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Cape Verde Shearwater in Selvagens in April 2012

Cape Verde Shearwater *Calonectris edwardsii* is an endemic seabird that breeds in Cape Verde Islands, especially on Brava and on the uninhabited islets of Branco and Raso. It has been split from Cory's Shearwater *C borealis* (Bretagnolle & Lequette 1990, Hazevoet 1995, Porter et al 1997, Robb et al 2008, Sangster et al 2012). The total population has been estimated to number c 10 000 breeding pairs (Hazevoet 1995, Nunes & Hazevoet 2001). The breeding period is between February and November. Recent tracking work using geolocators shows that it winters in the waters off Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay (González-Solís et al 2009); the first records are from the 1990s (Olmos 2002, Lima et al 2002, 2004, Abreu et al 2010). There is at least one record from North Carolina, USA (Patteson & Armistead 2004). The species can be recorded in significant numbers in autumn off the coast of Senegal (Baillon & Dubois 1992, Marr & Porter 1992, Dubois et al 2009).

On 5 April 2012, during the monitoring of the breeding population of Barolo Shearwater *Puffinus baroli* at Baía das Cagarras, Selvagem Grande, Selvagens, we detected a smaller shearwater in the middle of a Cory's Shearwater *C borealis* colony. The bird was similar in plumage compared with Cory's but smaller in size and with a thinner and darker bill. It was resting near several other Cory's and kept quiet and calm; it could easily be

trapped. To confirm our initial suspicion that it was a Cape Verde Shearwater we took some measurements: head-plus-bill length (from supra-occipital to front edge of bill) 96.1 mm; bill length (from edge of forehead feathers to most distal part of the hook) 43.5 mm; bill depth (from concave dorsal surface just in front of tubes to base of bill) 14.6 mm; tarsus 47.4 mm; wing length 305 mm; and body mass 435 g. These small measurements together with the bill shape and coloration only fit Cape Verde and exclude Cory's and Scopoli's Shearwater *C diomedea* (cf Cramp & Simmons 1977, Porter et al 1997, Patteson & Armistead 2004).

This was the second record for the Selvagens and Selvagem Grande and the first of a living bird, also for Europe. In June 2005, a dead bird was found in a cliff of Selvagem Grande (Jara et al 2007). Cory's Shearwaters from the breeding colonies on Madeira as well as those on Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, have been recovered from the waters off Brazil in winter (Lima et al 2004). It may well be that the occasional Cape Verde Shearwater wintering off Brazil follows Cory's to the breeding sites of the latter rather than to the Cape Verde Islands.

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