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SHORT NOTE

NORTHWARD MIGRATION OF SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATERS IN THE TASMAN SEA

On 25 April 1980, the *Union Rotorua*, bound from Sydney to Auckland, encountered migrating Short-tailed Shearwaters (*Puffinus tenuirostris*). The ship's course was 092° with a speed of 18 knots. From 14.55 to 14.58 hours in position 33°48'S 158°29'E (357 miles east from Sydney Heads), the ship passed across a dense stream of migrating Short-tailed Shearwaters flying very fast at about 40-50 knots, 3-15 m above sea surface. During the 3 minutes at 14.55-14.58 hours, birds were counted crossing the bow at a rate of about 1000 per minute. This density of birds extended along their track to the limit of binocular vision. From 14.58 to 15.20 hours birds crossing the bow averaged 50 per minute, and thereafter until darkness only occasional small flocks were seen.

All the birds were flying on a course of about 030°, aided by a favourable 25-knot wind from 165°. Their course from the position at 14.55 hours would take them about 20 miles south-east from Balls Pyramid, Lord Howe Group, and thence to the south-east corner of New Caledonia.

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