

First record of Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* for mainland Mexico

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Parte de los restos de una *Calonectris diomedea* fueron encontrados en Puerto Morelos, Quintana Roo, el 23 de enero de 1996. Comparaciones posteriores de fotografías y medidas de los restos con especímenes depositados en el Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), Toronto, confirmaron la identidad y demostraron que el ave pertenecía a la subespecie *borealis*, que nidifica en islas del Atlántico norte, desde las Azores hasta Madeira. Se trata del primer registro en México continental y continente centroamericano; existe un registro documentado anterior para aguas mexicanas (el 30 de octubre de 1991, c.25 km al sudeste de la Isla Cozumel¹).

The partial remains of a shearwater were discovered at Puerto Morelos, Quintana Roo, Mexico, on 23 January 1996. The bird was found in the vehicle assembly area of the ferry which runs between Puerto Morelos and Cozumel Island, and was in poor condition, missing most of the body and head. It had presumably been dead for some time, as it was essentially mummified. It was, however, possible to salvage one wing, the tail and one foot, which were photographed and measured.

From the dead bird's size (wing 342 mm; tail 137 mm; tarsus ± 53 mm), smaller species, e.g. Audubon's Shearwater *Puffinus lherminieri* and Manx Shearwater *P. puffinus* could be eliminated. The combination of underwing pattern, pale undertail coverts and lack of a pale rump-band excluded all large shearwaters other than Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*. Comparison with specimen material at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), Toronto, Canada, corresponded exactly with photographs of the remains.

There are three recognised races of Cory's Shearwater²: *C. d. edwardsi*, breeding on the Cape Verde Islands (which has been regarded as a full species^{3,5}); *C. d. diomedea*, breeding on various Mediterranean islands; and *C. d. borealis*, which breeds on North Atlantic islands from the Azores to Madeira. The first of these can be eliminated on

the basis of wing length alone (males of *edwardsi* range from 298–321 mm, females 302–319 mm¹). From material in the ROM, it was obvious that the remains belonged to *borealis*, as the prominent white wedge on the inner web of the primaries, projecting well beyond the underwing coverts of *diomedea*², was absent.

The Puerto Morelos bird is the first record for mainland Mexico and mainland Central America, although there has been a previous documented occurrence of Cory's Shearwater in Mexican waters, on 31 October 1991, c.25 km south-east of Isla Cozumel¹.

Photographs have been deposited with the ROM and VIREO at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, USA.

Acknowledgements

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References

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