male (Nelson 1978, Dyer 1990).

The call of an Australasian Gannet was apparently heard at Ichaboe Island by the conservation officer there in 1990 (Y. Chesselet pers. comm.) but its significance was not then recognized.

This record extends the previous most northerly record of the Australasian Gannet for Africa at Lambert's Bay, Western Cape Province, South Africa (Cassidy 1983, Dyer 1990) by 642 km. It also exceeds the previous most northerly record of the species at Moleques do Sul Islands (27°51'S, 48°26'W) in southern Brazil (Bege & Pauli 1990).

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