

Great Shearwater. At sea, 3' SW of the Bishop Rock, Isles of Scilly. 8th August 2009.
Photo: Ashley Fisher.



List of Shearwaters with References

Compiled by Joe Hobbs



Introduction

This is the final version of the Shearwaters list, no further updates will be made. Grateful thanks to Ashley Fisher (www.scillypelagics.com) for the cover images and all those who responded with constructive feedback. All images © the photographer.

Please note that this and other Reference Lists I have compiled are **not exhaustive** and are best employed in conjunction with other sources.

Joe Hobbs

Index

The general order of species follows the International Ornithologists' Union World Bird List (**Gill, F. & Donsker, D.** (eds.) 2019. IOC World Bird List. Available from: <https://www.worldbirdnames.org/> [version 9.1 accessed January 2019]).

Final Version

Version 1.11 (April 2019).

Cover

Main image: Great Shearwater. At sea 3' SW of the Bishop Rock, Isles of Scilly. 8th August 2009. Picture by Ashley Fisher.

Vignette: Sooty Shearwater. At sea off the Isles of Scilly. 14th August 2009. Picture by Ashley Fisher.

Species	Page No.
Audubon's Shearwater [<i>Puffinus lherminieri</i>]	34
Balearic Shearwater [<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>]	28
Bannerman's Shearwater [<i>Puffinus bannermani</i>]	37
Barolo Shearwater [<i>Puffinus baroli</i>]	39
Black-vented Shearwater [<i>Puffinus opisthomelas</i>]	30
Boyd's Shearwater [<i>Puffinus boydi</i>]	39
Bryan's Shearwater [<i>Puffinus bryani</i>]	30
Buller's Shearwater [<i>Ardenna bulleri</i>]	15
Cape Verde Shearwater [<i>Calonectris edwardsii</i>]	12
Christmas Island Shearwater [<i>Puffinus nativitatis</i>]	24
Cory's Shearwater [<i>Calonectris borealis</i>]	9
Flesh-footed Shearwater [<i>Ardenna carneipes</i>]	21
Fluttering Shearwater [<i>Puffinus gavia</i>]	32
Galápagos Shearwater [<i>Puffinus subalaris</i>]	37
Great Shearwater [<i>Ardenna gravis</i>]	22
Heinroth's Shearwater [<i>Puffinus heinrothi</i>]	38
Hutton's Shearwater [<i>Puffinus huttoni</i>]	33
Little Shearwater [<i>Puffinus assimilis</i>]	38
Macaronesian Shearwater [<i>Puffinus</i> sp.]	36
Manx Shearwater [<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>]	24
Newell's Shearwater [<i>Puffinus newelli</i>]	31

Persian Shearwater [<i>Puffinus persicus</i>]	35
Pink-footed Shearwater [<i>Ardenna creatopus</i>]	20
Rapa Shearwater [<i>Puffinus myrtae</i>]	32
Scopoli's Shearwater [<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>]	7
Short-tailed Shearwater [<i>Ardenna tenuirostris</i>]	18
Sooty Shearwater [<i>Ardenna grisea</i>]	16
Streaked Shearwater [<i>Calonectris leucomelas</i>]	6
Subantarctic Shearwater [<i>Puffinus elegans</i>]	38
Townsend's Shearwater [<i>Puffinus auricularis</i>]	31
Tropical Shearwater [<i>Puffinus bailloni</i>]	36
Wedge-tailed Shearwater [<i>Ardenna pacifica</i>]	13
Yelkouan Shearwater [<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>]	27

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Streaked Shearwater

Calonectris leucomelas [Temminck].

Breeding: Islands off Hokkaido (N Japan) and S thru Izu Islands, Daito Islands, Ryukyu & Senkoku group (Japan region, NW Pacific) to Pescadores Island (Taiwan) and islands off E China, Korea & SE Russia.

Non-breeding: South China Sea and seas around Philippines, Indonesia & New Guinea S to N Australia.

Other names: White-faced Shearwater, White-fronted Shearwater, Streak-headed Shearwater.

