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Hutton's shearwater: pp 71-72.

**Hutton's Shearwater** *Puffinus huttoni* Mathews 1912, Endemic  
1912 New Zealand

It was supposedly collected at the Snares in 1890, but is probably mislabelled. Gregory Mathews, a notorious taxonomist of the early 20th century, described a new subspecies of Fluttering Shearwater in 1912, based on a specimen supposedly collected from the Snares by Henry Travers in January 1890 (sic). The holotype was considered to be a male by Mathews, but it is a female. The date of January 1890 given for the date of collection is a mystery, as it cannot be corroborated. 1894 is the most likely date (Miskelly et al. 2001). Dannefaerd sent two specimens of "*Puffinus gavia*" to Rothschild on 16 May 1895. Travers was also said to have collected a specimen of *P. gavia* from the Snares, which may or may not be one of Dannefaerd's. There has been a recent sighting near Stewart Island on 3/5/1992.

Rasmussen & Prys-Jones (2003) have accused Mathews as showing "carelessness to the point of serious professional incompetence", because of his erection of taxa on highly dubious grounds. Surprisingly, 15 of the New Zealand taxa he described are still accepted, perhaps because his scattergun approach would eventually yield results. He described, for instance, three of the prions. Tickell (2000), however, regarded Mathews as ahead of his time in his treatment of the albatrosses.

Nothing more was heard of Mathew's new shearwater until 1939, when two birds were collected off Kangaroo Island, South Australia. Another specimen was sent to Mathews in 1937 from West Australia, who failed to re-identify it, and described it as another new species.

Charles Fleming was the first to rediscover the bird in New Zealand, identifying a skin from Kapiti Island in 1940, which had been found by A.S. Wilkinson in c. 1934. Oliver (1955) also refers to birds found at Wai-kanae in 1927 and Kapiti Island (the Wilkinson specimen?) in 1935. It was a further 25 years before Geoff Harrow found its breeding grounds high in the Seaward Kaikouras in 1959.