



# IL-MERILL

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15c to non-Members



RINGING GROUP REPORT FOR 1973

# MALTA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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## RINGING GROUP REPORT FOR 1973

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The Editor welcomes articles, letters and other features bearing on any aspect of the Ornithology of the Maltese Islands and the Mediterranean for publication in this bulletin.

The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor or the M.O.S.

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Cover picture: Eleonora's Falcon on Paximada Is. (off Crete). Photo by D. Ristow & H. Walter. Two Eleonora's ringed on Paximada have been recovered in Malta.

## IL-MERILL

No. 14 JULY-DECEMBER, 1974

## RINGING GROUP REPORT FOR 1973

### INTRODUCTION

During 1973 the members of the group were again very active. Though the number of ringers remained the same as in the past three years good results were obtained. Operating mainly during weekends, the seven members again succeeded in ringing over 6,000 birds, mostly spring and autumn migrants and winter visitors. Twelve recoveries were reported from abroad and these included the first locally ringed bird to be recovered south of the Sahara — a Spotted Flycatcher in the Congo basin. Of interest was also the first Robin to be recovered in its breeding grounds, some distance north east of Moscow, in Russia. Other firsts were a Meadow Pipit and a Song Thrush in Italy, a Grey Wagtail in Sicily, and a Blackcap, a Chaffinch and a Starling in Tunisia.

Regretfully Br. Edmund had to leave the group in June when he left Malta to take up duty in Ethiopia. At the same time T. Gauci qualified for a C permit. However it is unfortunate that no additional trainee member of the group has attained a ringing permit. This is because owing to various reasons (mainly transport and the lack of a permanent ringing site) on many occasions trainee members were unable to take part in ringing sessions.

Four new species were added to the ringing list: Barred Warbler, Fan-tailed Warbler, Yellowhammer and Rustic Bunting. A second Grasshopper warbler was ringed in late August. Pulli ringed included the first Cetti's Warblers (clutch of 4) and Fan-tailed Warblers (clutch of 5).

This report also lists thirty-six foreign ringed birds recovered in Malta. As in past years these included a number of firsts: 2 Gannets from Scotland, a Temminck's Stint, a Ruff and a Robin from Finland, a Curlew Sandpiper from Sweden, and a Blackcap from Poland. A second Paximada-ringed Eleonora's Falcon was recovered, again after two years of ringing as a pullus. Other interesting recoveries were a Great Skua from Scotland (the third in as many years) and three Caspian Terns from Sweden.

The Ringing and Migration Section of the British Trust for Ornithology continues to supply us with rings and to handle our recoveries. We are most grateful for their continued support. The encouragement of the Head of the Section, Robert Spencer, is greatly appreciated.

We also like to thank Fl. Lt. C.A. Pomeroy and the R.A.F. for granting us permission to ring at Wied Znuber, at Hal Far airfield.

### Sightings:

It is encouraging to note that the number of recorders is slowly but steadily increasing. As a result there was much better overall coverage than in past years. Consistent coverage of the autumn wader passage over Salmia, Marsascala and Marsaxlokk would, however, certainly give better results in the future.

There was one new addition to the list — a Broad-billed Sandpiper in August — and over thirty other vagrants recorded. The highlight of the year was the Fan-tailed Warbler. Unrecorded before 1967, this warbler was found breeding for the first time. Spring and autumn were relatively poor but there was a good fall in each season — on 19th April and 24th October.

The autumn raptor migration over Buskett was well covered with 15 species, including three eagles, recorded there. A strong passage of Honey Buzzards was observed on 1st October, with 300+ logged. On 24th October over 800 Robins were counted in Wied Znuber alone; these included a Finnish-ringed bird.

Owing to the soaring cost of the printing industry, the systematic list has been compiled as briefly as possible. This has meant that the months had to be abbreviated and very few localities are mentioned.

Contributors who submitted monthly records to the systematic list were: John Azzopardi, N. Bonavia, S. Borg, J. Buttigieg, L. Ellul Mercer, C. Galea Bonavia, C. Gauci, B.K. German, V. Cilia, J. Grech, J. Sultana, A. Vassallo, F. Vassallo and the Luqa R.A.F.O.S. Other contributors were: Jos. Azzopardi, M.A.S. Beaman, M. Briffa, G.P. Davies, R.O.B. Garnett, M.V. Gauci, T. Gauci, M. Grima, T. Meli, P. Micallef, J. Muskat, M. Thake, C. Theuma, R. Vella and V. Vella Muskat.

C. Gauci,  
Ringling Group Secretary

## SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1973

**Great Crested Grebe** (*Podiceps cristatus*): 1 on 7 Jan, 4 records, all singles, 14 Nov - 17 Dec.

**Black-necked Grebe** (*Podiceps nigricollis*): 4 on 14 Mar and 1 on 28 Aug. 2 daily 9-11 Nov, then 1 on 13th and 15th.

**Little Grebe** (*Podiceps ruficollis*): Singles at Salina on 5th, 8th and 11 Nov.

**Cory's Shearwater** (*Calonectris diomedea*): First near coast on 18 Mar, last on 28 Sep. Bred in usual numbers.

**Manx Shearwater** (*Puffinus puffinus*): No colonies were visited.

**Storm Petrel** (*Hydrobates pelagicus*): Bred in usual numbers on Filfla.

**Gannet** (*Sula bassana*): 9 records, 1-3 birds, 4 Jan-7 Apr, max 3 off St. Paul's Isles on 21 Jan, 2 on 29 Sep and 1 on 20 Dec.

**Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*): 1 on 18 Mar, 4 on 4th and 1 on 18 Apr. 7 records, all singles, 13 Sep-30 Nov.

**Bittern** (*Botaurus stellaris*): 1 on 1 Jan. Singles on 13th, 18th and 21 Mar. 1 on 29 Oct.

**Little Bittern** (*Ixobrychus minutus*): Spring passage 25 Mar-27 May; 1-4 on 16 days. Only 3 in autumn; singles on 3rd, 4th and 8 Sep.

**Night Heron** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*): Spring passage 8 Mar-2 May; mostly

single figures, but double figures on 9 days, max 74 on 19 Apr, 1 on 6 Jun. Autumn passage 11 Aug-1 Nov, mainly Sep. Double figures on 11 days with 93 on 3 Sep and 71 on 15 Sep highest.

**Squacco Heron** (*Ardeola ralloides*): 6 records 12 Apr-8 May; 1-2, but 13 on 19 Apr. In autumn 12 on 31 Aug and 1 on 16th and 27 Sep.

**Great White Egret** (*Egretta alba*): Singles at Gnejna on 13th and 21 Mar. 1 at Qrejten on 25 Aug, 1 near Comino in early Oct and 1 over Xemxija on 21 Oct.

**Little Egret** (*Egretta garzetta*): Spring passage 3 Mar-1 May, most on 18-19 Apr with 90+ and 120+ respectively; single figures on 14 other days. Only on 9 days in autumn, 26 Aug-24 Sep, max 32 on 13 Sep.

**Grey Heron** (*Ardea cinerea*): Spring passage 28 Feb-25 May, recorded on 23 days in flocks of up to 20. Larger numbers in autumn, 1 Aug-27 Oct. High double figures on 5 days and a flock of c. 200 on 6 Oct.

**Purple Heron** (*Ardea purpurea*): 1 on 11 Feb, then from 1 Mar to 12 May. Heavy passages on 18 Mar (315+), 18 Apr (200+) and 19 Apr (1,000+); single figures on 17 other days. Autumn passage 28 Jul-27 Oct, mainly late Sep-Oct. Recorded on 18 days, mainly low double figures, max 36.

**Spoonbill** (*Platalea leucorodia*): Singles at M'Scala on 28 Jan, at Tal-Fessej on 10 Apr, at Delimara on 28 Sep and at Gharb on 23 Nov.

**Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*): On 7 days from 3rd to 24 Mar, 1-3, but 9 on 23rd, 8 on 18th and 24 on 19 Apr. In autumn singles on 5 Sep and 11 Nov.

**Black Stork** (*Ciconia nigra*): 2 over Buskett on 4 Oct.

**White-fronted Goose** (*Anser albifrons*): 1 shot on 30 Jan. Small passage in Nov: flock of c. 25 over Xlendi on 24th, 1 at M'Scala on 25th and 1 at Bahar ic-Caghaq on 28th.

**Grey Lag Goose** (*Anser anser*): 1 at Xlendi on 24 Nov.

'**Grey Geese**' (*Anser* sp.): 3 over Cirkezza on 7 Oct, 2 over Qawra on 18 Oct and 15 off Qawra on 29 Nov.

**Shelduck** (*Tadorna tadorna*): Singles on 3rd and 4 Jan, and 31 Mar. Recorded on 12 days 27 Oct-19 Dec, most in Dec. Max 15 at Salina on 1 Dec, otherwise 1-6.

**Mallard** (*Anas platyrhynchos*): 1-2 on 18 Mar, 18 Sep, 15 Oct, and 12 Nov. In Dec. 3 on 3rd, heavy passage, with flocks of up to 40 off Qawra on 7th, 28 on 8th and 4 on 18th.

**Teal** (*Anas crecca*): Singles on 1st and 3 Jan and 5 Feb. Unusual bird at Salina on 3 Jul. Influx in early autumn, 11 Aug-15 Sep, 1-2 recorded on 7 days and 20 on last date. Then on 23 days from 25 Oct to 15 Dec; mostly 1-5, but flocks of up to 40 were reported off Qawra on 7 Dec and 15 at Salina on 15 Dec.

**Wigeon** (*Anas penelope*): 1 at Ghadira on 1 May. On 10 days 15 Nov-18 Dec. 1-3, but heavy passage, with flocks of up to 40, reported on 7 Dec.

**Pintail** (*Anas acuta*): 1 on 15 Jan. 1-2 on 7 days in spring, 2 Mar-23 Apr. 2 in Sep — on 5th and 16th, and passage off Qawra on 8-9 Oct with 200-300 counted on each day. Then on 10 days till 13 Nov, 1-3 but 30+ on 11 Nov. 1 on 7 Dec

**Garganey** (*Anas querquedula*): An exceptional spring passage. First was 1 at Ghadira on 5 Feb, then almost daily in several places from 13 Feb to 28 Mar; double figures on 15 days, max 97 on 4 Mar. Again from 10 Apr to 18 May, 1-4 on 17 days. Singles on 6th, 22nd and 26 Jun. Autumn passage 27 Jul-8 Nov, mainly mid-Aug-early Oct; flock of 100+ on 12 Sep, 15 on 2 Oct and 30+ on 5 Oct, otherwise 1-2.

