On Jun 27, 2014, at 7:56 AM, <[bye.bye.nh.birdy@gmail.com](mailto:bye.bye.nh.birdy@gmail.com)> wrote:

Jeremiah Trimble asked if I would write up my sighting of the Fea's Petrel for Massachusetts Avian Records. As I told him, I am a photographer who happens to chase birds and do not have a birder's eye or ear.

That said, on Tuesday, June 24, 2014, I took the bus from Manchester, NH to Boston to go on the noon NE Aquarium Whale Watch trip. I stood in the front left-hand corner on the third deck of the catamaran and we started observing a Humpback Whale named Hancock around 13:48. Hancock was feeding and so was going from one side of the boat to the other. After about ten minutes, Hancock was on the starboard side and when I spotted a circling bird in front of the boat, I abandoned efforts to view the whale and took some pictures of the bird, which I assumed was a Shearwater. This was at 13:59:46 to 13:59:47. I subsequently learned from the naturalist on board, Tasia Blough, that the position of the boat at 13:59:49 was 42.18°N by 70.34°W.

After getting home and viewing the photographs on my computer monitor I realized that I had not seen a Shearwater but the Stokes Guide mentioned that the Black-capped Petrel was similar to the Greater Shearwater, so I moved my search and eventually decided that the bird most looked like a Fea's Petrel (something I had never heard of). I posted a picture to my website (<http://ottoc.zenfolio.com/>) and then asked for id help on the NH Bird List. That set off quite a storm with some very expert birders agreeing with my identification (although one suggested that the Zino's Petrel also fit...but someone else said that the time of year was wrong for that bird). One of the people reposted things to the Mass. Bird List and someone dug out a set of geographical co-ordinates for the boat/time (which match the naturalist's). I also posted an entry of the sighting to eBird.

[www.arkive.org](http://www.arkive.org/) describes the Fea's Petrel as having wings that are more pointed than the Zino's Petrel and from the photographs they show of the two species, I would say that the bird I observed definitely fits the Fea's description better. Also, according to eBird observations, the Fea's tend to be seen most frequently twowards the end of May through mid-June while the Zino's observation was in September. If the bird was blown here by a storm, then lesser weight applies to the observation date. I didn't notice any call from teh bird and I suspect that it was looking for fish that the Humpback was bringing to the surface.

(And just to put things into perspective, the wingspan of the bird in the image viewed from the top was about 547 pixels in a photgraph that measured 4016 pixels in height, or about 13.6%...oh, if only I had more than a 200mm on my camera.)

Please let me know that you got this as this is the first time I have tried to mail something directly from Lightroom.

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