

SOUTHERN AFRICAN RECORDS OF THE MANX SHEARWATER
PUFFINUS PUFFINUS

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The Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* (Fig. 1) breeds on islands in the North Atlantic and spends the austral summer in the South Atlantic where large concentrations are found off the east coast of South America from 10S - 40S (Cramp & Simmons 1977). It has been previously recorded in southern African waters (e.g. Lambert 1975) and once in the African sector of the Southern Ocean (Griffiths & Sinclair 1982). The following observations show that the Manx Shearwater is a regular visitor in small numbers to southern African waters during the austral summer with vagrants overwintering in the Benguela Current.

There are three specimen records of Manx Shearwaters from southern Africa and 106 sight records in adjacent waters up to the end of 1981 (Table 1). All records are from the Cape Province, South Africa and from South West Africa/Namibia with the main concentrations occurring in the Benguela Current. Manx Shearwaters have been recorded in 10 months of the year in southern Africa with the highest percentage of the records occurring from November to February (Table 2). A bird ringed at Copeland Island, Northern Ireland on 4 August 1978 was recovered on 9 January 1979 at Muizenberg, southwestern Cape (Avery 1980, Morant 1981, Spencer & Hudson 1980). These assembled records provided the basis for previously published range statements (Brooke & Sinclair 1979, Clancey 1980).

Two other small black and white shearwaters occur in southern African waters which could be confused with Manx Shearwaters (Clancey 1980). Audubon's *P. herminieri* and Little Shearwaters *P. assimilis* are both noticeably smaller than Manx Shearwaters with Audubon's showing in certain light conditions a distinct brownish tinge on the upperparts (pers.obs. JCS). Little Shearwaters can occur together with Manx Shearwaters in southern African waters (pers.obs.) but can be distinguished by their smaller size, shorter bill, white on underwing extending to the primary tips and by having a faster flight with rapid wing beats interspersed with short glides on short, stiffly held wings. South African records of Little Shearwaters are discussed by Sinclair *et al.* (1982).

The Manx Shearwater in southern African coastal waters has been observed in association with trawlers and more frequently with foraging groups of other shearwater species (Sooty *P. griseus*, Great *P. gravis*, Cory's *Calonectris diomedea*) and Cape Cormorants *Phalacrocorax capensis*. These sometimes large foraging groups occur normally between two and 10 km offshore where they follow large shoals of pilchards *Sardinops ocellata* and anchovies *Engraulis capensis*. Manx Shearwaters observed in these flocks forage either by plunging at an angle or by diving from the surface.