**Shoveler** (*Anas clypeata*): 3 on 4 Jan. Evidence of small passage in March, with 1 on 5th, 4 on 10th and 1 on 11th. In autumn 1 on 26 Aug, 1 on 9 Nov and 1-2 daily 6-9 Dec.

**Osprey** (*Pandion haliaetus*): In spring singles on 6 days, 5 Apr-20 May, with 2 on 19 Apr. Autumn passage 23 Aug-19 Oct, 1-5 recorded on 8 days.

**Pochard** (*Aythya ferina*): 1 on 23 Feb and 3 on 13 Aug. Singles on 6 days 3 Nov-1 Dec.

**Ferruginous Duck** (*Aythya nyroca*): Singles on 5th and 16 Mar, 18 Apr, 21 Oct, 23 Nov and 8 Dec.

**Tufted Duck** (*Aythya fuligula*): 3 off Marsaxlokk on 23 Mar and 1 shot at Mgarr Gozo in early Dec.

**Red-breasted Merganser** (*Mergus serrator*): 1 at Qawra on 3 Dec.

**Honey Buzzard** (*Pernis apivorus*): Spring passage 16 Apr-17 Jun, mainly May. Recorded on 14 days, with 10 on 19th and 87 on 20 May; 1-3 on other days. In autumn on most days from 27 Aug to 26 Oct, most mid-Sep to early Oct. Max counts were 115+ on 21 Sep and 300+ on 1 Oct (most over Buskett). Double figures (max 70) on 11 other days.

**Black Kite** (*Milvus migrans*): Unconfirmed report of 7 at Ta' Qail on 9 Apr. Singles on 15th, 17th, 19th and 22 Apr. 1 on 31 July, then on 6 days in Sep: 1 on 11th, 2 on 14th, 10 on 15th, 2 on 16th, 1 on 21st and 22nd. Most seen over Buskett.

**Sparrow Hawk** (*Accipiter nisus*): 2 spring records: singles on 18 Mar and 30 Apr. 3 records in Oct: 1 on 1st, 4 on 5th and 1 on 12th.

**Buzzard** (*Buteo buteo*): 1 at Buskett on 30 Mar, 5 records in autumn: 1 on 22 Sep, 1 on 1 Oct, 3 on 24 Oct (all over Buskett), 1 at Girdenti on 27 Oct and 1 at Bidnija on 30 Oct.

**Booted Eagle** (*Hieraaetus pennatus*): 1 (dark phase) over Buskett on 1 Oct.

**Lesser Spotted Eagle** (*Aquila pomarina*): 1 over Buskett on 1 Oct.

**Short-toed Eagle** (*Circaetus gallicus*): 1 near Buskett on 30 Sep; 5 on 1 Oct, 1 on 4 Oct, 1 on 5 Oct (all over Buskett) and 1 at tal-Handaq on 7 Oct, 2 shot at Mosta in early Oct.

**Hen Harrier** (*Circus cyaneus*): 1 at Hal Far on 12 Apr.

**Pallid Harrier** (*Circus macrourus*): As in recent years this harrier was scarce, with only 4 records in spring: singles on 24th and 27 Mar, 1st and 14 Apr.

**Montagu's Harrier** (*Circus pygargus*): A very poor year with 2 records in each passage season: singles on 20 Apr, 30 Apr, 8 Sep and 5 Oct.

**Marsh Harrier** (*Circus aeruginosus*): on 27 days in spring, 4 Mar-24 Apr; mainly 1-5 but 18 on 19 Mar and 37 on 27 Mar (but see also harrier sp.) Autumn

passage 13 Sep-24 Oct; recorded on 12 days, mainly 1-6 but 16 on 13 Sep and 25 on 1 Oct over Buskett.

**Harrier Sp.** (*Circus* sp.): Heavy passage along southern coast on 18 Mar, 200+ counted, probably mainly Marsh. 1 'pale' at Qadi on same day. 1-3, mostly ring-tails, on 7 days, 19 Mar-16 Apr and 15+ over Gnejna on 19 Apr.

**Lanner Falcon** (*Falco biarmicus*): 1 shot at Bahrija on 11 Oct.

**Peregrine** (*Falco peregrinus*): Pair at Ta' Cenc throughout year. Singles at San Lawrenz on 6 May, at M'Scala on 2 Jun, at Delimara on 28 Sep, at Hal Far on 27 Oct, at Dingli on 6 Nov and over Lunzjata on 12 Dec.

**Hobby** (*Falco subbuteo*): Spring passage 7 Apr-20 May, recorded on 21 days (most mid-Apr-early May). Always single figures, max 9 on 19 Apr. First in autumn 2 on 9 Sept, then from 13 Sep to 28 Oct; 10-30 on 13th, 14th and 30 Sep. 1st and 5 Oct, single figures on 18 other days.

**Eleonora's Falcon** (*Falco eleonora*): Singles on 24 Apr, 1st, 8th and 24 May, 14th and 17 Jun (all from coastal areas). As in recent years there were several autumn records: 1 on 28 Aug; 1 on 1st, 1 on 13th, 3 on 21st, 1 on 25th and 2 on 30 Sep; singles on 5th, 6th and 26 Oct and 2 shot in the 2nd week of Oct. Most autumn records were of birds on passage with other falcons and came from inland areas. 1 (dark) at Dwejra, Gozo on 26 Dec was the first winter record.

**Merlin** (*Falco columbarius*): 3 records in Oct: 1 juv on 1st, female on 18th and a first year bird shot in the last week.

**Red-footed falcon** (*Falco vespertinus*): Recorded only in spring: 1-5 on 17 days from 14 Apr to 15 May. 1 on 4 Jun.

**Lesser Kestrel** (*Falco naumanni*): Spring passage 13 Mar-15 May, only 5 records, 1-2. In autumn 1-2 on 5 dates from 13th to 22 Sep, then 14 on 1st, 10 on 4th, 8 on 5th, 4 on 6-7th, 1 on 22nd and 30+ on 24 Oct. All autumn records from Buskett.

**Kestrel** (*Falco tinnunculus*): Singles on 8 days 2 Jan-3 Feb. Almost daily on spring passage, 12 Mar-30 May, max 23 on 18 Mar. 1 on 1 Aug. First in autumn 1 on 2 Sep, then on most days from 10 Sep to 28 Oct. Very heavy passage on 24 Oct, 470+ counted. Double figures, up to 40, on 5 days in Sep and 9 days in Oct. 1-2 on 11 days 1 Nov-26 Dec.

**Quail** (*Coturnix coturnix*): 1 on 7 Jan, 1-6 on 9 days from 15 Mar to 26 May. In autumn on 6 days 31 Aug-2 Oct with 120+ on 25 Sep and 10+ on 2 Oct. Singles on 10 Nov and 28 Dec.

**Crane** (*Grus grus*): 2 on 27 Mar and 1 on 19 Apr. Main autumn passage in Oct, 2 on 3rd, 30+ on 9th, 3 on 18th, 8 on 24th, 3 on 25th and 2 on 26th; 3 others seen shot. In Nov, 1 shot in the 1st week, 2 on 9th, 1 on 14th and 1 on 15th.

**Water Rail** (*Rallus aquaticus*): 1 at Lunzjata on 3 Feb. 1-3 on 7 days from 1 Nov to 14 Dec.

**Spotted Crake** (*Porzana porzana*): 1 on 2 Mar, 1 on 3 Apr and 2 on 12 May. In autumn singles on 30 Aug, 14 Sep, 1st, 7th, 11th and 16 Nov.

**Little Crake** (*Porzana parva*): 1 female at Buskett on 30 Mar.

**Corncrake** (*Crex crex*): Singles on 10th and 26 Sep.

**Moorhen** (*Gallinula chloropus*): Only 8 records in spring, 23 Feb-18 May, all singles. In autumn singles on 6 days 25 Sep-26 Oct; main passage in Nov: 1-4 on 9 days 5th-24th.

**Coot** (*Fulicula atra*): 1-2 on 9 days from 12 Oct-18 Dec.

**Oystercatcher** (*Haematopus ostralegus*): 3 at M'Scala on 29 Mar; singles at Delimara on 1st, at M'Xlokk on 4th and at M'Scala on 23 Apr. Singles in Gozo on 15 May and at Delimara on 8 Aug.

**Ringed Plover** (*Charadrius hiaticula*): 1-3 on 4 days 22 Apr-22 May. Autumn passage 16 Jul-24 Nov, most in July and Oct, 1-6 on 12 days.

**Little Ringed Plover** (*Charadrius dubius*): Present on most days from 17 Mar to 20 May, mainly at Ghadira and Salina, 15-22 on 2 days, otherwise 1-7. Autumn passage 13 Jul-14 Oct, 1-7 on 12 days, most in Jul, 6 on 4th-18 Nov and 2 on 5-6 Dec at Hal Far.

**Kentish Plover** (*Charadrius alexandrinus*): 1 on 29 Apr, 1 on 28 Sep and 2 on 1 Oct. Flock of 30+ at Luqa on 18-19 Oct.

**Dotterel** (*Eudromias morinellus*): Flock of 100+ over Gnejna on 24 Mar and 1 on 16 Apr. Autumn passage 30 Aug-24 Nov, recorded on 24 days. Mainly 1-11, but 33 on 21 Sept, 130+ on 26 Oct and 60+ on 27 Oct.

**Golden Plover** (*Pluvialis apricaria*): On 5 days in Jan-Feb, max 50+ at Hal Far on 17 Jan. On 13 days in March (to 25th), most at Hal Far, max 40 on 4-8th. Late record of 20+ at Comino on 12 Apr. First in autumn 6 at Hal Far on 10 Oct, then on 22 days, 24 Oct-12 Dec; mainly double figures with maxima of 120+ on 26 Oct, 65+ on 2 Nov, 100+ on 23 Nov and 140+ on 24 Nov.

**Grey Plover** (*Pluvialis squatarola*): 1 at Ta' Qali on 18 Mar, singles at Salina and M'Xlokk on 5 May and 2 at Armier on 6 May. In autumn singles at Marsa on 21 Sep, at Hal Far on 10 Oct and at Bahar ic-Caghaq on 3 Dec.

**White-tailed Plover** (*Vanellus leucurus*): 1 shot at Salina on 22 Oct.

**Lapwing** (*Vanellus vanellus*): On 3 days in Jan, max 33 at Hal Far on 17th. Autumn passage from 28 Oct, mainly 17 Nov-7 Dec; max 220+ on 23 Nov and 125+ on 24 Nov; 1-30 on 22 other days.