1st WP Record: 21st June 1992. Off the North Beach, Eilat, Gulf of Aqaba, Israel. John Morgan and Hadoram Shirihai, two or possibly three individuals that remained until the 18th September at least (Morgan & Shirihai 1992).

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Scopoli's Shearwater

Calonectris diomedea [Scopoli].

Breeding: Balearic Islands, Malta, Sardinia and islands off France, Algeria, Tunisia, Italy, Greece & Croatia.

Non-breeding: N & S Atlantic W to the coast of North America and S to the coast of Namibia & South Africa and perhaps Indian Ocean.

Giovanni Antonio Scopoli, aka Johannes Antonius Scopoli (1723-1788), Austro-Italian physician and naturalist.

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Cory's Shearwater

Calonectris borealis [Cory].

Breeding: Berlengas Islands (off WC Portugal), Azores & Canary Islands and Almeria (Spain) & Chafarinas Islands (Alboran Sea off the N coast of Morocco).

Non-breeding: N & S Atlantic to W Indian Ocean.

Charles Barney Cory (1857-1921), American ornithologist and one of the founders of the American Ornithologists' Union.

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Cape Verde Shearwater

Calonectris edwardsii [Oustalet].

Breeding: Cape Verde Islands.

Non-breeding: Not fully established although recorded off the E coast of USA.

Alphonse Milne-Edwards (1835-1900), French mammalogist, ornithologist and carcinologist.

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Wedge-tailed Shearwater

Ardenna pacifica [Gmelin].

Breeding: Madagascar, Seychelles and vicinity E to W Australia (Indian Ocean) and Japan S to E Australia and E to Marquesas Islands (French Polynesia) and Pitcairn (C Pacific) and Revillagigedo Islands (off W Mexico).

Non-breeding: Some populations largely sedentary others at extreme N & S limits of range probably move towards tropical regions in Pacific and Indian oceans.

Previously included in the genus *Puffinus*.

1st WP Record: 10th March 1988. Off Port Said, Egypt (Everett 1992). Note: this record is under examination by the Egyptian Ornithological Rarities Committee (Jiguet et al. 2012).

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Buller's Shearwater

Ardenna bulleri [Salvin].

Breeding: Poor Knights Island (off North Island, New Zealand).

Non-breeding: Disperses over much of the Pacific.

Other names: Grey-backed Shearwater, New Zealand Shearwater.

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Sooty Shearwater

Ardenna grisea [Gmelin].

Breeding: S Chile & Falkland Islands and islands off SE Australia & New Zealand.

Non-breeding: Disperses widely throughout five of the Seven Seas to the N & S Atlantic, Indian Ocean and N & S Pacific.

Other name: Sombre Shearwater.

Previously included in the genus *Puffinus*.

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Short-tailed Shearwater

Ardenna tenuirostris [Temminck].

Breeding: SE Australia & Tasmania.

Non-breeding: Throughout S & N Pacific.

Other names: Slender-billed Shearwater, Tasmanian Muttonbird.

Previously included in the genus *Puffinus*.

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Pink-footed Shearwater

Ardena creatopus [Coues].

Breeding: Más a Tierra & Santa Clara (Juan Fernandez Islands) and Mocha Island (off WC Chile).

Non-breeding: W North America N as far as British Columbia.

Previously included in the genus *Puffinus*.

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Flesh-footed Shearwater

Ardenna carneipes [Gould].

St Paul Island (S Indian Ocean) and Recherche archipelago W to Cape Leeuwin and off Cape Hamelin (W Australia) and Lord Howe Island (Tasman Sea, Australia region) and islands off North Island, New Zealand.

Non-breeding: N to waters off Japan and Indian Ocean W to Arabian Sea

Other name: Fleshy-footed Shearwater, Pale-footed Shearwater, Big Muttonbird, Lord Howe Island Muttonbird.

Previously included in the genus *Puffinus*.

1st WP Record: 15th August 1980. Off the North Beach, Eilat, Gulf of Aqaba, Israel (**Shirihai, H.** 1996. *The Birds of Israel*. Academic Press).

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Great Shearwater

Ardenna gravis [O'Reilly].

Breeding: Nightingale Island & Inaccessible Island (Tristan da Cunha group), Gough Island (S Atlantic) & Kidney Island (Falkland Islands).

