SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER

**Family** Procellariidae  
**Species** *Puffinus tenuirostris*  
**Common name** Short-tailed Shearwater  
**Status** Native  
**Abundance** Common migrant in waters to north-east of the North Island of New Zealand  
**Size** 420 mm (House Sparrow 145 mm, Flesh-footed Shearwater 450 mm)  
**Breeding islands** Breeds on the islands of Bass Strait, Australia.  
**Breeding months** November to May. One white egg is laid in a burrow, the first birds arriving back to the breeding colonies in late September.  
**Range worldwide** Migrates into the Pacific Ocean.  
**New Zealand range** Northern North Island waters from May to October.

**Description**  
**Upperparts and underparts** Black. **Underwing** Dark grey (not silver like the Sooty Shearwater). **Bill** Dark grey (shorter than the Sooty Shearwater). **Legs and feet** Lilac with brown edges. **Tail** Black and short.

**Conspicuous features**  
- Smaller than the Sooty Shearwater.  
- Lack of silver streaking underwing separates it from the Sooty
Shearwater.
- Lilac coloured feet separate it from the brown feet of the Sooty Shearwater.
- Dark grey short bill separates it from the Sooty Shearwater.

**Conspicuous characteristics**
- A fast flier similar to the Sooty Shearwater.
- Stiff-winged flight.
- Tends to flap and then glide for some distance along waves tops.
- Difficult to separate from the Sooty Shearwater.

**Where to find**

**North Auckland** Seas towards Little Barrier Island from February to May.