

senegalensis, Spotted Dikkop and Black-winged Pratincole
Glareola nordmanni could be added by South African ringers.

The few black and white photographs, which are generally of a high standard, show mainly juvenile plumages of some commoner waders but are not sufficiently comprehensive to be of more than passing interest. I also feel that a comparison table, showing the main identification features of that difficult group of small *Calidris* waders (i.e. stints etc.) would have been of some value. And of course colour plates of all species would then put this publication right out on the best-seller list but no doubt the costs would be prohibitive.

This is a useful book for bird ringers but in its present form I doubt if it would be of a lot of use to casual bird-watchers who prefer pictorial guides rather than complicated verbal descriptions.

LITTLE SHEARWATER

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Little Shearwater (*Puffinus assimilis* Gould, 1838) is a seabird very rarely encountered off the South African coast. The species is represented by a specimen caught on a fishing vessel off Durban (Clancey 1964), another washed up on the Cape Peninsula (McLachlan & Liversidge 1978) and a sighting at sea between Cape Point and Cape Agulhas (Rozendaal 1977).

An adult was found roosting at night (21h00) on 24.5.78 on the edge of a penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*) colony on St Croix Island, Algoa Bay. It was captured by hand, after blinding it with torch light, and then ringed (ring number 5-62906). The bird was recaptured at exactly the same position on 3.7.78 at 22h10.



Little Shearwater: St. Croix Island, Algoa Bay.

Apart from the uniqueness of the record two additional points are of interest: firstly the bird was present during the time that the species breeds in the sub-antarctic; secondly it was encountered at exactly the same position on both occasions which suggests that it is familiar with the island and may use the island on a regular basis.

References

- Clancey, P.A. 1964. The Birds of Natal and Zululand. Oliver and Boyd, Edinburgh.
- McLachlan, G.R. & R. Liversidge. 1978. Roberts Birds of South Africa. Trustees John Voelcker Bird Book Fund, Cape Town.
- Rozendaal, F.G. 1977. Record of Little Shearwater Puffinus assimilis off coast of South Africa Ardea 65 (3 + 4): 204