

### Cory's Shearwater

Geelbekpylstormvoël

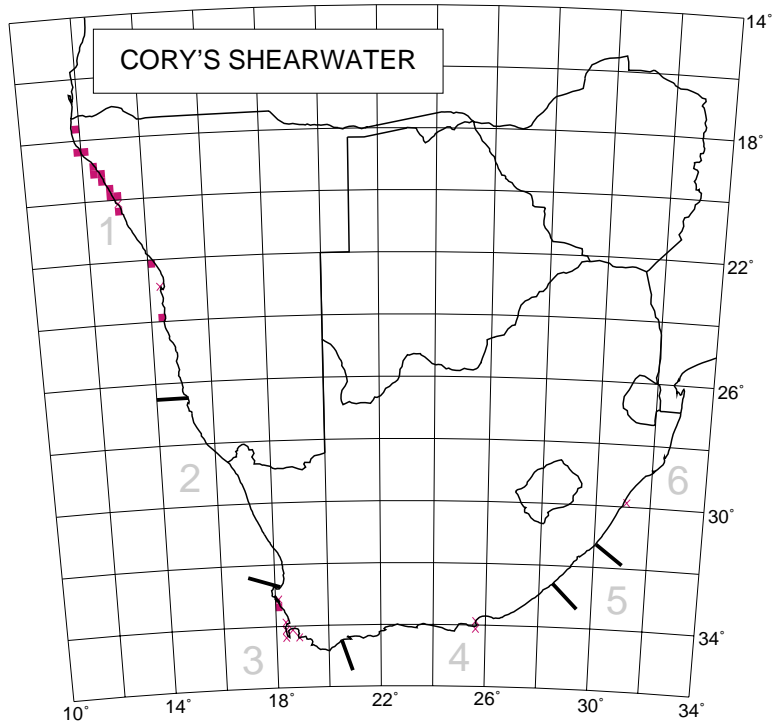
*Calonectris diomedea*

Cory's Shearwater is a common nonbreeding visitor occurring in large numbers off the west and south coasts but less common off the east coast. Most specimens are of the nominate subspecies which breeds during the boreal summer on islands in the Mediterranean Sea, but two specimens of *C. d. borealis* from islands in the northeastern Atlantic Ocean have been found. Nonbreeding birds disperse throughout the Atlantic Ocean and into the western Indian Ocean, rarely reaching Australasia.

Found in warm waters throughout, it is abundant in the Agulhas Current south to the Subtropical Convergence in March. It is adapted for gliding rather than diving, and has a lower wing-loading than smaller-winged *Puffinus* shearwaters. It feeds primarily on epipelagic fish, such as Saury *Scomberesox saurus*, and flying fish which are frequently caught on the wing when the fish leap into the air to avoid predatory fish and cetaceans (Ryan & Rose 1989).

Most are present during summer, arriving off Namibia and the southwestern Cape Province in October and November. From the west coast, birds move into the Mozambique Current, and extend east into the Indian Ocean. Considerable numbers remain in the warmer waters offshore of the west coast throughout summer, but they are common inshore only off northern Namibia, as shown on the distribution map. Most depart westwards into the Atlantic Ocean in April; a maximum of more than 2000 birds per day pass inshore off the western Cape Province in early May (Fraser & McMahon 1991). Very few remain through the austral winter (Ryan & Rose 1989).

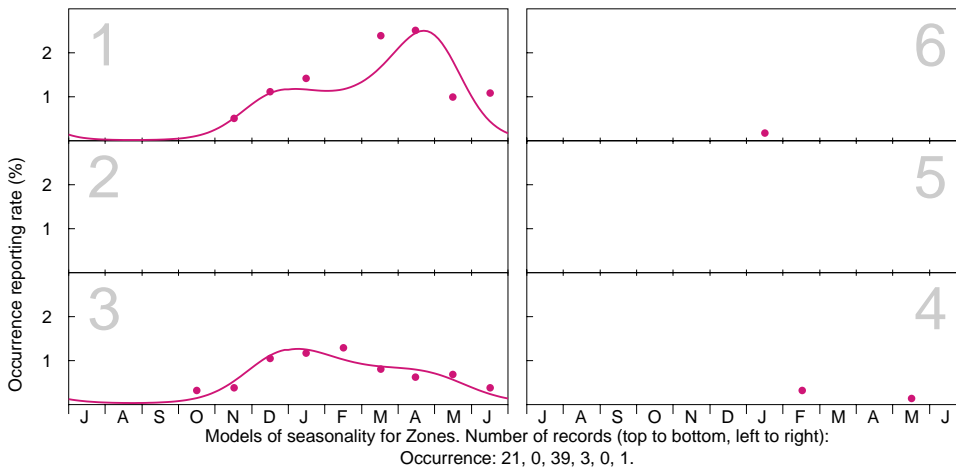
It was subject to fairly intense human exploitation (eggs, oil and meat) until the 1960s, and sporadic exploitation continues.



Recorded in 23 grid cells, 0.5%  
 Total number of records: 64  
 Mean reporting rate for range: 1.1%

Populations in the western Mediterranean appear to be increasing (De Juana 1984; De Juana *et al.* 1984), whereas at least some colonies in the northeastern Atlantic Ocean are decreasing in size (Le Grand *et al.* 1984).

P.G. Ryan



Whitechinned Petrel