**Turnstone** (*Arenaria interpres*): 10 singles seen shot at Salina and M'Scala in the last week of Apr. 1-2 on 5 days in May from 5th to 17th, 1 on 9 Nov.

**Little Stint** (*Calidris minuta*): Spring passage 25 Mar-6 Jun; 1-20 on 18 days, mainly at Ghadira, 3 on 1 Jul. Autumn passage 14 Jul-3 Oct, 1-20 on 15 days, most in Jul-Aug.

**Temminck's Stint** (*Calidris temminckii*): 1-2 on 6 days at Ghadira from 15 Apr to 4 May.

**Dunlin** (*Calidris alpina*): 3 on 22 Apr and 2 on 1 May, at Ghadira. In autumn 1-3 on 11 days, 28 Jul-18 Nov.

**Curlew Sandpiper** (*Calidris ferruginea*): 1 on 12 Apr, then 1-7 on 5 days 1 May-1 Jun. No autumn records.

**Knot** (*Calidris canutus*): 1 at M'Scala on 6 Sep.

**Sanderling** (*Calidris alba*): 4 at M'Xlokk on 7 May and 1 at Qbajjar on 4 Sep.

**Ruff** (*Philomachus pugnax*): Spring passage, 2 Mar-6 Jun, larger than usual; almost daily in Mar-Apr, with double or low treble figures on 33 days. Max 300+ at Hal Far/Luqa on 19 Apr and 200+ on 29 Mar, and on 20-23 Apr. 1 on 2 Jul and flock of 300+ on 20 Jul at Salina. In autumn 1-12 on 8 days 15 Aug-29 Sep. Late bird on 26 Oct.

**Broad-billed Sandpiper** (*Limicola falcinellus*): 1 shot at Delimara on 24 Aug. (1st record for Malta).

**Spotted Redshank** (*Tringa erythropus*): Singles at Delimara on 13 Mar, at Ghadira on 1 May and at Hal Far on 27 Oct.

**Redshank** (*Tringa totanus*): 1 on 15 Jan. In spring 1-2 on 10 days 13 Mar-19 May, 2 on 26 Jun and 3 on 9 Jul. Autumn passage 21 Jul-7 Oct, 1-5 on 10 days.

**Marsh Sandpiper** (*Tringa stagnatilis*): 2 on 13th and 1 on 31 Mar. Singles on 16th, 18th and 29 Apr and 1 May. No autumn records.

**Greenshank** (*Tringa nebularia*): 1-3 on 9 days, 11 Mar-1 May, most after mid-Apr. Singles on 13 Jul, 11th and 12 Sep.

**Green Sandpiper** (*Tringa ochropus*): 1-9 on 13 days 16 Mar-1 May. Late bird on 12 May. Autumn passage 13 Jul-19 Sep, 1-6 on 10 days.

**Wood Sandpiper** (*Tringa glareola*): Spring passage 18 Mar-1 Jun, mainly mid-Apr-mid-May, 1-10 on 17 days, 1 on 8th and 25 on 10 Jul at Salina. In autumn 1-8 on 7 days 31 Jul-25 Aug.

**Common Sandpiper** (*Tringa hypoleucos*): Singles on 12th and 31 Jan. Spring passage rather small; 1-2 on 10 days 1 Apr-20 May, most mid-end Apr. Autumn passage 27 Jun-18 Sep, mainly Jul-Aug when species recorded almost daily. Single figures, max 9 on 30 Aug, 4 on 24 Nov.

**Black-tailed Godwit** (*Limosa limosa*): Exceptionally heavy spring passage, 18 Feb-14 Apr. Mainly 28 Feb-5 Mar with 165+, 60+, 90+, 10+, 18 and 10+ respectively on each day. 1-3 on 11 other days. No autumn records.

**Curlew** (*Numenius arquata*): Singles on 21 Mar, 19 Apr, 24 June and 27 Aug. 2 on 29 Aug and 26 Oct.

**Woodcock** (*Scolopax rusticola*): 1 on 13 Jan, 1 on 12 Oct, then on most days 24 Oct-8 Dec; most from 18th to 24 Nov, 10-20 on each day and 40+ on 23rd. 1-9 on other days.

**Snipe** (*Gallinago gallinago*): 1 on 3-4 Feb, then 1-4 on 14 days 28 Feb-1 May. In autumn from 2 Sep to 8 Dec, most in Nov; 1-4 on 22 days.

**Great Snipe** (*Gallinago media*): 1 on 28 Feb, 3 on 21 Mar and singles on 8th 12th and 16 Apr.

**Jack Snipe** (*Lymnocyptes minima*): Singles on 8th, 14th and 30 Mar. 8 records in autumn, 26 Oct-29 Nov, all singles.

**Black-winged Stilt** (*Himantopus himantopus*): Only 5 spring records, all singles: on 13th, 17th and 19 Apr, 1st and 20 May.

**Avocet** (*Recurvirostra avosetta*): 2 at St. Paul's Bay on 15 Apr, 1 at Benghisa on 18 Apr and 2 at Salina on 30 Aug.

**Pratincole** (*Glareola pratincola*): 4 at M'Scala on 19 Apr.

**Cream-coloured Courser** (*Cursorius cursor*): 1 at Gharb on 25 May.

**Stone Curlew** (*Burhinus oedicephalus*): 1-6 on 9 days 30 Mar-16 May, most in Apr. Late bird on 4 Jun. Autumn passage 29 Sep-28 Oct, 1-4 on 8 days and 30+ on 24 Oct.

**Great Skua** (*Stercorarius skua*): 1 caught ca. 20 miles SW of Malta on 9 Jun.

**Pomarine Skua** (*Stercorarius pomarinus*): 3 (2 dark, 1 light phase) taken by fishermen off M'Xlokk on 28-29 Oct.

**Arctic Skua** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*): Singles on 13th and 28 Oct, both taken offshore.

**Long-tailed Skua** (*Stercorarius longicaudatus*): Singles shot in late Jan and on 11 Oct, offshore.

**Mediterranean Gull** (*Larus melanocephalus*): Double figures in Harbours and along south coast on most days in Jan-Mar (to 19th). Max 80 on 25 Feb, 3 on 4th and 2 on 19 Apr. Again from 8 Dec; single figures except for 40+ on 12th.

**Little Gull** (*Larus minutus*): Singles on 7th and 11 Jan, 2nd and 3 Feb, 1-2 daily 23-25 Feb and 1 on 11 Mar. Singles on 22nd and 28 Dec.

**Black-headed Gull** (*Larus ridibundus*): Double or treble figures (up to 500) on most days in Jan-Mar (to 25th) but 1500-2000 on 24-25 Feb, 1 on 11 Nov, then from 25 Nov onwards. Same numbers as before with 800+ on 8 Dec highest.

**Slender-billed Gull** (*Larus genei*): 1 at St. Paul's Bay on 11 Sep and 2 at Qawra Pt. on 15 Sep.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*Larus fuscus*): 1 on 25 Feb and 3 Apr, 1 at Hal Far on 13-14 Oct, then 2 on 25 Nov, 3 on 8 Dec and 3 on 28 Dec. Except for the Oct bird, only adults were identified.

**Herring Gull** (*Larus argentatus*): Resident along usual cliffs and on Filfla. Max counts from Ta' Cenc on 3 Feb, 50 pairs and from Filfla on 28 Jun, 60+ juvs. Up to 100 in harbours and off south coast in winter.

**Audouin's Gull** (*Larus audouinii*): 2 at M'Scala on 20 Aug.

**Kittiwake** (*Rissa tridactyla*): 1, adult female, shot off south coast on 1 Feb.

**Black Tern** (*Chlidonias niger*): 1 at M'Xlokk on 10 Jun and 6 at Delimara on 29 Sep.

**White-winged Black Tern** (*Chlidonias leucopterus*): 1 on 19th, 1 on 25th and 2 on 30 Apr; 2 on 31 May; 1 on 10 Jul; singles on 5th, 18th and 24 Aug.

**Gull-billed Tern** (*Gelochelidon nilotica*): 2 on 19th and 1 on 20 Apr; 1 on 3 Jun; 1 on 18 Jul; 2 on 29 Sep and 2 on 10 Oct.

**Caspian Tern** (*Hydroprogne tschegrava*): 1 at Fomm ir-Rih on 15 Aug, 1 at Gzira Pt. on 26 Oct and 1 at Ramla Bay on 28 Oct.

**Sandwich Tern** (*Sterna sandvicensis*): 6 off south coast on 29 Aug and 2 at Delimara on 25 Nov.

**Wood Pigeon** (*Columba palumbus*): 1 on 15 Mar. In autumn singles on 15 Sep; 24th, 26th and 28 Oct; 2 on 1st and 1 on 3 Nov.

**Turtle Dove** (*Streptopelia turtur*): Daily 8 Apr-31 May, with several large passages. Peak counts were on 18 Apr: 12,280+; 19 Apr: 20,200+; 26 Apr: 4,500+ and 29 Apr: 6,000+; up to 2,000 on several other days. Few migrants also in June, 1-14 on 12 days, 1-2 on 7 days 6 Jul-5 Aug. Autumn passage 22 Aug-27 Oct, mainly Sep. Only double or low treble figures, max 400+ on 3rd and 13 Sep.

**Palm Dove** (*Streptopelia senegalensis*): 1 at Lunzjata, Rabat on 4 Oct.

**Cuckoo** (*Cuculus canorus*): Spring passage 31 Mar-3 May: 1-17 on most days, 1 on 12th and 16 May. Autumn passage 18 Jul-1 Nov, 10 records, with no clear peak; all singles except for 5 on 3 Oct.

**Long-eared Owl** (*Asio otus*): 1 on 10 Nov, 5 seen shot in Dec.

**Short-eared Owl** (*Asio flammeus*): 7 records, all singles, 15 Mar-18 Apr. Autumn passage 21 Sep-18 Nov, 1-6 on 9 days, 3 Dec records, singles on 12th, 15th and 24th.

**Scops Owl** (*Otus scops*): Unusually scarce in spring: only 5 records 14 Mar-28 Apr, all singles. From 30 Sep to 10 Nov in autumn, most in late Oct. Max 25 on 1 Oct and 20 on 22 Oct, 1-5 on 10 other days.

**Barn Owl** (*Tyto alba*): Nest with 5 young stolen from Siggiewi in May. Most records in autumn: 1 at Xaghra on 19-20 Jul, 1 at Mellieha on 10 Aug, 1 at Luqa on 21 Sep, 1 at Zabbar on 28 Sep, 1 at Tas-Salib on 27 Oct, 1 at Buskett on 10 Nov and 1 at Zabbar on 12 Nov.

