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Mother Car·ey's chicken 🐔 (kâr ēz)

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n.

A petrel, especially a storm-petrel.

[Possibly alteration and partial translation of Medieval Latin *māter cāra*, Virgin Mary : Latin *māter*, mother + Latin *cāra*, feminine of *cārus*, dear; see *kā-* [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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