Short-tailed shearwater

Puffinus tenuirostris





Conservation status

Regional | Migrant National | Migrant



Main threats

Fisheries competition and bycatch, climate change, pollution





Length: 42 cm



Weight: 550 g





Migratory range

Range:

Breeds on islands off Australia but is a regular visitor to waters off mainland Aotearoa New Zealand. Migrates to the North Pacific after breeding each year.



Key Otago sites:

- Otago canyons, particularly in summer
- Sometimes seen inshore



New Zealand native

A compact dark grey seabird that is hard to separate from the sooty shearwater / tītī without direct comparison. Throat and breast are lighter grey. Underwings are smoother grey but still reflective in strong light. The forehead is steeper and tail shorter, and the bill is usually much shorter and narrower. Forms mixed feeding flocks with other seabirds, such as prions.

Similar bird:



Sooty shearwater / tītī