**Roller** (*Coracias garrulus*): On 12 days 15 Apr-20 May, mainly Apr; most records 1-6, but 25 on 26 Apr. Summer record of 1 on 2 Jul. Only 2 autumn records: 2 on 26 Aug, and 1 on 26 Sep.

**Kingfisher** (*Alcedo atthis*): 1-3 on 18 days 29 Jul-2 Oct, most in Aug. Singles on 4 days in Nov-Dec.

**Bee-eater** (*Merops apiaster*): Spring passage 18 Apr-3 Jul, mainly April-May. Double figures on 3 days and 112+ on 23 Apr. On 4 days in Sep: 1 on 1st, 3 on 5th, 13 on 12th and 11 on 15th.

**Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** (*Merops superciliosus*): 1 at Wardija on 20 May.

**Hoopoe** (*Upupa epops*): After 1 on 16 Feb, frequently seen from 21 Mar to 2 May but only single figures, 1-6, 1 on 8th and 19 May. In autumn 2 on 20 Jul, then 1-5 on 19 days 2 Aug-6 Oct, most mid-Aug to mid-Sep.

**Wryneck** (*Jynx torquilla*): 1 at Xemxija on 12 Jan. In spring 1-4 on 15 days 25 Mar-26 Apr. Autumn passage 2 Sep-1 Dec, records of 1-5 on most days with no clear peak.

**Nightjar** (*Caprimulgus europaeus*): Only a few in spring, 18 Apr-24 May; 1-7 on 10 days and 22 on 20 Apr. In autumn 1 on 3 Sep, then 1-10 on 10 days 21 Sep-27 Oct.

**Egyptian Nightjar** (*Caprimulgus aegyptius*): 1 female shot on 28 Mar.

**Swift** (*Apus apus*): Almost continuous passage from 20 Mar to 30 Sep, but most in April-May. Longest interval without any records 12-26 Aug. Double or treble

figures on most days, max 520+ on 29 Jul. 3 records in Oct: 2 on 14th, 1 on 21st and 20 on 29th.

**Alpine Swift** (*Apus melba*): 1-6 on 14 days in spring, 25 Mar-30 Apr. 1 on 17 Jun and 15+ on 7 Jul. Only 3 records in autumn: 3 on 6 Sep, 1 on 26 Sep and 3 on 1 Nov.

**Short-toed Lark** (*Calandrella cinerea*): Very common summer visitor. First recorded on 19 Mar, most from 7 Apr reaching treble figures in suitable areas on 21st. First birds in song on 29 Mar. Birds on autumn passage recorded from 15 Aug. Last seen on 30 Sep.

**Wood Lark** (*Lullula arborea*): Only 2 records: singles on 24 Oct and 1 Nov.

**Sky Lark** (*Alauda arvensis*): 1-10 on 9 days 1 Jan-18 Feb. Spring passage, as usual, insignificant with up to 25 on 10 days 4 Mar-9 Apr. 2 on 22 Apr. 1 at Hal Far on 11 Jun could have been an escaped bird. From 4 Oct in autumn, almost daily till 16 Dec, most mid-Oct to mid-Nov. Treble figures on most days, max 1,000+ on 28 Oct.

**Sand Martin** (*Riparia riparia*): Spring passage 8 Mar-20 May, mainly mid-Apr to mid-May; double or low treble figures on most days, but 1,200+ on 12 May. Singles on 13th and 29 Jul. 1 on 24 Aug, then from 5 Sep-28 Oct, most in mid-Oct. max 135+ on 21st.

**Swallow** (*Hirundo rustica*): Almost daily 15 Mar-27 May; treble figures on most days in April, but never more than 250. 1 on 2nd and 2 on 12 Jun, 10+ on 5 Aug, then daily 28 Aug-29 Oct. Larger numbers than in spring with max of 5,500+ on 1 Oct and up to 800 on several other days. In Nov 1-20 on 8 days till 17th.

**Red-rumped Swallow** (*Hirundo daurica*): 4 records in April: singles on 18th, 19th and 22nd, and 2 on 24th.

**House Martin** (*Delichon urbica*): 3 at Lunnzjata on 1-3 Jan. First in spring 3 on 6 Mar, then from 15 Mar-14 May, most from mid-Apr. Mainly double figures, but up to 600 on 5 days and 1,400+ on 12 May. 3 on 30 May. Autumn passage 2 Sep-17 Nov, up to 50 on 16 days, most in Oct.

**Crag Martin** (*Hirundo rupestris*): Up to 10 at Lunnzjata from 8 Dec onwards.

**Richard's Pipit** (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*): 1 at Hal Far on 13 Oct.

**Tawny Pipit** (*Anthus campestris*): Only small numbers in spring: 1-3 on 11 days 19 Mar-28 Apr, but 10+ at Hal Far on 19 Apr. In autumn 1-10 on 19 days 2 Sep-14 Oct.

**Tree Pipit** (*Anthus trivialis*): 1 on 11 Mar, then from 18 Mar-19 May. Almost daily but notable gaps on 2-6 Apr and 2-11 May. Double or treble figures daily 14th-29 Apr, largest counts 500 on 18th, 900 on 19th and 350 on 26th. Autumn passage 22 Aug-4 Nov, up to 20 on most days.

**Meadow Pipit** (*Anthus pratensis*): Very common in Jan-Mar with up to 50 in suitable areas. Up to 25 till 8 Apr then singles on 5 days to 21st. First in autumn on 11 Oct, numbers increasing after 21st with max of 60 in several places.

**Red-throated Pipit** (*Anthus cervinus*): Spring passage 7 Apr-12 May, mainly

19 Apr-1 May, with 10-30 at Hal Far. Only a few in autumn: 1-4 on 8 days 7 Oct-5 Nov, and 12 on last day.

**Water Pipit** (*Anthus spinoletta*): 1 taken at M'Scala in March. ...

**Yellow Wagtail** (*Motacilla flava*): Spring passage 15 Mar-23 May, mainly Apr. Heavy passages on 18 Apr --- 5000 counted, 19 Apr --- 1230, and 26 Apr --- 350. Up to 160 on other days, 1 on 17 Jul. In autumn 1 on 17 Aug, then on most days 24 Aug-26 Oct, mainly double figures and up to 180 on a few days. Singles on 3rd and 18 Nov.

**Grey Wagtail** (*Motacilla cinerea*): 1-8 in most places in Jan-Feb. Smaller numbers in March to 26th. First in autumn on 16 Sep, then double figures, max 40, from early Oct, numbers reducing after mid-Nov.

**White Wagtail** (*Motacilla alba*): Common in Jan-Mar (to 25th). Singles on 1st 3rd and 20 Apr. From 6 Oct in autumn, double figures in several places. Smaller numbers after mid-Nov. A count at the roost at Great Siege Square, Valletta on 20 Dec totalled 2,500+.

**Red-backed Shrike** (*Lanius collurio*): The bird wintering at Lunnzjata in Dec 1972 stayed on till 15 Apr. Only 1 spring record: 1 on 9 Apr. In autumn 1-3 on 12 days from 3 Sep-10 Oct.

**Woodchat Shrike** (*Lanius senator*): Spring passage 7 Apr-26 May, mainly mid-end Apr. Single figures, 1-4, except for influx on 26 Apr, 30+. No summer records. In autumn 1-5 almost daily 15 Aug-17 Sep, most records from Buskett

**Lesser Grey Shrike** (*Lanius minor*): 1 male at Buskett on 16 Jun.

**Golden Oriole** (*Oriolus oriolus*): Very heavy passage in spring: 2 on 8th and 1 on 10 Apr, then daily 14 Apr-31 May. Double or treble figures from mid-Apr to mid-May, with peak days 19 Apr --- 750+ and 26 Apr --- 370+. 1 on 10 Jun. As usual autumn passage much smaller: 17 records 24 Aug-2 Oct, 1-4 but 18 on 3 Sep. Unusually late bird on 10 Nov.

**Starling** (*Sturnus vulgaris*): Common in Jan-Mar (to 23rd) with up to 800 at Hal Far. Singles on 8 Aug and 9 Sep, then from 25 Sep onwards. Very heavy passage on 24 Oct --- 105,000+ counted. Up to 4000 on several other days in Oct-Nov, numbers reducing in Dec.

**Rook** (*Corvus frugilegus*): 1 at Lunnzjata in early Nov.

**Wren** (*Troglodytes troglodytes*): 1 at Buskett on 14 Jan and 1 at Hal Far on 11 Feb. 1 at Hal Far on 30 Oct, 1 at Lunnzjata on 1st-10 Nov and 1-2 at Salina from 25 Nov onwards.

**Alpine Accentor** (*Prunella collaris*): 1 caught in early Oct, 1 at M'Scala on 23 Oct. 1 caught in early Nov, 1 at Gharghur on 5 Nov and 2 at Ta' Zuta on 13 Nov.

**Dunnock** (*Prunella modularis*): Fairly common in agricultural land in Jan-Mar (to 27th). Max 15 at Buskett on several dates. From 22 Oct in autumn, with double figures, up to 50, from 27th. Numbers reduced in Dec.

**Cetti's Warbler** (*Cettia cetti*): Resident in usual numbers at Girgenti/Wied il-Luq. Nest found at Wied il-Luq on 14 May contained 4 well grown young. Several other family parties in late May-late Jul. Records outside these valleys: male singing at Mtahleb in Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec (place not visited in May-

Aug), 1 at Rabat on 22-26 Jul, 1 at Chadwick Lakes from 9 Sep onwards and 1 at Xlendi on 24 Dec.

**Savi's Warbler** (*Locustella luscinioides*): 1 trapped and ringed at Ramla Valley on 6 Sep.

**Grasshopper Warbler** (*Locustella naevia*): 1 trapped and ringed at Wied il-Luq on 26 Aug.

**Moustached Warbler** (*Luscinola melanopogon*): 1 at Xemxija on 27 Oct, 3 at Wied il-Luq on 22 Nov and 1 at Salina on 24 Nov. 2 were still present at Wied il-Luq on 17 Dec.

**Sedge Warbler** (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*): Very poor year. In spring 1 on 2 Apr then 1-3 daily 17th-28 Apr. Singles on 12th and 20 May. In autumn singles on 26 Aug and 25 Oct.

**Reed Warbler** (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*): Only 1 in spring, on 27 Apr. Autumn passage 19 Aug-4 Nov, mainly late Aug-end Sep. 35 records of 1-5.

**Great Reed Warbler** (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*): 1, in heavy body moult, trapped and ringed at Xemxija on 12 Jan was the first winter record. Spring passage 16 Apr-16 May, mainly Apr; recorded on 15 days, max 6 at Lunzjata on 20 Apr. In autumn 1-3 almost daily, mainly at Wied il-Luq, from 12 Aug to 19 Sep, 2 on 27 Oct.

