

Your name

Hendrik Herlyn

Email

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Bird identification

Black-vented Shearwater

Date(s)

Oct 21, 2015

Time of Day

around 9:40 am

Location

Boiler Bay, Lincoln County, OR

Lighting and Weather Conditions

sunny, clear, no fog; some haze at horizon

Details

I had seawatched for almost an hour (hardly any shearwaters around) and was just about to give up, when a small, dark and white shearwater flew into my scope view, heading south. I was able to track it for about 10 to 15 seconds before it disappeared behind the waves. Not the most satisfying view, but I am quite sure it was a BLACK-VENTED SHEARWATER. Clearly a small shearwater, with a more compact body and shorter wings than Sooty or Pink-footed. The upper side was a somewhat dingy brownish-black, not a deep, dark black as in Manx Shearwater, and the demarcation between the dark upper side and the white underside was rather blurry and indistinct. When it flew away from me, I could see that the undertail coverts were dark, The bird flew south in a relatively straight line, low over the water, with rather quick wingbeats and no gliding. It was out a little over one-third the way between me and the horizon. I kept scanning for a while longer, but noticed no other shearwaters in the area.

Similar Species

Sooty, Short-tailed and Flesh-footed Shearwaters are larger, dark below

Buller's: larger, entire underside bright white, pale gray above, with typical dark M on wings

Manx Shearwater: similar, but darker above, with white undertail and less smudgy head

Anything else you want to add?

No photos obtained. This observation came a few days after the unprecedented incursion of Black-vented Shearwaters on the Oregon coast.

CHECKLIST S25498397

Wed 21 Oct 2015 8:39 AM

Boiler Bay State Wayside Lincoln County, Oregon, United States

Hendrik Herlyn

Stationary Complete 1 56 min

26 Species observed +3 other taxa

150 Surf Scoter

12 White-winged Scoter

2 Horned Grebe

3 Red-necked Grebe

17 Eared Grebe

140 Western Grebe

2 Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)

4 Black Oystercatcher

1 jaeger sp. quite a ways out, most likely Parasitic

110 Common Murre

3 Marbled Murrelet

130 Heermann's Gull

1 Mew Gull

80 Western Gull

20 California Gull

3 Glaucous-winged Gull

10 Western x Glaucous-winged Gull (hybrid)

25 Red-throated Loon

130 Pacific Loon

2 Common Loon

5 Sooty Shearwater way out on the horizon

1 Black-vented Shearwater I had seawatched for almost an hour (hardly any shearwaters around) and was just about to give up, when a small, dark and white shearwater flew into my scope view, heading south. I was able to track it for about 10 to 15 seconds before it disappeared behind the waves. Not the most satisfying view, but I am quite sure it was a BLACK-VENTED SHEARWATER. Clearly a small shearwater, with a more compact body and shorter wings than Sooty or Pink-footed. The upper side was a somewhat dingy brownish-black, not a deep, dark black as in Manx Shearwater, and the demarcation between the dark upper side and the white underside was rather blurry and indistinct. When it flew away from me, I could see that the undertail coverts were dark, The bird flew south in a relatively straight line, low over the water, with rather quick wingbeats and no gliding. It was out a little over one-third the way between me and the horizon. I kept scanning for a while longer, but noticed no other shearwaters in the area.

20 Brandt's Cormorant