Non-breeding: Throughout N & S Atlantic.

Previously included in the genus *Puffinus*.

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- Stoddart, A.** 2017. Identification: Great and Cory's Shearwaters Photo Guide. *Birdwatch* 302: 45-50.
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- Ward, M.** 2000. Rough passage. *Birdwatch* 98: 22-27 (24).
- Witherby, H.F.** 1940. The species of Great Shearwaters in the English Channel. *British Birds* 33(9): 248-249.
- Woods, R.W.** 1970. Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis* breeding in the Falkland Islands. *Ibis* 112(2): 259-260.

Christmas Island Shearwater

Puffinus nativitatis [Streets].

Breeding: Kaula (off Niihau, Hawaii), Moku Manu (off Oahu, Hawaii) and Nihoa, French Frigate Shoals, Lisianski, Laysan, the Pearl and Hermes Reef, Midway Island & Kure (NW Hawaiian Islands), Johnston Atoll (C Pacific), Ducie & Oeno (Pitcarin group), Sala-y-Gómez & Easter Island (SE Pacific) and the Marquesas Islands, Tuamotu, Line Islands, Phoenix Islands & Austral Islands (French Polynesia).

Non-breeding: Not fully established however some populations are largely sedentary and some presumed to disperse over tropical and subtropical Pacific.

Other name: Christmas Shearwater.

- Ardiles-Villegas, K.** et al. 2011. Antibiotic Resistance Patterns in Fecal Bacteria Isolated from Christmas Shearwater (*Puffinus nativitatis*) and Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*) at Remote Easter Island. *Avian Diseases* 55(3): 486-489.
- Bell, B. & Bell, D.** 1998. Pitcairn paradise preserved. *World Birdwatch* 20(1): 8-11 (11).
- Cheshire, N.** 2010. Procellariiformes observed around Papua New Guinea including the Bismarck Archipelago from 1985 to 2007. *South Australian Ornithologist* 36(1-2): 9-24 (18).
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- Fisher, H.I.** 1951. The avifauna of Niihau Island, Hawaiian Archipelago. *The Condor* 53(1): 31-42 (36).
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- Howell, T.R. & Bartholomew, G.A.** 1961. Temperature Regulation in Nesting Bonin Island Petrels, Wedge-Tailed Shearwaters, and Christmas Island Shearwaters. *The Auk* 78(3): 343-354.
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Manx Shearwater

Puffinus puffinus [Brünnich].

Breeding: Massachusetts & Gulf of Maine N to Labrador, Gulf of St. Lawrence & Newfoundland and S Iceland S thru Faroe Islands, Ireland & Britain to NW France and Azores thru Madeira & Desertas Islands to Canary Islands.

Non-breeding: Disperses to S Atlantic, mostly to the E coast of South America.

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Yelkouan Shearwater

Puffinus yelkouan [Acerbi].

Breeding: Islands off France, Italy, Malta, Greece, Albania, Croatia & Turkey and possibly islands off Bulgaria & Tunisia.

Non-breeding: Disperses mainly into Black Sea and sporadically to W Mediterranean.

Other name: Levantine Shearwater.

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Balearic Shearwater

Puffinus mauretanicus [Lowe].

Breeding: Formentera & surrounding islets, small islets off Mallorca, Cabrera, Menorca & Ibiza (all Balearic Islands).

Non-breeding: W Mediterranean, coasts off NW Africa & Portugal, Bay of Biscay, SW Ireland & SW Britain.

Treated by del Hoyo *et al.* 1992 as conspecific with Yelkouan Shearwater.

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Bryan's Shearwater

Puffinus bryani [Pyle, Welsh and Fleischer].

Breeding: Not fully established, probably includes Bonin (or Ogasawara) Islands (Japan region, NW Pacific) and possibly in the NW Hawaiian islands.

Non-breeding: Not known.

A small Shearwater collected in a burrow on Sand Island, Midway Atoll on the 18th February 1963 by A.B. Amerson Jr. was identified as a Little Shearwater. It was subsequently examined by Peter Pyle in 2011, who concluded that the original identification was incorrect and the specimen represented a species new to science, Bryan's Shearwater.