**Icterine Warbler** (*Hippolais icterina*): In spring 1-4 on 10 days 19 Apr-27 May. In autumn, 1-4 on 11 days 15 Aug to 6 Sep, then 5 records, 1-2, from 2nd-18 Oct.

**Barred Warbler** (*Sylvia nisoria*): 1 immature trapped and ringed at Xaghra on 10 Sep.

**Garden Warbler** (*Sylvia borin*): Spring passage smaller than usual; daily 14th-29 Apr, max 15 at Hal Far on 19th. In May 1-6 on 5 days to 20th. Autumn passage 6 Aug-28 Oct, mainly Sep. Recorded on most days, max 60 at Buskett on 16 Sep. Up to 50 on several other days.

**Blackcap** (*Sylvia atricapilla*): Common in suitable areas in Jan-Mar, with up to 300 at Buskett and 150 at Mdina. Few till 22 Apr. 1 was singing at Buskett on 5 Jul. 1 on 14 Sep, then from 30 Sep onwards; only single figures in Oct-mid Nov, then up to 35 at Buskett.

**Whitethroat** (*Sylvia communis*): Spring passage 15 Apr-14 May, mainly Apr. Large influx on 19 Apr — 150+ at Hal Far. Up to 34 on other days. 11 records in autumn, 26 Aug-12 Oct, all singles.

**Lesser Whitethroat** (*Sylvia curruca*): 1 at Salina on 16th-23 Sep.

**Ruppell's Warbler** (*Sylvia ruppelli*): 1 taken at tal-Handaq in Sep.

**Sardinian Warbler** (*Sylvia melanocephala*): Very common resident. First nests found in early April.

**Subalpine Warbler** (*Sylvia cantillans*): Spring passage 21 Mar-27 Apr; single figures on most days with max of 15 at Hal Far on 19 Apr. Autumn passage 29 Jul-7 Oct, mainly mid-Aug-mid-Sep; common in several places with 30-60 regularly at Buskett in Aug-Sep. Very late bird in poor plumage condition on 24 Oct.

**Spectacled Warbler** (*Sylvia conspicillata*): Common resident, mainly in rocky valleys and open country. First record of young out of nest on 28 Apr.

**Dartford Warbler** (*Sylvia undata*): 2 at Ghadira on 18 Feb and 1 at Salina on 12 Nov.

**Willow Warbler** (*Phylloscopus trochilus*): Spring passage 18 Mar-31 May, mainly Apr. Single figures or up to 15 on most days, but 130+ on 19 Apr. 1 (freshly dead) on 1 Aug, then from 21 Aug to 21 Oct. In about the same numbers as in spring but none on 5th-11th and 23rd-29 Sep.

**Chiffchaff** (*Phylloscopus collybita*): Common in Jan-Mar; few till 14 Apr. Up to 50 in most places. From 11 Oct in autumn reaching double figures from 24th. Max 100+ at Xemxija on 24 Dec.

**Bonelli's Warbler** (*Phylloscopus bonelli*): Only 1 record: 1 at Mtahleb on 27 Apr.

**Wood Warbler** (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*): Spring passage 1 Apr-21 May, mainly 11th-30 Apr; double or treble figures on 12 days. Marked influxes on 14th — 75+, 18th — 100+, 19th — 300+ and 26th — 100+, all dates in April. In autumn 1 on 16th and 30 Aug; influx on 3-4 Sep with 56+ and 17+ respectively, then singles on 12th and 16 Sep and 5 Oct.

**Goldcrest** (*Regulus regulus*): 1-2 at Buskett and Wied Znuber in Jan-Mar (to 11th). Unusually late bird at Xemxija on 11 Apr. From 26 Oct in autumn, with max on 10 at Buskett from mid-Nov onwards.

**Firecrest** (*Regulus ignicapillus*): No positive records in Jan-Feb. Singles on 5 days 15 Mar-13 Apr. From 24 Oct in autumn with a max of 6 at Buskett in Nov-Dec.

**Gold/Firecrest** (*Regulus regulus/ignicapillus*): 10 records, 1-10, 1 Jan-26 Mar (most from Buskett/Rabat); 6 records, 1-10, 1st-24 Nov.

**Fan-tailed Warbler** (*Cisticola juncidis*): A pair present at Xemxija throughout the year built 3 nests and raised 2 broods (the other probably taken by a snake). Another pair at Ghadira, first seen in July, raised at least one brood. These were the first breeding records in these Islands. Records outside Xemxija/Ghadira were singing males at Gġgenti and Chadwick Lakes on 20 May and at Salina on 27 Jun, and 1-2 at Lunzjata from 29 Sep to 1 Nov.

**Pied Flycatcher** (*Ficedula hypoleuca*): From 30 Mar to 23 May in spring, mainly in Apr with large influxes on 18th — 210+, 19th — 180+ and 26th — 155+. Up to 80 on other days in Apr, but only single figures in May. As usual, autumn passage much smaller; 15 records from 19 Aug-10 Oct, all 1-2 except for 6 on last day.

**Collared Flycatcher** (*Ficedula albicollis*): 1-5 daily from 15th to 27 Apr. No autumn records.

**Red-breasted Flycatcher** (*Ficedula parva*): 8 records, all singles, from 16 Sep to 21 Oct.

**Spotted Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa striata*): Spring passage 14 Apr-20 May; double figures 23 Apr-12 May, max 45 on 26 Apr. No summer records, 1 on 28 Aug, then from 4 Sep to 29 Oct; only single figures and occasionally up to 10. No records 23-28 Sep and 2-9 Oct.



**Whincat** (*Saxicola rubetra*): Daily 12 Apr-2 May, with 60-150 at Hal Far on 19th-27 Apr; then 1-4 on 8 days till 30 May. In autumn 1-2 on 3rd, 5th and 9 Sep and 6 Oct.

**Stonechat** (*Saxicola torquata*): Common in Jan-Mar, with regular records of up to 15. Singles on 4 days 1st-14 Apr. From 1 Oct in autumn, double figures after 6th, numbers reducing in late Nov. Max 90 on 2 Nov.

**Wheatear** (*Oenanthe oenanthe*): 1 at Hal Far on 4 Jan. Common on spring passage 16 Mar-12 May, mainly mid to end Apr — 50-210 daily. 1 on 17 Aug then from 25 Aug to 28 Oct; in same numbers as in spring but no clear peak. Max 100 at Hal Far on 5 Sep. 1 on 4th and 15 Nov.

**Black-eared Wheatear** (*Oenanthe hispanica*): 16 records, 1-3, from 24 Mar to 7 May, most mid-end Apr. Only 1 in autumn, on 3 Sep.

**Isabelline Wheatear** (*Oenanthe isabellina*): 1 at Hal Far on 20 Mar and 1 at Ta' Qali on 7 Apr.

**Pied Wheatear** (*Oenanthe pleschanka*): 1 male at Wied il-Kbir on 21 Apr.

**Rock Thrush** (*Monticola saxatilis*): Very poor year with only 5 records: 1-3 on 4 days 22 Mar-21 Apr and 1 on 13 Sep.

**Blue Rock Thrush** (*Monticola solitarius*): Resident. No apparent change in numbers. Noted particularly numerous along Xlendi/Dwejra sea-cliffs in Gozo.

**Black Redstart** (*Phoenicurus ochruros*): 1-3 in most rocky areas in Jan-Mar (to 25th). From 30 Oct in autumn, in larger numbers than before, with up to 14 in some areas.

**Redstart** (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*): Spring passage started much later than usual: 1 on 2nd, then daily 11 Apr-2 May and occasional till 20 May. Mainly up to 15 but 20-45 on 18th, 19th and 26 Apr. Autumn passage 5 Sep-28 Oct, mainly end-Sep-mid-Oct. Larger numbers than in spring with up to 40 in most days in peak period.

**Robin** (*Erithacus rubecula*): Common in Jan-Mar with up to 80 in several places, numbers reducing after mid-Mar. Records of 1-6 daily 1st-17 Apr, 1 on 27 Apr and 1 on 1 May. 1 at Buskett on 24-26 Aug and 1 on 6 Sep, then few from 15 Sep reaching double figures by 30th. Very common in Oct-Nov, numbers reducing to Jan level in Dec. Several large falls, treble figures, max 800+ at Wied Znuber on 24 Oct and 300+ at Buskett on 27 Oct.

**Nightingale** (*Luscinia megarhynchos*): Spring passage 19 Mar-26 May, mainly Apr. Records on most days, with max of 30 in a number of places on several days. From 19 Aug in autumn, most from 3 Sep, with up to 35 at Buskett on several days. Last on 13 Oct.

**Bluethroat** (*Luscinia svecica*): 1 at Wied Mielah, Gozo on 19 Apr.

**Fieldfare** (*Turdus pilaris*): 3 at Ta' Cenc on 4 Mar. 12 records, 1-9, from 12 Nov to 31 Dec.

**Ring Ouzel** (*Turdus torquatus*): 1 at M'Scala on 6 Apr. 6 records, 1-2, from 12 Oct to 12 Nov.

**Blackbird** (*Turdus merula*): Small numbers, 1-3, in several places in Jan-Apr (to 4th). Unusually early bird on 13 Sep, then from 11 Oct. Up to 25 on most days in late Oct, otherwise 1-5.

**Redwing** (*Turdus iliacus*): No records in Jan, 1-4 on 8 days at Buskett/Xemxija/Lunzjata from 3 Feb to 30 Mar. On 11 days 4 Nov-17 Dec, in same numbers as before.

**Song Thrush** (*Turdus philomelos*): Fairly common in Jan with a few passages recorded, largest 150+ on 6th. Only a few in Feb, then slight increase in Mar with max of 50 on 21st. 1-9 on 6 days 1st-19 Apr. From 4 Oct in autumn, double or treble figures on most days till mid-Nov, then smaller numbers. Heavy passages on 24 Oct — a total of 6070 recorded, and 26 Oct — 2170.

**Mistle Thrush** (*Turdus viscivorus*): Singles on 12 Oct, 24 Oct, 7 Nov and 2 Dec.

**Tree Sparrow** (*Passer montanus*): Resident, breeding in small numbers in several places. Small passage in Oct, max 40 over Xemxija on 5th.

**Spanish Sparrow** (*Passer hispaniolensis*): Abundant resident.

**Chaffinch** (*Fringilla coelebs*): Fairly common in Jan-Mar, up to 25 at Buskett; single figures in other places. 1-3 on 6 days in Apr to 29th. Records of 1-2, mainly at Buskett, in May-Sep. Autumn passage from 30 Sep, double figures, max 40, on most days after mid-Oct. Smaller numbers in Dec.

