

not extend this species into any unexpected area. *P. occidentalis* is widespread in the drier areas of Western Australia (Main *loc.cit.*) and has probably not been collected here previously because it is a small, cryptozoic species only likely to be detected easily when calling.

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Streaked Shearwaters *Calonectric leucomelas* off mid-west coast of Western Australia. — On 10 May 1981 I was on board the Western Australian Fisheries and Wildlife Patrol Vessel "Abel Tasman" returning to Geraldton from North Island, Houtman Abrolhos. Between 1350 and 1420 hr, while in the Geelvink Channel about 60 km NNW of Geraldton, I observed parties of two, eight and twenty large shearwaters of a species with which I was unfamiliar. The birds were associating with small flocks of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters (*Puffinus pacificus*) and occasionally alighted on the water near large schools of sardines. Unlike the Wedge-tailed Shearwaters they were timid and the closest that they approached the boat was 100-200 m.

The sea was calm with light north-east winds. By standing high up on the fly bridge with 10 x 40 binoculars I was able to make sketches and notes on several individuals. A composite description is as follows: a little larger than Wedge-tailed Shearwaters; top of head, back, wings and tail dark brown (brownish-grey on one); lower back and rump grey, clearly paler than back, wings and tail; under parts including underwing white, the white extending up on to face; undertail dark. The flocks of eight and twenty were flying and alighting on the water in company with Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, facilitating direct comparison. I noted that the wings were longer but relatively narrower (more sickle-like) than in the Wedge-tailed Shearwaters. Their flight was similar to that of the Wedge-tailed Shearwaters. I was unable to determine bill and leg colour.

The Streaked Shearwater is the common shearwater of Japan and Korea. According to Austin and Kuroda (The Birds of Japan, their status and distribution, *Bull. Mus. comp. Zool.*, 109, 1953: 302) and Austin (The birds of Korea, *Bull. Mus. comp. Zool.*, 101, 1972: 32) they breed on many islands off Japan and Korea. In Japan they lay in June and July; the young hatch in August and leave the nest in November. In Korea they begin to arrive at the breeding islands in mid-March and start to lay in mid-June; the young leave the nest burrow in mid-October. Peters (*Check-list of birds of the world*, 1, 1931: 53) also lists the Bonin and Pescadores Islands as breeding sites and gives its range as coasts of Korea and Japan to the Malay Archipelago and New Guinea, occasionally to Ceylon. It is seen fairly frequently off the north coast of New Guinea, but the only formal Australian record is of three beach-washed specimens collected on North Stradbroke Island, Qld., in March 1975.

— R.E. JOHNSTONE, Western Australian Museum.



Johnstone, Ronald E. 1982. "From Field and Study: Streaked Shearwaters *Calonectric leucomelas* off mid-west coast of Western Australia." *The Western Australian Naturalist* 15(2), 58–58.

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