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

Arun Books, Orewa, New Zealand.

Short-tailed shearwater: pp 36-37.



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.