**Brambling** (*Fringilla montifringilla*): 1 at Mtahleb on 31 Oct and 1 at M'Scala on 5 Nov.

**Serín** (*Serinus serinus*): Common in Jan-Mar, a total of 100+ at Buskett and Salina on 21 Jan highest. 7 records, 1-4, till 26 Apr. 6 records in May, 1 in Jun and 1 in Aug, all singles. From 18 Oct in autumn, no large numbers and not recorded daily, max 20 at Salina on 30 Dec.

**Greenfinch** (*Carduelis chloris*): Fairly common in Jan; 35 on 14th, 1-5 on other days. Only 3 records in Feb with 60+ counted at a roost in Valletta on last day. On most days from 10 Mar to 23 Apr, mainly up to 15, but 250+ in Gozo on 14 Apr. 1 on 30 May and 7 Jul. In autumn singles on 29-30 Sep then from 10 Oct. 100+ over Xaghra on 12 Dec, otherwise never more than 12.

**Goldfinch** (*Carduelis carduelis*): 8 records, 1-3, from 1 Jan to 10 Feb. 1-3 on 12 days 11 Mar-28 Apr. 1 on 30 Jun. In autumn 1-6 on 6 days from 20th to 29 Oct and on 8 days from 17 Nov to 19 Dec.

**Siskin** (*Carduelis spinus*): 1 on 1 Jan, 1 on 1 Apr and 4 on 12 Apr. In autumn singles on 28 Oct, 2nd and 4 Nov.

**Linnet** (*Acanthis cannabina*): Common in Jan-Feb with up to 20 (and occasionally up to 70) in several places. Larger numbers after mid-Mar and till mid-Apr, max 160+ on 14 Apr. Few till 2 May. 2 at Xemxija on 15 May and up to 20 at Ghajn Barrani, Gozo throughout summer. 12 on 28 Sep, then from 6 Oct onwards. Treble figures, max 300, only from mid-Oct to mid-Nov.

**Trumpeter Bullfinch** (*Rhodopechys githaginea*): 8 immatures caught in Jun-Jul, 1 on 22nd and 2 on 24 Oct, and singles on 7th and 10 Nov.

**Hawfinch** (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*): 1 on 13 Jan. Main autumn passage 29 Oct-9 Nov, with a total of 125+ recorded. 5 records, 1-4, from 20 Nov to 27 Dec.

**Corn Bunting** (*Emberiza calandra*): Common resident. No signs of migration in spring. Several flocks of up to 20 between mid-Aug and mid-Oct probably migrants.

**Yellowhammer** (*Emberiza citrinella*): Singles at Dingli on 6 Nov, at Ta' Zuta on 15 Nov and at Xemxija on 1 Dec.

**Ortolan Bunting** (*Emberiza hortulana*): Spring passage 18 Apr-6 May with up to 8 on most days. Only 1 in autumn: on 28 Aug.

**Girj Bunting** (*Emberiza cirius*): First year male at San Lawrenz on 16 Nov

**Little Bunting** (*Emberiza pusilla*): 1 at Qawra on 4 Nov.

**Black-headed Bunting** (*Emberiza melanocephala*): 1 female at M'Xlokk on 26 Aug.

**Rustic Bunting** (*Emberiza rustica*): First year male trapped and ringed at Lunzjata on 12 Oct.

**Reed Bunting** (*Emberiza schoeniclus*): Singles at Lunzjata on 1st and 5 Nov. and at Dingli on 6 Nov.

#### ADDITIONS TO SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1972

**Little Bittern**: 1-2 on 17th and 22 Apr; 2nd, 5th and 6 May, and 2 Jun. 3 on 14 Sep.

**Night Heron**: flock of 7 imm. on 28 May.

**Squacco Heron**: 2 on 1st and one on 12th and 14 Apr. 1 on 5th and 6 Sep.

**Greater Flamingo**: 1 at Manikata on 15 Sep.

**Pintail**: 1 male at Kalafrana on 24 Mar.

**Pochard**: 1 male on 28 Jul.

**Red-breasted Merganser**: 1 at Marsascala on 8 Nov.

**Egyptian Vulture**: 1 at tas-Salib on 26 Sep.

**Osprey**: Singles at Ghar Lapsi on 17th and 24 Sep.

**Sparrow Hawk**: Singles on 17th, 29th and 30 Sep; 8th, 14th, 21st, 22nd and 23 Oct.

**Pallid Harrier**: 1 male at Fiddien on 21st Sep.

**Montagu's Harrier**: Singles on 7 Apr and 14 Sep.

**Marsh Harrier**: 1 on 26 Aug.

**Eleonora's Falcon**: Singles at Ta' Zuta on 6 May and at Siggiewi on 9 Sep.

**Merlin**: 1 female at Fawwara on 27 Oct.

**Red-footed Falcon**: 1 on 18 Apr; 2 on 2nd and 1 on 13 May.

**Kestrel**: 1 male on 19 Jun.

**Quail**: 8 on 1 May.

**Spotted Crane**: 1 on 6th and 23 Sep.

**Corncrake**: 1 on 20 Apr.

**Grey Plover**: 1 on 28 Sep.

**Dunlin**: Singles on 30 Jul and 5 Aug.

**Sanderling**: Singles on 11 May and 8 Oct.

**Ruff**: 1 in summer plumage (black) at M'Scala on 11 Jun.

**Woodcock**: Unusually late bird on 10 Apr.

**Snipe**: 3 at Salina on 26 Aug.

**Great Snipe**: 1 on 26 Apr.

**Redshank**: 2 on 26 Mar.

**Whimbrel**: 1 on 20 Sep.

**Little Gull**: 1 juvenile on 13 Sep.

**White-winged Black Tern**: 1 juvenile on 12 Sep.

**Whiskered Tern**: 1 at Salina on 11 Nov.

**Gull-billed Tern**: Singles on 17 Mar and 16 Apr.

**Wood Pigeon**: 1 on 12 Oct.

**Stock Dove**: 1 at Hal Far on 2 Oct.

**Long-eared Owl**: Singles on 6th, 22nd and 25 Oct.

**Short-eared Owl**: Singles on 18th, 22nd and 31 Mar and 2 Apr.

**Egyptian Nightjar**: 1 at Zabbar on 2 May.

**Little Swift**: 1 shot on 14 Oct.

**Bee-eater**: 5 on 2 Apr. Singles on 11th, 17th and 18 Sep.

**Roller**: Singles on 21 May, 4th and 16 Sep.

**Wood Lark**: 1 on 6 Oct.

**Skylark**: Late bird on 30 Apr.

**Red-rumped Swallow**: 1 on 29 Apr.

**Red-backed Shrike**: Singles on 21st and 24 Sep, and on 2 Oct.

**Woodchat Shrike**: 1 (L.s. badius) at Ghadira on 5 Jun.

**Lesser Grey Shrike**: 1 at tal-Handaq on 9 Sep.

**Great Grey Shrike**: 1 at Mtahleb in mid-March.

**Alpine Accentor**: 1 taken at Mgarr in October.

**Icterine Warbler**: Up to 10 on 26th-29 Aug.

**Whitethroat**: Singles on 16th and 18 Sep.

**Ruppell's Warbler**: 1 at M'Scala on 29 Oct.

**Fan-tailed Warbler**: 2 on 25 Jun and singles on 2nd and 17 Aug, at Salina.

**Collared Flycatcher**: 1 male on 27 Aug.

**Red-breasted Flycatcher**: 1 on 17th and 18 Oct.

**Whinchat**: 1-3 on 18th-21 Sep.

**Rufous Bush Chat**: 1 at Siggiewi on 18 Apr.

**Desert Wheatear**: 1 at Delimara on 19 Mar.

**Rock Thrush**: 1-2 on five days from 15th-20 Mar. 1 on 27 Sep.

**Mistle Thrush**: Singles on 18 Oct and 2 Nov.

**Rustic Bunting**: 1 at Siggiewi on 21 Oct.

#### SPECIES RINGED AND TOTALS

Species	1973 Total	Species	1973 Total
Cory Shearwater	68 254	Little Stint	3 98
Manx Shearwater	— 71	Temminck's Stint	1 7
Storm Petrel	767 5,883	Dunlin	— 6
Little Bittern	1 10	Curlew Sandpiper	— 10
Kestrel	— 4	Ruff	— 12
Quail	— 3	Green Sandpiper	1 8
Water Rail	2 6	Wood Sandpiper	1 43
Spotted Crane	1 5	Common Sandpiper	— 11
Little Crane	— 4	Snipe	— 6
Moorhen	— 11	Great Snipe	— 1
Little Ringed Plover	— 27	Jack Snipe	— 1
Ringed Plover	— 4	Herring Gull	— 9

Turtle Dove	6	14	Spectacled Warbler	18	188
Cuckoo	1	5	Dartford Warbler	—	13
Scops Owl	6	35	Fan-tailed Warbler	10	10
Nightjar	—	5	Willow Warbler	54	515
Swift	—	1	Chiffchaff	810	3,628
Kingfisher	2	21	Bonelli's Warbler	—	26
Hoopoe	—	6	Wood Warbler	126	512
Wryneck	15	84	Goldcrest	2	25
Short-toed Lark	2	33	Firecrest	7	75
Skylark	—	5	Pied Flycatcher	86	319
Sand Martin	151	1,204	Collared Flycatcher	3	41
Swallow	730	3,815	Red-breasted Flycatcher	3	11
Red-rumped Swallow	1	13	Spotted Flycatcher	21	195
House Martin	181	1,140	Whinchat	32	114
Tawny Pipit	—	5	Stonechat	44	164
Tree Pipit	33	225	Wheatear	4	52
Meadow Pipit	36	136	Black-eared Wheatear	—	1
Red-throated Pipit	—	2	Isabelline Wheatear	—	1
Yellow Wagtail	90	596	Rock Thrush	—	1
Grey Wagtail	23	210	Blue Rock Thrush	2	25
White Wagtail	14	119	Black Redstart	1	12
Red-backed Shrike	5	31	Redstart	82	629
Woodchat Shrike	13	48	Robin	1,065	4,471
Penduline Tit	—	1	Thrush Nightingale	—	1
Wren	2	13	Nightingale	51	405
Duncock	25	173	Bluethroat	—	22
Cetti's Warbler	18	56	Ring Ouzel	1	3
Savi's Warbler	1	10	Blackbird	8	49
River Warbler	—	1	Redwing	2	5
Grasshopper Warbler	1	2	Song Thrush	79	187
Moustached Warbler	2	25	Yellowhammer	1	1
Sedge Warbler	10	246	Corn Bunting	3	37
Marsh Warbler	—	2	Ortolan Bunting	—	2
Reed Warbler	29	231	Rustic Bunting	1	1
Great Reed Warbler	30	273	Reed Bunting	1	2
Icterine Warbler	20	193	Chaffinch	17	94
Olivaceous Warbler	—	1	Serín	7	75
Barred Warbler	1	1	Greenfinch	2	240
Orphean Warbler	—	1	Linnet	49	731
Garden Warbler	303	1,779	Goldfinch	—	1
Blackcap	217	897	Spanish Sparrow	361	2,621
Whitethroat	86	611	Tree Sparrow	2	29
Lesser Whitethroat	1	9	Starling	2	7
Sardinian Warbler	163	1,167	Golden Oriole	6	26
Subalpine Warbler	178	830			

Total Ringed in 1973: 6,204 of 78 species  
Grand Total Ringed: 36,336 of 113 species

## RINGING RECOVERIES

This section of the report deals with 35 recoveries of 15 species, 25 others, all of them in, or within 5 kilometers of the place of ringing, are omitted. 12 have been reported from abroad, and one of these was recovered in 1971, but was reported during this year. For local recoveries of over five kilometers the distance is given; this, together with the directions, are approximate.

