With the exception of 1980, when a maximum of 26 Gannets were recorded on 11 days (Cachia Zammit 1981-83), there were 6 or even less annual records before 1986 (Gauci 1984-85, 1986-87). There is sufficient evidence to show that the Gannet occurs more frequently than previously thought, although seasonal fluctuations have to be taken into consideration. The fact that an increase in wintering Gannets may have occurred cannot be totally excluded. Weather conditions have a substantial bearing on the behaviour of Gannets. Wind direction and force affect sea conditions and it is presumed that this may be a primary clue to explain the occurrence of Gannets near the coast in a particular range of wind direction and forces (Mangion in prep.).

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SHORT NOTES

FISH-SPAWN ENTANGLED TO THE LEGS OF CORY'S SHEARWATERS *CALONECTRIS DIOMEDEA*

A colony of Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* in the south of Malta, where six nest sites are accessible, was visited during the day on 22 May 1987 to determine if there were any incubating birds. None were found. However, the birds started arriving at the colony at night and three birds were caught. All were females bearing rings and were known to have occupied nests in that area, suggesting that the pre-laying exodus was terminating and that females had started to visit their nest-sites to lay. In fact, on visiting the area three days later, all nests were occupied by incubating birds. The unusual thing was that two of the birds examined that night had small lumps of fish-spawn entangled to their rings.

Female Manx Shearwaters *Puffinus puffinus* breeding on Skokholm leave the colony for some days to go and feed in a rich fishing area. This helps the birds in the egg formation (Perrins,C.M. & de L.Brooke, M. Manx Shearwaters in the Bay of Biscay. *Bird Study* 23 : 295-299, 1976). It is possible that female Cory's Shearwaters, during the pre-laying exodus, do the same thing and go to feed in areas where large numbers of fish congregate to breed.

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