In addition, Kazuto Kawakami, Masaki Eda, Kazuo Horikoshi, Hajime Suzuki, Hayato Chiba and Takashi Hiraoka have found six specimens of a small *Puffinus* shearwater since 1997 that is morphologically similar to Bryan's Shearwater on the Bonin (or Ogasawara) Islands in the north-western Pacific. They undertook genetic examinations of these samples, which has confirmed they are all Bryan's Shearwater, the same species as that found by Amerson Jr. on Sand Island in 1963 (Kawakami *et al.* 2012).

Edwin Horace Bryan (1898-1985), American naturalist and one time curator of collections at the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum in Honolulu from 1919 to 1968.

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van Loon, A.J. 2012. DB Actueel: New bird species described in 2011. *Dutch Birding* 34(1): 74-75.

Black-vented Shearwater

Puffinus opisthomelas [Coues].

Breeding: Isla de Guadalupe, Islas San Benito & Isla Natividad and other islands off and in Baja California (W Mexico).

Non-breeding: Disperses N to C California and occasionally to British Columbia.

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Everett, W.T. 1988. Biology of the Black-vented Shearwater. *Western Birds* 19: 89-104.

Garrett, K.L. 1990. Leucistic Black-vented Shearwaters (*Puffinus opisthomelas*) in Southern California. *Western Birds* 21: 69-72.

Howell, S.N.G. 2007. The short tale of a melanistic Black-vented Shearwater. *Western Birds* 38: 235-237.

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Keitt, B.S. et al. 2004. Nocturnal behavior reduces predation pressure on Black-vented Shearwaters *Puffinus opisthomelas*. *Marine Ornithology* 32: 173-178.

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Townsend's Shearwater

Puffinus auricularis [C.H. Townsend].

Breeding: Socorro Island (Revillagigedo Islands, off W Mexico).

Non-breeding: Disperses N to S Baja California and S to El Salvador.

Treated by del Hoyo *et al.* 1992 to be polytypic with races *auricularis* and *newelli*. Race *newelli* here treated as a full species, Newell's Shearwater.

Charles Haskins Townsend (1859-1944), American naturalist who worked for many years with the US Fish Commission. He discovered the species in 1889 and described it the following year.

Adams, M.P. et al. 2003. Extinct and endangered ('E&E') birds: a proposed list for collection catalogues. *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 123: 338-354.

Bourne, W.R.P. 1988. The Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus (puffinus?) yelkouan*. *British Birds* 81(7): 306-319.

Jehl, J.R. 1982. The Biology and Taxonomy of Townsend's Shearwater. *Le Gerfaut* 72: 121-135.

Marinez-Gomez, J.E. & Jocabson, J.K. 2004. The conservation status of Townsend's shearwater (*Puffinus auricularis auricularis*). *Biological Conservation* 116(1): 35-47.

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Newell's Shearwater

Puffinus newelli [Henshaw].

Breeding: Kauai, Molokai, Hawaii and probably Oahu, Maui & Lanai (SE Hawaiian Islands).

Non-breeding: Not fully established, possibly moves south and east to the waters of the Equatorial Counter Current and occurs year round in E tropical Pacific.

Treated by del Hoyo *et al.* 1992 as a race of Townsend's Shearwater.

Other names: Hawaiian Shearwater, Ao.

Brother Matthias Newell (1854-1939), American missionary in Hawaii from 1886 to 1924. In 1894 native Hawaiians brought him several live shearwaters. Later, one of them became the type specimen for this species described by Henshaw, who named it after Brother Newell.

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Rapa Shearwater

Puffinus myrtae [Bourne].

Breeding: Islets off Rapa (Bass Islands, Austral Islands group, S French Polynesia) and possibly on Marotiri (south of Rapa).

Non-breeding: Not fully established.

Treated by del Hoyo *et al.* 1992 as a race of Little Shearwater.

Other name: Kaki Kaki.

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Thibault, J.-C. & Varney, A. 1991. Breeding seabirds of Rapa (Polynesia): numbers and changes during the 20th century. *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club* 111(2): 70-77 (72-73).

Fluttering Shearwater

Puffinus gavia [J.R. Forster].