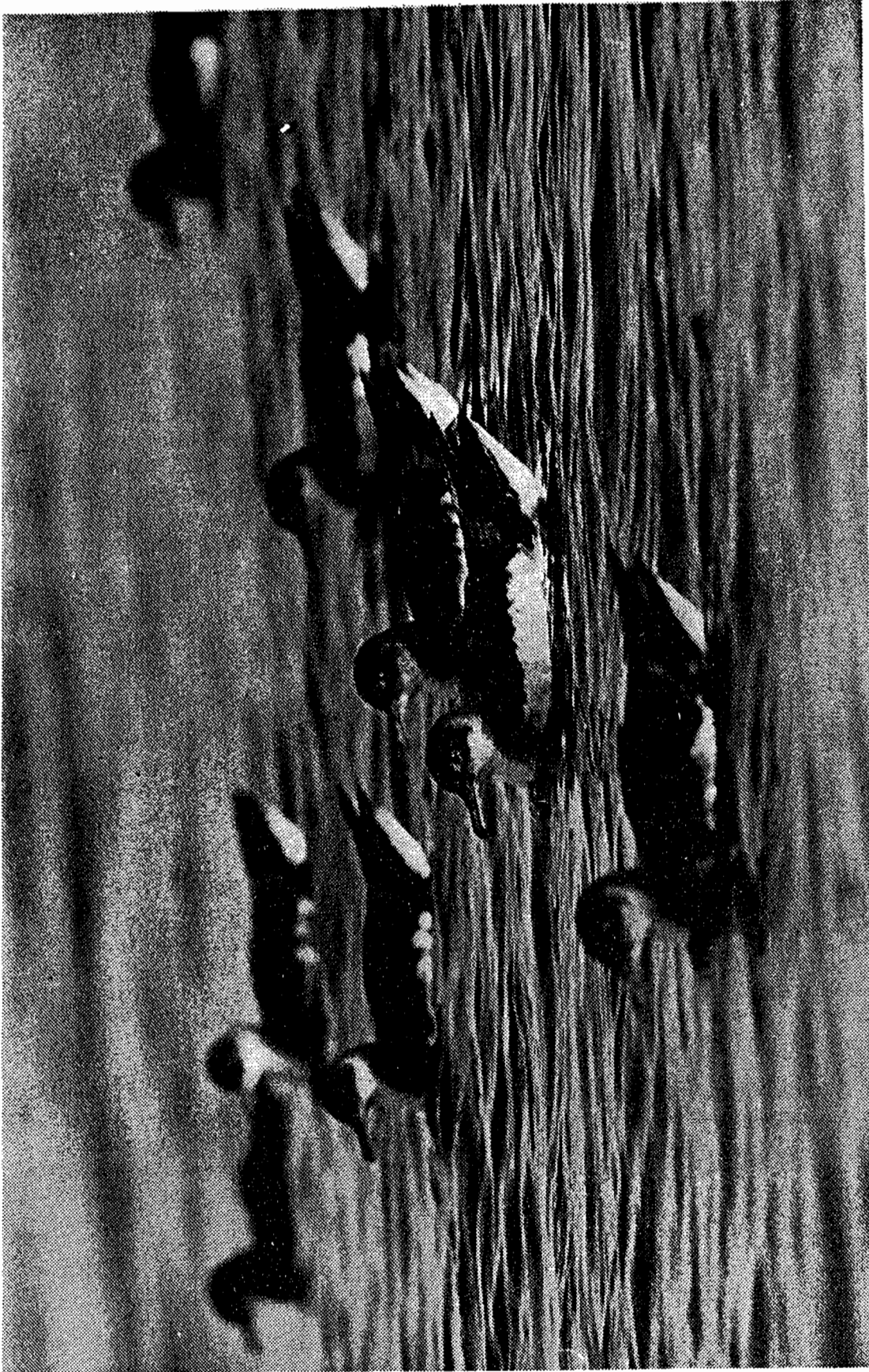


Figure 1
Manx Shearwaters *Puffinus puffinus* off western Scotland
(Photograph : D. Smith)

TABLE 1

RECORDS OF THE MANX SHEARWATER *PUFFINUS PUFFINUS* IN
SOUTHERN AFRICAN WATERS

Position	Date	No. of birds	Source
16 24S, 07 58E	10 Oct 1972	1	Lambert (1975)
16 29S, 10 52E	27 Jan 1967	1	"
17 00S, 11 31E	24 Sep 1967	1	"
18 45S, 11 32E	28 Nov 1967	1	"
19 31S, 12 08E	11 Oct 1972	1	"
Cape Cross-Walvis Bay (20-23S, 12-14E)	4 Feb 1967	3	"
"	12 Oct 1972	1	"
"	1 Feb 1973	2	"
21 24S	29 Sep 1969	1	Young (1970)
21 48S, 13 48E	26 Nov 1979	6	BR
22 05S, 14 48E	5 May 1968	1	Lambert (1975)
Walvis Bay-Lüderitz (23-26S, 13-14E)	1-4 Feb 1967	3	"
"	9 Nov 1972	1	"
"	28 Nov 1972	1	"
"	Feb 1967	5	"
23 37S, 14 00E	23 Nov 1979	1	BR
25 12S, 13 39E	25 Nov 1973	5	Lambert (1975)
Lüderitz-Orange River (26-28S, 14-15E)	21-27 Nov 1972	2	"
26 40S, 14 20E	18 Dec 1972	12	"
26 57S, 14 31E	17 Jan 1973	7	"
26 31S, 14 24E	7 Jan 1973	9	"
27 20S, 14 08E	7 Dec 1979	1	BR
31 29S, 16 46E	26 Dec 1972	1	Lambert (1975)
31 33S, 16 52E	29 Dec 1972	4	"
32 05S 18 02E	27 Jan 1977	2	JCS
32 05S, 18 02E	20 Feb 1977	1	Sinclair (1977)
32 18S, 17 47E	12 Feb 1977	1	JCS
32 48S, 17 38E	21 May 1977	1	"
32 48S, 17 38E	15 Jun 1978	1	"
33 03S, 17 13E	12 Jul 1977	1	JCS (Fig. 2)
33 03S, 16 40E	16 Aug 1980	1	JCS
33 03S, 17 15E	21 Aug 1979	1	"
33 25S, 17 38E	26 Jan 1981	1	BR
33 31S, 17 23E	9 Dec 1981	1	BR
33 55S, 17 50E	29 Jan 1981	1	"
33 56S, 17 57E	12 Dec 1981	1	"
34 00S, 18 11E	13 Jan 1981	4	"
34 02S, 18 01E	19 Sep 1980	1	JCS
34 04S, 18 02E	27 Dec 1981	1	BR
34 06S, 18 30E	9 Jan 1980	1	Avery (1980) Morant (1981) Spencer & Hudson (1980)
34 10S, 18 03E	22 Nov 1981	4	JCS & BR
34 10S, 17 50E	29 Jan 1981	1	BR
34 16S, 18 06E	10 Nov 1980	1	"
34 16S, 18 04E	2 Oct 1979	1	"
34 19S, 18 09E	8 Nov 1981	2	"

Table 1 (continued)

Position	Date	No. of birds	Source
34 22S, 18 30E	19 Jun 1979	1	JCS
34 22S, 18 04E	25 Sep 1981	1	BR
34 25S, 17 50E	25 Nov 1965	1	Bourne & Dixon (1980)
34 30S, 18 12E	30 Jan 1981	1	BR
35 53S, 20 00E	14 Nov 1977	2	JCS
35 08S, 20 00E	20 Dec 1977	1	"
Rockcliff, East London	10 May 1977	1	East London Museum No. 15284
Port Elizabeth	early 1956	1	McLachlan & Liversidge (1957)

TABLE 2

SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION OF RECORDS OF MANX SHEARWATERS
PUFFINUS PUFFINUS IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN WATERS

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records	28	15	0	0	3	2	1	2	4	4	27	22



Figure 2

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* off the western Cape,
South Africa on 12 July 1977.

(Photograph : J.C. Sinclair)

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