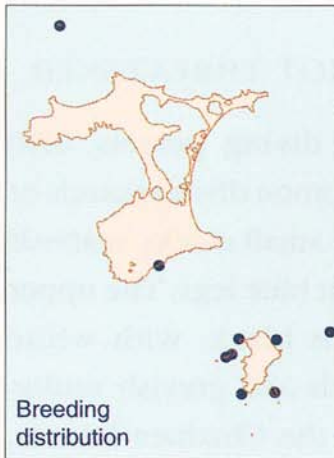


Sooty shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

44 cm

NEW ZEALAND NATIVE, GRADUAL DECLINE



Adult sooty shearwater,
Rangatira.
Photo: Don Merton.



Sooty shearwaters are also known as titi or muttonbirds. They are large black-brown shearwaters with a slender, hooked bill. Their legs and feet are grey-brown with greyish webs. Sooty shearwaters breed on numerous islands in New Zealand, from the Three Kings Islands to Campbell Island as well as the Chatham Islands, where their stronghold is on Tapuaenuku. They also breed on Rangatira, Mangere, Rabbit Island, the Murumurus, Star Keys, The Sisters, Houruakopara, and Kokope. Few birds remain on Chatham or Pitt Islands, as a result of predation by introduced mammals, particularly feral cats and pigs. Young sooty shearwaters were a traditional food source for Moriori and Maori. They are still legally harvested on islands around Stewart Island, but are fully protected elsewhere.