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Protection Action "Your help is important"

If you find a shearwater on the ground which has been hurt or dazzled, remember that it will keep still. If you try to pick it up you must be careful with its beak which is very strong and sharp. If it pecks at you, you should not suddenly remove your hand as you can receive a deep cut. IT IS IMPORTANT that you make quite clear where the shearwater is to be found. Give your name and the telephone number where you can be located if necessary.

To pick up the shearwater, you should cover it with a tee shirt or a cloth, place it in a ventilated box and remove the cloth. Never feed it or give it something to drink. Remember, it is important to call these numbers:

Important Telephone

Important Telephone Numbers

Emergency Service: 112
Island Council: 928 862 300
Environment Agency: 928 852 106

Local Police:

-Pto. del Rosario: 928 850 635
-Antigua: 928 878 024
-La Oliva: 928 866 107
-Pájara: 928 541 022
-Tuineje: 928 870 000



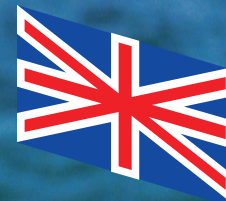
Civil Guard:

-SEPRONA: 928 851 100
-Pto. del Rosario: 928 851 551
-Morro Jable (Pájara): 928 541 107
-Corralejo (La Oliva): 928 867 267
-Gran Tarajal (La Oliva): 928 162 766



Fuerteventura
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CORY'S SHEARWATER

Cory's shearwater is a seabird that is widely distributed all over the world. There are three species: *Calonectris diomedea ssp diomedea* that nests in the Mediterranean, *Calonectris diomedea ssp edwardsi* that nests in the Cape Verde Islands and *Calonectris diomedea ssp borealis* which nests on the Canarian coasts.

Characteristics of the Species

An pelagic bird, it usually inhabits the open sea and only approaches the coast during the reproduction period. At first glance it can be mistaken for a seagull although it has differences: it has tube-shaped nostrils (that excrete salt and are situated on the upper part of the beak), a strong beak with a pronounced hook at the end, slender, elongated wings, a brownish-grey back and white underparts and webbed feet, barely adequate for solid ground.

Diet

Fish, mollusc larvae, small crustaceans and pieces of seaweed.



During the breeding period they acquire nocturnal habits and are very noisy (they emit a shrill, loud and high-pitched sound which is similar to a child crying or a cat in season).

In May-June they lay a single egg which they incubate from the end of May until August.

The chicks are fed by their parents (they overfeed them until they exceed the weight of their parents!) The young bird stores reserves of fat in its body. The adults leave the nest one month before the young bird does so. During this period the young live off the reserves of fat stored and begin to exercise their wings. This is when they are at their most vulnerable to predators.

The parents leave the nest at the end of August. The young birds are alone until the end of September or the beginning of October when they begin to fly for the first time. The specimens which manage to survive until sexual maturity, when they are between seven or eight years old, return to the place where they were born to continue with their life cycle.



Reproduction

The adults arrive on our coasts in February or March and for a few days search for and prepare the future nests (called *huras*) making use of volcanic caves, crevices in cliffs and sometimes burrows that they dig; several pairs even nest in the same crevice.

Threats

- It is an easy prey for predators such as the rat or the cat.
- The illegal hunting of it for consumption and/or to extract the fat which it stores in its body.
- Being dazzled by lights: the Cory's shearwater leaves its nest at night, being guided by the moon. It is frequently dazzled due to light pollution which causes collisions with street lights and floodlights near the coast. Once a collision has occurred and the shearwater subsequently falls to the ground, although it is not injured, it is incapable of taking off from level ground and needs a cliff or the surface of the sea to obtain flight.
- Occasionally collisions with electric transmission lines and aeriels occur.

Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre

The Fuerteventura Island Council has a wildlife rehabilitation centre which takes care of collecting shearwaters, checking for any injuries, ringing them and releasing them where appropriate.

Although the shearwater appears to be in good condition, you should never release it. The personnel from the Environment Agency should take charge of doing so.

Shearwater Campaign

This takes place from September to November. Its aim is to protect the shearwater and to minimise the dangers and unfavourable conditions which threaten it during this period, which is the most vulnerable for the good development of the life cycle of the species.

Advice

Instigate intelligent lighting, satisfying in a reasonable way our need for lighting and reducing light pollution to a maximum.

- Use lights which completely avoid unnecessary emissions of light towards the sky and over the horizon.
- Avoid broad-spectrum lamps which moreover are those which consume most energy.
- Do not use lighting levels higher than those recommended.
- Adapt lighting times to real necessities.

These are simple, straightforward measures with which we save energy and combat climate change while contributing to the conservation of our skies and our biodiversity.

Protection Category

This species is classified with Special Protection Status in accordance with Royal Decree 139/2011, of 4 February 2011 for the development of the List of Wild Species with Special Protection Status and the Spanish Catalogue of Endangered Species in which are to be found 263 Canarian taxa.