

**WILSON'S STORM PETRELS *OCEANITES OCEANICUS* BREEDING AT THE BERTRAB
NUNATAK, FILCHNER ICESHELF, ANTARCTICA**

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Wilson's Storm Petrels *Oceanites oceanicus* have been reported previously at the Belgrano II Station, Bertrab Nunatak (77° 52'S, 34° 37'W), five kilometres from the shelf edge on the Filchner Iceshelf, Antarctica but breeding was not confirmed and no census data were given (Orgeira & Recabarren 1993).

On 19 January 1992 I counted 30 widely-spaced Wilson's Storm Petrel nests on rock screens behind the meteorological laboratory on the Bertrab Nunatak. Nests contained mainly dead chicks and adults and were lined with egg shells, lichen and mummified chicks. I found only one incubating adult and saw several birds flying overhead. Personnel at the Belgrano II Station reported unusually hard weather conditions with heavy snows and low temperatures between November

1991 and February 1992, which may have caused the high mortalities observed.

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REFERENCE

- ORGEIRA, J.L. & RECABARREN, P. 1993. Ornithological observations at Belgrano II Station, Filchner Iceshelf, Antarctica. *Mar. Orn.* 21: 74-77.