

**Breeding Record for the Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*) from  
Chiloe Island, Chile**

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Although Sooty Shearwaters (*Puffinus griseus*) are among the most abundant seabirds off the coast of South America, little is known regarding their breeding status in the region. Jehl (1973) collected three males in breeding condition on 1 June 1970 near Chiloe Island, Chile, and he suggested that the species might breed there. I found a breeding colony of Sooty Shearwaters on an islet off Chiloe Island during January 1981. This represents the first breeding record for the species north of the Cape Horn region, and it extends the known breeding range of the species about 1,500 km northward.

I conducted a survey of the birds of Chiloe Island from January to April 1981. On 20 January I visited one of the "Islotes de Punihuil," located about 300 m off the western coast of Chiloe Island (41°55'S, 74°02'W), with Denis Veas. The islet measures about 180 × 60 m and is entirely covered by dense grass 40–80 cm tall and by *quila* (*Chusquea* sp.), a strong, compact cane about 1.5 m tall. While exploring the islet, we located 29 well-concealed nesting burrows of the Sooty Shearwater located in the dense stands of grass and *quila*. The burrows ranged from about 100 to 150 cm deep. The entrances were narrow, but the burrows became wider inside, ending in a chamber 40–45 cm in diameter. The bases and edges of the nests were made of *Chusquea* leaves with a lining of fine grass.

Nineteen of the burrows contained a single chick, all in prejuvenal molt; 2 contained a single egg each, and there were 8 empty burrows. One adult female and a single egg were collected, and photographs were made of a downy chick. The egg was matte white, long oval in shape (Palmer 1962), and measured 71.6 × 45.2 mm. These measurements fall within the range given by Reynolds (1935) for seven Sooty Shearwater eggs from islands in the Cape Horn region. The egg contained a large embryo near hatching. The specimens are in my private collection under the number 1-1981.

Although the only previously documented breeding sites for the Sooty Shearwater off South America are on the Falkland Islands (Woods 1975), Islas de los Estados off Argentina (Olrog 1963), and Chilean islands in the Straits of Magellan (Humphrey et al. 1970), it is probable that this species nests on several smaller islands along the long coastline of Chile. Philippi (1964), for example, suspected that the species nests on Isla Guafo ("Huafo" in de Schauensee 1966) just south of Chiloe Island, but this still awaits confirmation.

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