

~~Juveniles are easily identified from adults in having more streaks on the mantle and more spots on the breast. It is also to be noted that on two occasions one of the adult birds was seen chasing Short-toed Larks *Calandrella brachydactyla* entering its territory at Rdum Majesa.~~

Reference

~~Gauci, C. 1986-87. Systematic List for 1983-84. // *Merill* 24 : 21-38.~~

~~Raymond Galea & Charles Coleiro~~

~~R G - "Osprey" Ganu Str., Birkirkara, BKR 06, Malta.~~

~~C C - "Belvedere" St. Silvester Str., Mosta, MST 06, Malta.~~

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* found breeding on the east coast of Malta

The Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* is a common breeding visitor, and its breeding grounds are situated along the southern cliffs of Malta and Gozo and on Filfla. (Sultana & Gauci 1982, Cachia-Zammit & Borg 1986-87).

In 1969, a colony of Mediterranean Shearwaters *Puffinus yelkouan* was discovered along the northeastern coast of Malta (Sultana et al. 1975) An accessible site was monitored regularly in the following years. During these visits, single Cory's have been heard calling along the cliffs and six adults have been caught and ringed up to 1992, but actual breeding had never been confirmed (MOS records).

The area was visited on 26 May 1993 to ring the young of Mediterranean Shearwaters. One nest, which was occupied by a pair of Mediterranean Shearwaters in March, was taken over by a pair of Cory's Shearwaters, and an adult male (sexed from cloacal inspection as well as by call) was found incubating. During subsequent visits, the female, as well as the young, which eventually fledged successfully, were also ringed. At least three other pairs were heard calling throughout the breeding season, from inaccessible crevices.

Unfortunately, after heavy storms in February 1994, part of the cliff gave way and tumbled down below, destroying the nesting site. In 1994, the other three pairs were present in inaccessible crevices.

References

Cachia-Zammit, R. & Borg, J. 1986-87. Notes on the Breeding Biology of the Cory's Shearwater in the Maltese Islands. // *Merill* 24: 1-9.

Sultana, J. & Gauci, C. 1982. A New Guide to the Birds of Malta. The Ornithological Society : Valletta.

Sultana, J., Gauci, C. & Beaman, M. 1975. A Guide to the Birds of Malta. Malta Ornithological Society : Valletta.

John Borg & Manwel Mallia

~~JB - Block C, Flat 5, Princess Margaret Str., Ta' Xbiex MSD 14, Malta.~~

~~MM - 20 Grace Str., Żebbuġ ŻBG 04, Malta.~~

~~Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* found breeding at Ta' Ċenċ, Gozo~~

~~The Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* breeds in large numbers in the boulder and rubble slopes of Filfla (Sultana & Gauci 1982). It has never been recorded breeding elsewhere in the Maltese Islands, although in the 18th century, the historian Canon Agius de Soldanis recounted that he found a 'strange bird' (probably the Storm Petrel) breeding in a cave between Xlendi and Ta' Ċenċ cliffs in Gozo. De Soldanis wrote that small seabirds can be found in a cave called Għar Ilma, where they spend the day in crags, waiting for nightfall to fly out to sea in search of food. He mentions that a foul smell lingers where the birds are found. Fishermen assured him that these birds are not found in any other cave in Gozo or Malta. He wrote that he saw these birds both on the nest and in the hand. In size they were similar to a Song Thrush, with a black bill resembling that of a young pigeon, more~~