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Birds of New Zealand - Locality Guide. 3rd edn.

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Wedge-tailed shearwater: pp 33.



### WEDGE-TAILED SHEARWATER

**Family** Procellariidae

**Species** *Puffinus pacificus*

**Common name** Wedge-tailed Shearwater

**Status** Native

**Abundance** Uncommon

**Size** 460 mm (House Sparrow 145 mm, Flesh-footed Shearwater 450 mm)

**Breeding islands close to New Zealand** Kermadec Islands to north of New Zealand.

**Breeding months** December to June. One white egg is laid in a burrow, the first birds arriving back at the breeding colonies in late October to early November.

**Range worldwide** Breeds from South Indian Ocean to New Zealand. New Zealand birds migrate in winter into the north-east Pacific.

**New Zealand range** Found in the waters of north-eastern New Zealand.

#### Description

**Upperparts and underparts** Black. **Underwing** Black, with paler primaries. **Bill** Slate grey (shorter than Sooty Shearwater). **Legs and feet** Flesh coloured.

#### Conspicuous features

- The long wedge-shaped tail is the most distinctive diagnostic feature.
- Larger than Sooty Shearwater.
- Lack of underwing silver separates it from Sooty Shearwater.

- Legs are paler than Flesh-footed Shearwater.
- Slate grey bill separates it from the pale yellow bill of the Flesh-footed Shearwater and the darker grey of the Sooty Shearwater.

**Conspicuous characteristics**

- A fast flier.
- Usually observed as a solitary bird, not in groups.

**Call** “Ka woo ah”, heard from incoming birds over the breeding islands.

**Where to find**

**Northland** – Seas out from Sandspit towards Little Barrier. P. 289.

**Below: Bird in flight showing wedge tail.**

