



NSW Ornithological Records Appraisal Committee Unusual Record Report Form

Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis* Eaglehawk-Neck Tasmania 2nd June 2019

Richard and Jodi Webber

Date(s) and time(s) of observation:

2nd June 2019 9:27 am

How long did you watch the bird? / First and last date of occurrence?

For approximately two minutes on that day. It approached from the port side and flew off past the stern towards the horizon.

Distance to bird

50-100 m off the back of the boat at the closest.

Site Location

Pelagic off Eaglehawk-neck. South-east from Pirates Bay.

-43.116695, 148.273060



Habitat

Open ocean

Sighting conditions

Relatively calm seas. Grey skies but good visibility.

Optical aids used:

Photos taken on a Cannon 7DMII, with lens 100-400 MII

To your knowledge, is the species seen frequently at this site?

Occasionally. One was seen the previous week off the same location. Multiple were seen in April 2018 off same location.

Did you use a field guide?

The bird was identified immediately. Some of us have seen this species previously (both in Australia and overseas).

The Australian Bird Guide CSIRO 1st Ed

Onley & Scofield Albatrosses, Petrels and Shearwaters of the World 3rd Ed

Colins Bird Guides 2nd Ed Svensson, Mullaney & Zetterstrom

A Complete Guide to Antarctic Wildlife 2nd Ed Shirihai

Oceanic Birds of the World, A Photo Guide 1st Ed Howell & Zufelt

Albatrosses, Petrels and Shearwaters of the World 3ed Ed Onley & Scofield

Were other observers present Do any of the other observers disagree with your identification, if so, who?

Identified almost immediately and several people with past experience agreed with the identification. Photos after the pelagic confirm the identification.

The Pelagic was on board the Pauletta skippered by John Males. Observers on the Pelagic trip - Richard Webber (organiser); Jodi Webber, Karen Dick; Peter Vaughan; Ramit Singal; Robert Shore; Janine Duffy; R Bruce Richardson; James Cornelious; Ruth Brozek; Ink Kawinwit Kittipalawattanapol.

How confident are you of your identification?

We were 100 % confident on the day. The photos confirmed this.

Other details: e.g. Do you have historical and or anecdotal information/comments relating to the prior occurrence/status of the species within or near this location?

BARC submissions - April 2018 off same location was the 15th confirmed record for Australia and followed a sighting at this same locality on the 20th February 2011.

Physical Description of Bird - *Please describe only what you saw:* (1) No. of individuals present (living or dead); (2) age (adult, juvenile, immature) and sex; (3) size and shape; (4) plumage colour and pattern (including any details of moult); (5) colour of bill, eyes and legs/feet; (6) calls; (7) behaviour, movements, flight pattern, and anything else that might help to identify the bird e.g. feeding, interactions with other birds, describe where the bird was – on ground, in canopy, flying etc. Were comparisons made with other species?

1. Single live bird
2. –
3. Refer to photos
4. Large white-bodied shearwater
 - a). dusky belly, see figure 2
 - b). dark brownish cap, see figure 3
 - c). mostly white underparts, see figure 2
 - d). scalloped wings & mantle, see figure 2
 - e). distinctive underwing
 - f). paired broken bars see figure 2
 - g). dark slender bill, see figure 4
 - h). dusky vent, see figure 2
 - i). dark undertail, with pale band, see figure 1
 - j). whitish collar, see figure 3
 - k). whitish rump patch, see figure 3
5. Bill dark grey. Note: feet not visible in flight
6. N/A
7. Flew towards the boat low to the water, banked up near the boat then away from the boat low to the water.



Figure 1 Great Shearwater (J Webber)



Figure 2 Great Shearwater (J Webber)



Figure 3 Great Shearwater (J Webber)



Figure 4 Great Shearwater (J Webber)

Other species with which you think it might be confused and how these were eliminated?

Streaked Shearwater

- this bird has a dark bill, not light grey
- a dusky belly, not pale
- this bird has a whitish collar and rump patch
- Does not have a pale face and streaked crown

Buller's Shearwater

- this bird does not have clean white underparts
- this bird has a whitish collar and rump patch
- Does not have an obvious M mark on upperparts

White-necked Petrel

- this bird dark undertail, with pale band
- paired broken bars
- has a dusky belly

Scopoli's Shearwater

- this bird has a dark bill, not yellow
- a dusky belly, not pale
- This bird only has a dark cap, not a grey head
- paired broken bars underwing

Cory's Shearwater –

- this bird has a dark bill, not yellow
- a dusky belly, not pale
- This bird only has a dark cap, not a grey head
- paired broken bars underwing

Cape Verde Shearwater

- this bird has a dusky belly, not pale
- This bird only has a dark cap, not a grey head
- paired broken bars underwing

Pink Footed Shearwater

- this bird has a dusky belly
- This bird only has a dark cap, not a dark head

Was the description written from memory, notes and/or sketches made in the field or after consulting field guides or other references?

The bird was identified in the field. The confirmation identification post trip from the photos taken of the bird was reviewed against reference material.

What experience have you had with the species in question?

J Webber – South African waters 2017

R Webber – South African waters 2017

P Vaughan – 29th of April 2018 off Eaglehawk Neck

K Dick – In the Mediterranean (in Sept) and off West Africa (Cape Verde and Senegal in Oct and Nov).

Name: Jodi Webber

Date:13/12/2019