

Subantarctic little shearwater  
*Puffinus assimilis elegans*

30 cm

NEW ZEALAND NATIVE, RANGE RESTRICTED

Also called allied shearwater, this is a small black-and-white shearwater with blue feet and legs. It is slightly larger than a diving petrel, with a more slender bill and body. This subspecies is widely dispersed, breeding in large numbers on the Antipodes Islands, and also on islands in the South Atlantic. The Chatham Islands population is small, with an estimated 100 plus pairs breeding on the Star Keys, and possibly some birds on Tapuaenuku. Little shearwaters are winter breeders, nesting in burrows 0.3–2 metres long.



Subantarctic little shearwater near Antipodes Island. Photo: Mike Danzenbaker.