Key to symbols and terms used in the recovery list:

Ring number: where this is followed by an asterisk (\*) the ring has been returned.

Age Code: 1 — pullus; young bird ringed in the nest.

2 — fully grown; year of hatching quite unknown.

3 — definitely hatched during current calendar year.

4 — hatched before current calendar year; exact year unknown.

5 — definitely hatched during last calendar year.

6 — hatched before last calendar year; exact year unknown.

Sex: M. — male.

F. — female.

Manner of recovery:

v — caught or trapped, and released with ring;

+ — shot or killed by man;

x — found dead or dying;

() — caught or trapped alive and not released, or released but with ring removed;

/?/? — manner of recovery unknown.

Date of recovery: Where this is unknown the date of the reporting letter is given instead and is shown in brackets. An 00 in the date indicates that the exact date of the month is unknown.

The first line of each recovery gives ringing details — ring no., age code, sex, date and locality. The second line gives recovery details — how found, date and locality.

The co-ordinates of the principal ringing sites are:

Lunzjata Valley (Gozo): 36°03'N; 14°14'E.

Mtähleb: 35°52'N; 14°21'E.

Buskett: 35°51'N; 14°26'E.

Wied Znuber, Hal Far: 35°49'N; 14°31'E.

Filfla: 35°47'N; 14°25'E.

**Cory's Shearwater** (*Calonectris diomedea*)

SS 70.987 4 28.07.68 Filfla.

+ (19.08.73) Delimara. (14 km ENE).

SS 92.762 4 16.08.69 Filfla.

+ Jul./Aug. 73 off St. Julian's. (ca. 29 km NNW)

<b>Storm Petrel</b> ( <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> )			
212.0622	4	27.05.72	Filfla.
	+	19.06.73	St. Thomas Bay. (16 km ENE)
214.8091*	4	28.06.73	Filfla.
	x	24.07.73	nr. Pachino: 36°43'N; 15°06'E <b>Sicily.</b>
<b>Moorhen</b> ( <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> )			
SS 92.803	3	29.09.72	Lunzjata Valley.
	+	00.10.72	Salina. (20 km SE).
<b>Swallow</b> ( <i>Hirundo rustica</i> )			
JP 09.462*	3	11.10.73	Lunzjata Valley.
	+	14.10.73	Delimara Pt. (36 km SE).
JP 09.955	3	13.10.73	Lunzjata Valley.
	v	17.10.73	St. Paul's Bay. (15 km SE).
<b>Meadow Pipit</b> ( <i>Anthus pratensis</i> )			
JH 83.993*	2	20.11.71	Lunzjata Valley.
	+	20.11.73	Alife: 41°20'N; 14°20'E, (Caserta). <b>Italy.</b>
<b>Grey Wagtail</b> ( <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> )			
JH 83.986	3	06.11.71	Lunzjata Valley.
	/?/	(08.01.73)	Castelvetrano: 37°41'N; 12°47'E. <b>Sicily.</b>
<b>Garden Warbler</b> ( <i>Sylvia borin</i> )			
HX 95.387*	3	22.09.70	Mtahleb.
	+	09.11.73	Campiglia Marittima: 43°04'N; 10°37'E, (Livorno), <b>Italy.</b>
<b>Blackcap</b> ( <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> )			
HX 76.258	4 M.	27.02.70	Buskett.
	x	23.03.73	Mateur: 37°03'N; 9°40'E, <b>Tunisia.</b>
<b>Spotted Flycatcher</b> ( <i>Muscicapa striata</i> )			
HX 75.056	3	27.09.69	Lunzjata Valley.
	/?/	(17.05.73)	Boundji: 1°5'S; 15°18'E, <b>Moyen Congo.</b>
<b>Robin</b> ( <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> )			
HX 94.897*	4	22.11.70	Wied Znuber, Hal Far.
	/?/	17.10.71	nr. Ivanovo: 57°00'N; 41°00'E. <b>U.S.S.R.</b>
BJ 48.845	3	25.10.71	Wied Znuber, Hal Far.
	( )	19.11.72	Mgarr. (17 km NW).
JK 31.596	4	02.11.72	Lunzjata Valley.
	( )	25.01.73	Sbiba: 35°33'N; 9°05'E, <b>Tunisia.</b>
JE 60.055	4	20.10.71	St. Julian's.
	( )	00.01.73	Haġar Qim. (11 km SSW).

JK 31.228	3	23.10.72	Wied Znuber, Hal Far.
	/?/	(06.03.73)	Gafsa: 34°28'N; 8°43'E, <b>Tunisia.</b>
JP 09.344	3	24.10.73	Wied Znuber, Hal Far.
	v	27.10.73	Salina. (16 km NW).
JR 59.684	3	29.10.73	Wied Znuber, Hal Far.
	( )	30.10.73	Mosta. (12 km NW).
JR 59.570	3	29.10.73	Wied Znuber, Hal Far.
	v	04.11.73	Birkirkara. (10 km NNW).
JR 59.685	3	29.10.73	Wied Znuber, Hal Far.
	( )	07.11.73	Gzira. (10 km N).
JR 59.154	3	24.10.73	Wied Znuber, Hal Far.
	v	18.11.73	Mosta. (12 km NW).
<b>Song Thrush</b> ( <i>Turdus philomelos</i> )			
CV 55.456*	3	28.11.70	Lunzjata Valley.
	+	08.01.73	S. Giorgio Morgeto: 38°23'N; 16°06'E, (Reggio Calabria), <b>Italy.</b>
CP 66.948	2	11.10.73	Wied Znuber, Hal Far.
	+	00.10.73	Buskett. (11 km WNW).
CP 73.741	2	25.10.73	Xemxija, St. Paul's Bay.
	( )	27.10.73	Rabat. (7 km SSE).
<b>Blackbird</b> ( <i>Turdus merula</i> )			
CV 55.480	2	15.12.72	Xemxija, St. Paul's Bay.
	+	(07.01.73)	Sliema. (10 km ESE).
<b>Chaffinch</b> ( <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> )			
HX 76.228	5 F.	15.01.70	Buskett.
	v	28.02.73	Medjez-el-Bab: 36°39'N; 9°40'E. <b>Tunisia.</b>
<b>Linnet</b> ( <i>Acanthis cannabina</i> )			
JJ 55.393	2 F.	25.10.72	Lunzjata Valley.
	( )	(07.03.73)	Tarxien. (30 km SE).
JK 31.893	4 F.	29.10.72	Wied Znuber, Hal Far.
	( )	(07.03.73)	Hamrun. (8 km N).
JK 32.032	4 F.	01.04.73	Wied Znuber, Hal Far.
	x	(04.04.73)	Birkirkara. (10 km NNW).
JH 83.910	2 F.	27.10.71	Birkirkara.
	( )	c. 08.04.73	Burmarrad. (7 km NW).
JK 32.030	4 F.	01.04.73	Wied Znuber, Hal Far.
	( )	c. 08.04.73	Burmarrad. (15 km NNW).
JK 32.039	4 F.	01.04.73	Wied Znuber, Hal Far.
	v	(21.04.73)	Birkirkara. (10 km NNW).

<b>Starling</b> ( <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> )			
CP 66.929	2	17.10.72	Wied Znuber, Hal Far.
	??	(07.02.73)	Degache: 33°59'N; 8°13'E, (Djerid), <b>Tunisia.</b>
<b>Spanish Sparrow</b> ( <i>Passer hispaniolensis</i> )			
BJ 55.373	4 F.	11.03.73	Salina.
	+	(12.03.73)	Birkirkara, (6 km SE).

## FOREIGN RINGED BIRDS RECOVERED IN MALTA

This section of the report deals with 36 foreign ringed birds recovered in Malta. As usual, a number of them were recovered in earlier years, but only came to our notice in the past year.

The symbols and terms are the same as those used in the 'Ringing Recoveries'. A number in brackets beside the age code 1 indicates the size of the brood.

<b>Gannet</b> ( <i>Sula bassana</i> )			
London	1	17.07.71	Scar Rocks: 54°41'N; 4°41'W, Luce Bay (Wigtown), <b>Scotland.</b>
108.3592	x	(20.01.73)	Marsaxlokk: 35°50'N; 14°32'E.
London	1	28.06.66	Bass Rock: 56°04'N; 2°38'W, (East Lothian), <b>Scotland.</b>
105.5244	x	14.12.73	1 mile east of Comino: 36°00'N; 14°23'E.
<b>Cormorant</b> ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> )			
Stockholm	1	03.06.61	Svarto: 56°28'N; 16°08'E (Smaland), <b>Sweden.</b>
9.800.278	+	21.10.64	Marsaxlokk: 35°50'N; 14°32'E.
<b>Purple Heron</b> ( <i>Ardea purpurea</i> )			
Arnhem	1 (2)	23.06.70	Noorden: 52°10'N; 4°50'E, <b>Holland.</b>
7.012.504	+	11.02.73	St. Paul's Bay: 35°57'N; 14°24'E.
Paris	1	06.06.71	Petit Noir: 46°56'N; 5°20'E, (Jura), <b>France.</b>
CA 20035	+	20.04.73	Mellieha: 35°58'N; 14°21'E.
<b>Osprey</b> ( <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> )			
Stockholm	1	27.06.64	Langmossen: 59°29'N; 18°13'E, Osteraker, (Uppland), <b>Sweden.</b>
9.205.078	+	12.10.64	Naxxar: 35°55'N; 14°27'E.
Helsinki	1 (2)	11.07.72	Vuohiniemi: 60°57'N; 24°07'E, Hattula, (Hame), <b>Finland.</b>
M-6.877	+	14.10.72	Luqa: 35°52'N; 14°30'E.
Helsinki	1 (2)	12.07.73	Hara: 61°45'N; 26°02'E, Joutsa, (Mikkoli), <b>Finland.</b>
M-7.049	+	01.10.73	Benghisa: 35°49'N; 14°32'E.

