

6. **The Short-tailed Shearwater, *Puffinus tenuirostris* (Aves; Procellariidae), a new Bird to Thailand.**

The addition of a bird species to the avifauna of Thailand (H.G. DEIGNAN, 1963, *Checklist of the birds of Thailand*. U.S. Nat. Mus. Bull. no. 226: 1-1263 and B. LEKAGUL & E.W. CRONIN Jr., 1974, *Bird guide of Thailand*. 2nd. Ed. Bangkok. Assoc. Conserv. Wildl.) is an event that should not go unnoticed by ornithologists and bird watchers of Thailand and South-east Asia. Consequently I briefly summarize here details relating to the discovery of the Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris* in Thai waters, although a comprehensive account appears in the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Unions' journal (C.B. FRITH. *Emu* 78: 34-35) which is not commonly available in Asia. The Short-tailed Shearwater is in fact a truly Australian species, breeding solely within Australian territory, and being possibly the most abundant bird in Australia. Its normal migration route, subsequent to breeding, takes it north of Australia into the Pacific Ocean to the vicinity of Japan and back. Two individuals only have, however, been recorded from the Indian Ocean coasts of Pakistan and Sri Lanka (C. JOUANIN, 1957. *Oiseau* 27: 12-27 and S. ALI & S.D. RIPLEY, 1968, *Handbook of the birds of India and Pakistan*, Vol. 1. Oxford University Press).

On the 2 May 1977 a live and well Short-tailed Shearwater was brought to me, as was a second bird on the 10 May 1977. Both birds were collected live by local fishermen at sea very close to the shores of Koh My Thon, a small island off Phuket Island, western peninsular Thailand. The fishermen told me that this was a bird they knew well as "pet nam", which means water duck or sea duck, and that it occurs about these islands to rest on the surface of the sea at night most years at this time of the year in reasonable numbers. This vernacular name, it should be noted, could in fact, however, apply to any of the dark shearwaters.

Measurements, weights, external parasites, and colouration of feathering and soft-parts leave no doubt whatever as to the identification of these two birds. This distributional record of the species, being the

first authenticated one for South-eastern Asia waters and for Thailand, is not wholly unexpected (B.F. KING & E.C. DICKINSON, 1975, *A field guide to the birds of South East Asia*. London. Collins) particularly in view of previous sightings of dark shearwaters about the general area (see C.B. FRITH loc. cit.).

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