Breeding: Three Kings group, Moturoa group, Motuharakeke (Cavalli Islands), NW Chickens, Bream Islands, Mokohinau group, Channel Island, Mercury group, Ruamahuanui (Aldermen group) & Trio Islands and other islands in the Cook Strait (all North Island, New Zealand).

Non-breeding: Disperses to seas around New Zealand, Tasman Sea area & S Australia.

Other names: Brown-beaked Shearwater, Forster's Shearwater.

Johann Reinhold Forster (1729-1798), a clergyman from Danzig who accompanied Cook as the naturalist on his second world voyage during 1772 and 1773.

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Hutton's Shearwater

Puffinus huttoni [Mathews].

Breeding: Seaward Kaikoura Mountain Range (NE South Island, New Zealand).

Non-breeding: W to seas off SE Australia & Tasmania.

Historically some colonies have been wiped out by introduced pigs, so a protected artificial colony has been established near the town of Kaikoura.

Other name: Kaikoura tītī tītī.

Capt. Frederick Wollaston Hutton FRS (1836-1905), English zoologist, geologist and one time Royal Welsh Fusilier who settled in New Zealand. The Hutton Memorial Medal and Reserch Fund, a science award in New Zealand, is named in his honour.

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Audubon's Shearwater

Puffinus lherminieri [Lesson].

[*P.l. lherminieri*] Breeding: Bermuda, cays around Little Abaco & possibly E Andros (Bahamas), Saba Key, Virgin Islands, Guadaloupe, La Désirade and some other Leeward Islands and Martinique, Rocher du Diamant, Barbados and some other Windward Islands and islets off Porto Rico.

[*P.l. loyemilleri*] Breeding: Islets off the Caribbean coasts of Nicaragua & Panama and Islas los Roques (Venezuela).

Non-breeding: Some populations sedentary, others move N & NE in to the W Atlantic.

Treated by Onley & Scofield 2007 to include *Puffinus baroli boydi*.

John James Audubon (1785-1851), father of American ornithology and author of the monumental 'Birds of America' in four volumes.

Félix Louis L'Herminier (1779-1833), French pharmacist and naturalist who studied the flora and fauna of Guadeloupe between 1798 and 1829 and / or his son Ferdinand Joseph L'Herminier (1802-1866), who worked with his father in Guadeloupe for three years.

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Persian Shearwater

Puffinus persicus [Hume].

[*P.p. persicus*] Breeding: Halaaniyaat Island (off SE Oman) and Socotra archipelago. Non-breeding: Probably to the Gulf of Oman or perhaps further E towards India.

[*P.p. temptator*] Breeding: Moheli Island (Comoros, W Indian Ocean). Non-breeding: Not well known. A small group of Persian Shearwaters, not identified to subspecific level, were observed in the vicinity of Flat Top Bank, about 100' west of Darwin, Australia in October 2010.

Treated by del Hoyo *et al.* 1992 as races of Audubon's Shearwater.

Other name: Arabian Shearwater, Mohéli Shearwater (*temptator*).

1st WP Record: 22nd January 1985. Jaffa Port, Tel Aviv, Israel. Presumed same individual seen again at the same location between the 4th and 6th February (**Shirihai, H.** 1996. *The Birds of Israel*. Academic Press).

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Tropical Shearwater

Puffinus bailloni [Bonaparte].

[*P.b. bailloni*] Mauritius, Europa Island (S Mozambique Channel), Réunion (Mascarene archipelago, W Indian Ocean) and Desroches (Seychelles).

[*P.b. dichrous*] Palau & Marianas Islands (NW Pacific), Nauru, Phoenix Islands & Line Islands (C Pacific), Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Tahiti and Marquesas Islands (N French Polynesia) & Gambier Islands (Tuamotu archipelago, French Polynesia).

[*P.b. nicolae*] Cousin & Amirante Islands, Seychelles, the Maldives and Banks Islands (Indian Ocean).

[*P.b. colstoni*] Chagos archipelago & Aldabra Atoll (Indian Ocean).

[*P.b. gunax*] Vanuatu (SW Pacific).

Non-breeding: Not fully established, some populations probably sedentary.

