

SEABIRDS IN LEBANON

Seabird research and extent of protection in the Southern Mediterranean. What are priority knowledge gaps to fill and which sites are priorities for protection?



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Palm Islands Nature Reserve



Palm (Nakhl) Island

Sanani Island



Ramkine Island



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Photo: Ghassan R Jaradi



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SIGNIFICANT SEA BIRDS IN LEBANON

Calonectris d. diomedea Scopoli's Shearwater PM, wv:



SIGNIFICANT SEA BIRDS IN LEBANON

**Calonectris d. diomedea Scopoli's Shearwater PM,
wv:**

Common on passage March–mid May and early August–late September and recorded irregularly in large flocks offshore and near Palm Islands in January–February. Seen in Batroun, Beirut, Naqoura, Palm Islands, Tripoli and Tyre Coast. First recorded by Van

Dyck in 1873-1878 (Carruthers 1910, Kumerloeve 1962).

SIGNIFICANT SEA BIRDS IN LEBANON

Puffinus yelkouan Yelkouan Shearwater PM, wv:



Photo: Ghassan R Jaradi

SIGNIFICANT SEA BIRDS IN LEBANON

***Puffinus yelkouan* Yelkouan Shearwater PM, wv:**

Common on passage, usually in small numbers from early August–early September (200 reported off Tripoli in late September) and March–April. Few winter records of singles or flocks (up to 50) often mixing with Common Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* while resting on surface water during November–February (GR-J). Observed offshore Beirut, Palm Islands, Tripoli and Naqoura. First recorded in 1877 by Van Dyck (Kumerloeve 1962).

OCCASIONAL SEA BIRDS IN LEBANON

Puffinus griseus (NT) Sooty Shearwater v:



OCCASIONAL SEA BIRDS IN LEBANON

***Puffinus griseus* (NT) Sooty Shearwater v:**

One record: two north of Beirut on 16 March 1981
(Khairallah 1986).

OCCASIONAL SEA BIRDS IN LEBANON

Puffinus gravis Great Shearwater v:



OCCASIONAL SEA BIRDS IN LEBANON

***Puffinus gravis* Great Shearwater v:**

Three records: singles at Ras Beirut on 29 December 1974 and 1 January 1975 (Macfarlane 1978) and three near Palm Islands on 5 January 2003 (Ramadan-Jaradi et al 2004). Given the late dates during which this species was recorded, the LBRC may wish to assess its occurrence in Lebanon.

OCCASIONAL SEA BIRDS IN LEBANON

Hydrobates pelagicus European Storm Petrel v:



NON SIGNIFICANT SEA BIRDS IN LEBANON

Hydrobates pelagicus European Storm Petrel v:

Three records: singles off Ras Beirut on 18 September 1996 (Ramadan-Jaradi & Ramadan-Jaradi 1999), 10 April 1997 (Busuttil & Flumm 1998a) and one at Naqoura, near southern border, on 21 December 2003 (GR-J).

OCCASIONAL SEA BIRDS IN LEBANON

Oceanodroma leucorhoa Leach's Storm Petrel ?wv:



NON SIGNIFICANT SEA BIRDS IN LEBANON

***Oceanodroma leucorhoa* Leach's Storm Petrel ?wv:**

Four records suggest the species may be an overlooked rare winter visitor rather than a

true vagrant: singles off Damour on 20 December 1995, and near Ramkine Island, on

12 October 1996 (Ramadan-Jaradi & Ramadan-Jaradi 1999); two off Ain el Mreissa in Beirut, on 22 December 2002, and one off Khaldeh, on 3 February 2003 (Ramadan-Jaradi et al 2004)

- *Larus hemprichii* Sooty Gull v
- *Larus canus* Common Gull WV, pm, s
- *Larus audouinii* (NT) Audouin's Gull FB, pm
- *Larus marinus* Great Black-backed Gull pm,wv
- *Larus michahellis* Yellow-legged Gull R, PM, WV, S
- *Larus armenicus* Armenian Gull v
- *Larus cachinnans* Caspian Gull wv,?pm
- *Larus fuscus* Lesser Black-backed Gull PM, WV, s

- *Larus heuglini* Heuglin's Gull v
- *Larus ichthyaetus* Great Black-headed Gull pm, wv
- *Larus ridibundus* Common Black-headed Gull PM, WV
- *Larus genei* Slender-billed Gull pm, wv
- *Larus melanocephalus* Mediterranean Gull pm, wv
- *Larus minutus* Little Gull pm, WV

- *Rissa tridactyla* Black-legged Kittiwake v
- *Gelochelidon nilotica* Gull-billed Tern pm
- *Sterna bengalensis* Lesser Crested Tern FB, e
- *Sterna sandvicensis* Sandwich Tern pm, wv
- *Sterna hirundo* Common Tern FB, PM
- *Sternula albifrons* Little Tern FB, pm
- *Chlidonias hybrida* Whiskered Tern sb, pm
- *Chlidonias leucopterus* White-winged Tern PM
- *Chlidonias niger* Black Tern pm
- *Stercorarius pomarinus* Pomarine Skua pm, wv
- *Stercorarius parasiticus* Arctic Skua pm, wv

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EXTENT OF PROTECTION

- A Ministerial Decree was issued in 1999 prohibiting the hunting or fishing of marine birds.
- Patrols are effective only near the MPAs (Palm Islands and Tyre Coast Nature Reserves).
- A new draft of hunting Law is in need of preparation to specifically target sea birds, waders and other waterbirds.
- Chemical pollution reduction to save life of fish and subsequently birds.

Priority knowledge gaps

- Quasi absence of surveying seabirds at the National level
- Very limited number of birdwatchers in the country
- Expensive sea transportation beside failures of appointments with transporters due to vagaries of the sea
- Rocky and Sandy Shorelines becoming occupied by private investors and therefore not accessible by majority of people
- Lack of motivations and incentives
- Lack of funding.

Which sites are priorities for protection?

- The following sites are frequently visited by sea birds but no sightings of breeding are observed on them.

Which sites are priorities for protection?









THANK YOU