Stockholm	1	04.07.73	S. Silkesnas: 54°42'N; 14°37'E, Lake Asnen (Smaland), <b>Sweden.</b>
9.212.608	+	02.10.73	Zabbar: 35°53'N; 14°32'E.
Helsinki	1 (3)	16.07.73	Rajazuo: 60°35'N; 27°21'E, Vohka-lahti (Kymi), <b>Finland.</b>
M-6.986	+	02.11.73	Tarxien: 35°52'N; 14°32'E.
<b>Honey Buzzard</b> ( <i>Pernis apivorus</i> )			
Helsinki	3 F.	03.09.73	Kirkonkyla: 62°55'N; 26°24'E, Vessanto, (Kuopio), <b>Finland.</b>
D-52.569	+	18.10.73	Rabat: 35°53'N; 14°25'E.
<b>Eleonora's Falcon</b> ( <i>Falco eleonorae</i> )			
Helgoland	1	02.10.71	Paximada: 35°15'N; 26°15'E, <b>Greece.</b>
5.155.999	+	01.05.73	L-Ahrax, Mellieha: 35°58'N; 14°24'E.
<b>Kestrel</b> ( <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> )			
Paris	5 M.	24.04.68	El Haouaria: 37°05'N; 11°02'E, <b>Tunisia.</b>
EA 269 371	+	15.03.73	San Anard: 35°53'N; 14°33'E.
Paris	6 M.	08.04.68	El Haouaria: 37°05'N; 11°02'E, <b>Tunisia.</b>
F 7118	+	18.03.73	Marsascala: 35°52'N; 14°34'E.
<b>Temminck's Stint</b> ( <i>Calidris temminckii</i> )			
Helsinki	4	18.07.71	Joensuu: 60°23'N; 23°06'E, Salo, (Turku-Pori), <b>Finland.</b>
K-780.336	+	06.05.73	St. Julian's: 35°55'N; 14°30'E.
<b>Dunlin</b> ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> )			
Paris	3	21.09.71	Rades: 36°52'N; 10°18'E, <b>Tunisia.</b>
JA 176 651	+	05.08.72	Marsascala: 35°52'N; 14°34'E.
Paris	3	17.10.72	ibidem.
SA 393 072	+	04.08.73	Marsaxlokk: 35°51'N; 14°33'E.
<b>Curlew Sandpiper</b> ( <i>Calidris ferruginea</i> )			
Stockholm	3	18.08.70	Ottenby: 56°12'N; 16°24'E, (Oland), <b>Sweden.</b>
3.183.492	+	00.05.72	Marsascala: 35°52'N; 14°34'E.
<b>Ruff</b> ( <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> )			
Helsinki	4 F.	12.07.70	Ahtialanjarvi: 61°19'N; 23°47'E, Lempaala, (Hame), <b>Finland.</b>
AT-009.849	+	ca. 28.03.73	Gharb: 36°04'N; 14°12'E (Gozo).
<b>Wood Sandpiper</b> ( <i>Tringa glareola</i> )			
Stockholm	3	05.08.68	Skonor: 55°25'N; 12°50'E, Skane, <b>Sweden.</b>
4.065.715	+	13.09.72	Salina: 35°57'N; 14°25'E.

<b>Great Skua</b> ( <i>Stercorarius skua</i> )			
London HW 23.590	1	02.08.69	Foula: 60°08'N; 2°05'W, (Shetland), <b>Scotland.</b>
	+	(09.06.73)	20 miles S.W. of Malta: ca. 35°48'N; 14°20'E.
<b>Black-headed Gull</b> ( <i>Larus ridibundus</i> )			
Praha E 154.814	1	12.06.60	Podsedeck: 49°00'N; 14°52'E, (Tre- bon), <b>Czechoslovakia.</b>
	+	01.01.64	Zejtun: 35°52'N; 14°31'E.
<b>Caspian Tern</b> ( <i>Hydroprogne tschegrava</i> )			
Stockholm 7.022.848	1	22.06.63	Algsbadarna: 57°41'N; 16°48'E, Vas- trum (Smaland), <b>Sweden.</b>
	+	08.11.64	Marsascala: 35°52'N; 14°35'E.
Stockholm 7.050.342*	1	10.06.72	Kylndrorna: 60°27'N; 18°35'E, Gra- so, ( <b>Uppland</b> ), <b>Sweden.</b>
	+	15.08.73	Fomm ir-Rih Bay: 35°54'N; 14°20'E.
Stockholm 7.050.408	1	18.06.71	Gunnarstenarna: 58°47'N; 18°02'E, Nynashamn, (Sodermanland), <b>Sweden.</b>
	+	26.10.73	Marsascala: 35°52'N; 14°34'E.
<b>Sandwich Tern</b> ( <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> )			
Moskwa P-229.085	1	15.06.70	Tendrov Bay: 46°17'N; 31°45'E, (Black Sea), Kherson Region, <b>U.S.S.R.</b>
	+	00.05.72	Salina: 35°57'N; 14°25'E.
<b>Sand Martin</b> ( <i>Riparia riparia</i> )			
Zagreb A 372.448	4	06.06.66	rijeka Tisa: 45°23'N; 20°03'E, Zabalj, (Vojvodina, Srijem), <b>Yugos- lavia.</b>
	( )	11.04.70	Sliema: 35°55'N; 14°30'E.
<b>Yellow Wagtail</b> ( <i>Motacilla flava</i> )			
London JP 04.430	4	29.03.73	Vom: 9°44'N; 8°47'E, near Jos, <b>Ni- geria.</b>
	( )	23.04.73	Marsascala: 35°52'N; 14°34'E.
<b>Blackcap</b> ( <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> )			
Varsovia HA 132 398	3 M.	10.09.68	Swidwie Lake: 53°34'N; 14°22'E, (Szczecin), <b>Poland.</b>
	( )	29.03.73	Ta' Cenc: 36°01'N; 14°14'E (Gozo).
<b>Robin</b> ( <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> )			
Helsinki K-942.953	3	16.09.72	Isokari: 60°43'N; 21°01'E, Kustavi (Turku-Pori), <b>Finland.</b>
	v	24.10.73	Wied Znuber, Hal Far: 35°49'N; 14°31'E.

<b>Serin</b> ( <i>Serinus serinus</i> )			
Praha N 56221	2	05.09.59	Kunratice: 50°01'N; 14°30'E, (Pra- ha), <b>Czechoslovakia.</b>
	( ) M.	23.01.60	Sannat: 36°01'N; 14°14'E (Gozo).
<b>Linnet</b> ( <i>Acanthis cannabina</i> )			
Zagreb A 373.255	4 M.	12.10.67	Vrbanj: 43°10'N; 16°39'E (Hvarts- ka), <b>Yugoslavia.</b>
	( )	15.12.67	Mosta: 35°55'N; 14°26'E.
Varsovia G 280 389	2	24.04.68	Radziejowice: 52°00'N; 20°33'E, near Zyrardow, (Warszawa), <b>Poland.</b>
	( )	11.01.69	Malta: ca. 35°53'N; 14°27'E.
Lithuania 39378	3	01.07.71	Reservation Zuvintas: 54°28'N; 23°38'E, <b>Lithuania.</b>
	( )	25.10.71	Marsa: 35°53'N; 14°30'E.
Varsovia HA 188 985	2 F.	04.04.71	Nowy Targ: 49°28'N; 20°00'E, (Kra- kow), <b>Poland.</b>
	( )	20.01.73	Zejtun: 35°52'N; 14°33'E.
Bologna L 350577	2	17.04.73	S. Benedetto del Tronto: ca. 46°00'N; 11°10'E, <b>Italy.</b>
	( )	18.10.73	Birzebbugia: 35°50'N; 14°34'E.

## RETRAPS

During 1973, there were over 600 retraps of locally ringed birds. Winter visitors, mainly Chiffchaffs and Robins, constitute more than half this number. Only 58 were spring and/or autumn migrants. Most birds retrapped had only been ringed a few days or weeks previously, but a good proportion had been ringed from one to seven years earlier, and these are tabulated below.

In the following tables, the top line shows the approximate period which had elapsed between ringing and retrap. The figures show the number of individuals retrapped in 1973.

	1 yr.	2 yr.	3 yr.	4 yr.	5 yr.	6 yr.	7 yr.
a) Residents.							
Cetti's Warbler	2	2	1				
Sardinian Warbler	15	3	2	1	1		
Spanish Sparrow*	2	1	1	1			
b) Summer Visitors.							
Cory's Shearwater	2	1		3	2**		
Storm Petrel	8	14	6	38	4		
c) Winter Visitors.							
Grey Wagtail		2					
White Wagtail	1						
Blackcap			3				

Chiffchaff	38	11	4	2	1	1
Stonechat	2					
Robin	8	1	1			

d) Spring and Autumn Migrants.\*\*\*

Scops Owl				1		
Subalpine Warbler	1					

\* All five birds recovered, not retrapped.

\*\* One of these Cory's Shearwaters had been ringed as a pullus.

\*\*\* Both birds ringed and retrapped in autumn.

## ERRATA

**Il-Merill No. 6, Dec. 1971.**

p. 27: The birds ringed with Bologna 37775 and Radolfzell K 222.575 should read **Siskins** (*Carduelis spinus*) not **Goldfinches** (*Carduelis carduelis*).

**Il-Merill No. 8, Aug. 1972.**

p. 18: Orphean Warbler replaces Olivaceous Warbler as the English name for (*Sylvia hortensis*).

**Il-Merill No. 11, Aug. 1973**

p. 15: Instead of Rock Pipit read Rock/Water Pipit.

p. 25: The number of Wrynecks ringed in 1972 should be 12 not 18.

p. 30: The ring number of the Helsinki ringed Osprey, accidentally omitted, is M-6.740.

**Il-Merill No. 13, Jan.-Jun. 1974.**

p. 16: The Great Tit at Ta' Braxia was caught in 1963 not in 1960.