The proposed form *polynesiae* is included with *P.b. dichrous*.

Treated by del Hoyo *et al.* 1992 as races of Audubon's Shearwater.

Louis Antoine François Baillon (1778-1855), French naturalist and collector.

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Galapagos Shearwater

Puffinus subalaris [Ridgway].

Breeding: Islets off Santa Cruz, Española Island, Wenman Island, Champion Island & Indefatigable (all Galapagos Islands).

Non-breeding: Largely sedentary with some dispersal towards Central America.

Treated by del Hoyo *et al.* 1992 as a race of Audubon's Shearwater.

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Snow, D.W. 1965. The Breeding of Audubon's Shearwater (*Puffinus Iherminieri*) in the Galapagos. *The Auk* 82(4): 591-597.

Bannerman's Shearwater

Puffinus bannermani [Mathews and Iredale].

Breeding: Volcano Island and Bonin (or Ogasawara) Islands (Japan region, NW Pacific).

Non-breeding: Off Japan and S thru NW Pacific to tropics.

Treated by del Hoyo *et al.* 1992 as a race of Audubon's Shearwater.

Dr. David Armitage Bannerman (1886-1979), British ornithologist who was on the staff at the British Museum. He co-authored numerous books including '*The Birds of the Atlantic Islands*' and was Chairman of the BOU between 1932 and 1935.

Chiba, H. et al. 2007. The Distribution of Seabirds in the Bonin Islands, Southern Japan. *Journal of the Yamashina Institute for Ornithology* 39(1): 1-17.

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Heinroth's Shearwater

Puffinus heinrothi [Reichenow].

Breeding: Bismarck archipelago, Arawa (Bougainville group) and Rendova & Kolombangara (Solomon Islands) and possibly New Britain.

Non-breeding: Not known, probably sedentary.

Oskar August Heinroth (1871-1945), German doctor and zoologist who the director of the Berlin Aquarium for over 30 years.

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Little Shearwaters

Little Shearwater

Puffinus assimilis [Gould].

[*P.a. assimilis*] Breeding: Philip Island & Nepean Island (Norfolk group, Tasman Sea, Australia region) and Lord Howe Island & Roach Island (Lord Howe group, Tasman Sea).

[*P.a. kermadecensis*] Breeding: Herald Island, Curtis Island & Macauley Islands (Kermadec Islands, SW Pacific).

[*P.a. haurakiensis*] Breeding: Island groups off the NE coast of North Island New Zealand.

[*P.a. tunneyi*] Breeding: Amsterdam Island & St. Paul Island (S Indian Ocean) and Houtman Abrolhos Group & Recherche archipelago (off SW Australia).

Subantarctic Shearwater

Puffinus elegans [Giglioli and Salvadori]

Breeding: Star Keys & Little Mangere (Chatham Islands, New Zealand region), Antipodes Islands (New Zealand region) and Tristan da Cunha & Gough Island (S Atlantic).

Non-breeding: Not fully established.

Other name: Subantarctic Little Shearwater.

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Macaronesian Shearwaters

Barolo Shearwater

Puffinus baroli [Bonaparte].

Breeding: Azores, Madeira, Desertas, Ilhas Selvagens & Canary Islands.

Non-breeding: Not fully established.

Treated by del Hoyo *et al.* 1992 as a race of Little Shearwater.

Barolo Shearwater is named after the Italian estate of Carlo Tancredi Falletti and / or Juliette Victorine Colbert di Maulévrier, the Marchese and Marchesa di Barolo.

Boyd's Shearwater

Puffinus boydi [Mathews].

Breeding: Cape Verde Islands.

Non-breeding: Not fully established.

Treated by del Hoyo *et al.* 1992 as a race of Little Shearwater.

Treated by Onley & Scofield 2007 as a race of Audubon's Shearwater.

Other name: Cape Verde Little Shearwater.

Capt. Boyd Alexander (1873-1910), British Army officer, explorer and ornithologist who collected in the Cape Verde Islands.

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Eds. 2007. Pigeonhole: Macaronesian Shearwater 18 miles north of Veatch's Canyon, USA. *Birding World* 20(8): 352.

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