

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea* BREEDING ON HAGRET IL-GENERAL

The Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* breeds along suitable sea-cliffs on Malta and Gozo and on Filfla. It has not been recorded breeding in any of the other Maltese islands forming the Maltese Archipelago. Searches in suitable sites on Comino and Cominotto resulted in locating Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus yelkouan* but not the Cory's Shearwater (Sultana, J. & Gauci, C. A New Guide to the Birds of Malta - MOS, 1982).

Hagret il-General, popularly known as the Fungus Rock, was visited on 26 May 1988 to photograph the endemic lizard *Podarcis filfolensis generalensis* and the famed 'Malta Fungus' *Cynomorium coccineum*. Hagret il-General, which is situated at the entrance of Dwejra Bay, has a surface area of about 4000 sq.m. and rises to a height of 48m. in precipitous cliffs, forming a sloping plateau.

During the visit shearwater droppings were noted in front of some boulders on the highest part of the islet and on further investigation one Cory's Shearwater was located incubating in a 2m. deep nest-site beneath a boulder. The western side of the islet, which seems to provide good breeding habitat for shearwaters, could not be searched for other nest-sites due to its inaccessibility and also lack of time.

The behaviour of a pair of Blue Rock Thrushes *Monticola solitarius*, which was present at times during the day, suggested breeding.

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THE OCCURRENCE OF TWO EGGS IN A NEST OF A CORY'S SHEARWATER *CALONECTRIS DIOMEDEA*

~~A female Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* was found sitting on its nest on 14 June 1987. Alongside the bird there was an egg which was barely covered by a few flank feathers of the sitting shearwater. On retrieving the bird for examination, a second egg was found. When the bird was returned to its nest, it immediately started to incubate the same egg, ignoring the one which had been seen earlier partly exposed. Unfortunately another visit to the area a few days later revealed an empty nest with only scattered pieces of egg-shell present.~~

~~Harris recalls a similar situation for the Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*. A female which had two different mates, laid two eggs in its nest during one season (Harris, M.P. Breeding Biology of the Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*. Ibis 108: 17-33, 1966). In our case we have no evidence that both eggs were laid by the same female. However, the possibility that one of the eggs was an added one from the previous year is to be excluded as the pair which bred there in the previous year had successfully reared the young.~~

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AVIAN, CHIROPTERAN AND OTHER REMAINS IN BARN OWL *TYTO ALBA* PELLETS FROM GOZO

~~This short note deals with bird, bat, and other mammalian remains in Barn Owl *Tyto alba* pellets collected from one site in Gozo. Material gathered from this site has already been previously examined for mammalian remains (Schembri, S.P. & Cachia Zammit, R. Mammalian Contents in Barn Owl Pellets from Gozo. *Il-Merill* 20: 20-21, 1979).~~

~~Thirty one intact pellets were collected on two visits - 11 May and 1 June 1986. Before being dissected, pellets were measured and weighed. Length varied from 21.1 - 52.3mm (mean 35.5mm); weight varied from 0.9 - 8.9gm (mean 3.5gms). Ten bird and two bat remains were examined.~~