The breeding areas of Leach’s Storm Petrels *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* are the northern coasts of Atlantic and Pacific Ocean. During the northern winter, they undertake movements into tropical seas (Harrison 1985, Cramp & Simmons 1977). The main wintering areas of the Atlantic breeding populations are the Gulf of Guinea, off Brazil and southwards off South Africa (Griffiths & Sinclair 1982). For the Pacific populations, the wintering area is assumed to be south of Peru (Del Hoyo et al. 1992). Additionally, there are observations reported from the Indian Ocean (Lapthorn et al. 1970), from Australia and New Zealand (Marchant & Higgins 1990) and from the Southern Ocean (Veit et al. 1996). Up to now the southerly record is from 57°40’S, 5°00’E, in January 1947 (Biermann & Voous 1950, Fig. 1).

In the austral summer of 1995/96, we caught Black-bellied Storm Petrels *Fregetta tropica* and Wilson’s Storm Petrels *Oceanites oceanicus* by mist-netting in a colony on the slopes of Three Brothers Hill at Potter Peninsula, King George Island, South Shetland Islands (62°14’S, 58°40’W). The site of capture was in the north-eastern part of these slopes at a height of 110 m above sea level. During the night of 20/21 February 1996 at 01h20 local time we caught a Leach’s Storm Petrel, the first record for the island. The bird was measured, photographed and a full description was taken. The weather two days before was stormy with cyclones from the Drake Passage (direction of the wind 27–36°N) and a mean wind speed of 50–92 km per hour.

**Description**

Size: similar to Black-bellied Storm Petrel; plumage: head, neck, back, breast and flanks brownish-black; rump white, divided down centre by a grey stripe; tail brownish-black, strongly forked; bare parts: legs, toes and bill black; very short legs compared with Black-bellied Storm Petrel. Measurements: mass: 48 g; wing length: 154 mm; culmen: 16.3 mm; head length, including bill: 42.8 mm; tarsus: 25.0 mm.

According to the brood patch scale of Beck & Brown (1971), the Leach’s Storm Petrel was at score 4: surprisingly the brood patch was completely bare with no residual feathering. The bird was given a band of the Hiddensee Ornithological Station, Germany and was released on the morning of 21 February 1996.

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**REFERENCES**


