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AN UNUSUAL PLUMAGE FOR A SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus*

The discovery of a Sooty Shearwater breeding on Lion Island, in Broken Bay, New South Wales on 2 February 1947 was recorded by Keast and McGill (1948).

During a survey of seabird species conducted on Lion Island, a number of Sooty Shearwaters were found and 33 were banded. Slight variation in the amount of grey-white underwing was evident but most were greyish or off-white. I banded a further 20 Sooty Shearwaters on coastal New South Wales islands over the years. The underwing colouring was always grey-brown with the centre rather indistinct paler grey or off-white.

However, on Lion Island, one bird (band no. 160–04864) found in a burrow had 'almost entirely white underwings' as recorded in my field note book. It was strikingly white, was slightly smaller

than its mate but it was undoubtedly a Sooty Shearwater. Its measurements were as follows:

Wing length	308 mm
Tarsus length	57 mm
Bill length	39.5 mm

This bird was in the burrow with its mate (160–00415), a 'typical' Sooty Shearwater, on 20 December 1958. It was recorded 'in burrow on egg' on 10 January 1959. The burrow was empty when checked during a visit on 21–22 March 1959, and there were no further records of either bird.

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