

OUR SEABIRD RESEARCH

BirdLife Malta have been researching seabirds for the past 15 years. This includes investigating the impact of threats like light and noise pollution, illegal hunting and rat predation at nest sites.

Our new Life PanPuffinus! project, launched in 2021, is a collaboration between BirdLife Malta and partners in France, Greece, Portugal and Spain. The aim is to conserve the Yelkouan Shearwater (Garnija) and the Balearic Shearwater (Garnija Balearika).

Through Life PanPuffinus!, we will be further investigating where these elusive birds can be found, their interactions with fisheries, and the perils they face during their lifecycles.

SEABIRDS AND ARTIFICIAL LIGHTS

The Maltese islands are important for breeding seabirds. But light pollution (too much artificial light at night) threatens their survival.

- 1. Fledglings (young birds which have just started flying) become disorientated by bright lights and fly towards land instead of out to sea.**
- 2. Fledglings which end up on land are vulnerable to attacks from animals like cats and dogs, may be hit by vehicles or become starved and/or dehydrated.**
- 3. Artificial lights near breeding colonies stop adults from returning to their nests. This means nests and chicks are more likely to be eaten by animals like rats, become too cold, and go without food.**



HELP US SAVE SEABIRDS



SEABIRD SPECIES AFFECTED BY ARTIFICIAL LIGHTS IN MALTA

Yelkouan Shearwater

(Garnija)



Scopoli's Shearwater

(Ciefa)



European Storm Petrel

(Kangu ta' Filfla)



WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU FIND A STRANDED BIRD

1. Approach the bird slowly.

2. Cover the bird's head and body.

Carefully, with a jacket, blanket, or towel. If you have gloves, wear them, some species may cause small cuts.

3. Place the bird in a cardboard box with holes in.

Make sure it fits properly and it has enough ventilation. Do not use a wire cage as that can damage its feathers.

4. Call BirdLife Malta.

Working hours:

(+356) 2134764 5/6

Evenings and weekends:

(+356) 79255697

Qualified people will come to collect it and advise you what to do.



WHAT NOT TO DO WHEN YOU FIND A STRANDED BIRD

1. Do not approach the bird if you don't know exactly what to do next.

2. Do not hold the bird by the wings.

Try not to allow the bird to open the wings while you are handling it, as it may become more nervous.

3. Do not give the bird food, water, or medicine.

This could harm them.

4. Do not bandage it if it looks like it has broken bones.

Try to keep it from moving by padding the box with a cloth or towel.

5. Do not release the bird.

Let qualified people check the condition of the bird. It could have internal injuries or damage to its feathers.

6. Never force the bird to go to the sea.

Since it will not fly immediately when it is launched, it may not be able to fly once it reaches the water.