

Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus*

P.p pacificus – br. Kermadec, Norfolk, Kandavu Is.

P.p. chlororhynchus – br. rest of range

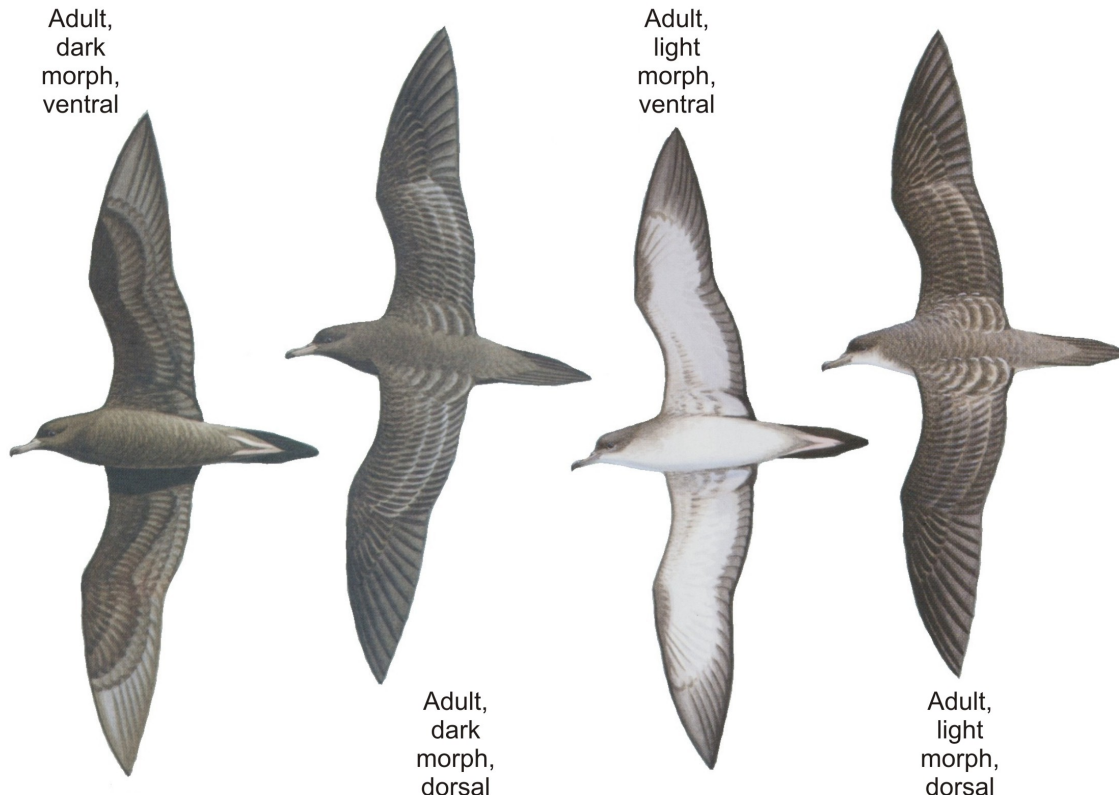
Subspecies no longer recognised (*HANZAB & Clements*)

Species Code: 078

Band: Z

Species Code: 113

Band: H/Z



Identification:

See illustrations – a slim bird with a large wedge-shaped tail; Legs and feet predominately pale, flesh-coloured; Tarsus is slender and relatively rounded in cross-section; Toe nails are white; Egg width 39 - 43 mm and length 57 – 64 mm.

Morphometrics:

	Nominate <i>P.p pacificus</i> Kermadec Is (unsexed)	ssp. <i>P.p chlororhynchus</i> Australian breeding sites (unsexed)
Wing:	294 – 327 mm	178 – 300 mm
8 th Primary:	176 – 203 mm	176 – 190 mm
Tail:	128.9 – 129 mm	120 – 139 mm
Bill:	38.2 – 49.1 mm	36.2 – 39.8 mm
Tarsus:	47.1 – 51.4 mm	45.6 – 50.9 mm
Weight:	430 – 568 g	300 – 500 g

Ageing:

First birds return to nesting islands in August and breeding birds prepare burrows from late August to November with pre-laying exodus of about two weeks before returning to lay by mid December; Non-breeding birds (2+) or (5-) return to the vicinity of nesting islands from mid-November Fledglings (1) leave the nesting burrow from mid-April to mid-May and migrate to the northern hemisphere with adults;

No data on pairing or breeding ages, but probably similar to other shearwaters. Non-breeding birds probably establish pair bonds at 3-4 years, but don't breed until at least 5 years old, so all unknown-age nesting birds should be aged (5+).

Sexing:

No sexual dimorphism in size or plumage;
Both sexes incubate.