MOS RINGING GROUP REPORT 1974

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MOS RINGING GROUP REPORT FOR 1974

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During 1974 the Group was initially composed of seven ringers: S. Borg, C. Gauci, T. Gauci, B.K. German, J. Grech, J. Sultana and V. Vella Muskat. V. Cilia obtained his permit in August, while three active trainees—J. Azzopardi, M.V. Gauci and C.A. Pomeroy completed their training late in the year and received their permits in December bringing the total number of ringers to eleven. The total number of birds ringed in 1974 amounted to 3,131 of 85 species, the highest total in the Group’s nine years of existence. The three common hirundines—Sand Martin, Swallow and House Martin—were amongst the most ringed birds, their total comprising almost one-third of the total ringed. The best catching area for these species was Lumnjata Valley in Gozo. Six new species were added to the ringing list—Lapwing, Mediterranean Gull, Wood Lark, Ruppell’s Warbler, Siskin and Scarlet Rosethroat. Pulli ringed included the first Sputted Flycatcher (catch of three) and Short-toed Larks (21). Again since 1971, hardly any waders were ringed owing to much disturbance at Ghadira. At eleven, the number of birds recovered abroad was one less than the previous year’s total. Since the Group rings mainly small passerines it is unlikely that this number will show any significant increase in the near future. Most recoveries are nonetheless very interesting. 2 Swallows were controlled at posts in England and another was found in Algeria (directly west) after about three weeks. A House Martin in the Netherlands, a Song Thrush in Greece and a Dunnock in Yugoslavia were all firsts. The Group controlled two foreign-ringed birds—a Sand Martin from Ireland and a Blackcap from Italy. Most interesting among foreign ringed birds recovered by locals was a Herring Gull from Denmark; it is very unusual for Danish Herring Gulls to move so far south. Five Caspian terns from Scandinavia were also noteworthy.

The number of records in 1974 continued to increase and as a result coverage was more extensive. The Group keeps a daily and species log and there were very few days, mainly in mid-winter and mid-summer, with no entries. The systematic list is compiled from these logs. Records were submitted by the following contributors: Jr. Azzopardi, Js. Azzopardi, M. Beaman, J. Best, N. Bonavia, S. Borg, J. Buttigieg, R. Cachia Zammit, V. Cilia, E. Curnil, G.P. Davies, L. Ellul Mercie, G. Faure, C. Fenech, F. Fenech, H. Frendo, C. Galea Bonavia, C. Gauci, M.V. Gauci, T. Gauci, B.K. German, J. Grech, M. Grima, J. Magro, T. Mell, P. Micallef, J. Muskat, C.A. Pomeroy, J. Pulis, D. Ristow, F. Smith, J. Sultana, R. Testa, M. Thake, C. Themna, W. and U. Thiede, A. Vassallo, F. Vassallo, R. Vella, V. Vella Muskat, G. Zammit Maempel and the R.A.F. Luqa Orn. Soc.

Cover Picture: Cory’s Shearwater in its burrow.

Photo by J. Sultana.
Once again we wish to express our sincere thanks to the Ringing and Migration Section of the British Trust for Ornithology for supplying us with rings and for handling our recoveries. The Senior Research Officer, Robert Spencer, continues to help the Group with his tremendous support. We wish also to express our thanks to the Malta Bird Reserves Overseas Committee, The Friends of Malta, Blue Bell Malta Ltd., Mid-Med Bank (Malta), and Simonds-Parsons-Cisk Ltd. for their contributions towards some of the Ringing Group Expenses.

(The systematic List’s sequence follows the Palaeartic Fauna 1959 and 1965).

**SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1974**

**Little Grebe** (Podiceps ruficollis): Singles at Salina on 24 & 27 Nov.

**Black-Necked Grebe** (Podiceps nigricollis): 1 on 27 Jan., 1 on 31 Aug., then 1-3 on 4 days from 8 Oct. to 1 Dec. 1 stayed at Msida from 27 Nov. to 11 Dec.

**Cory’s Shearwater** (Calonectris diomedea): First offshore on 16 Mar. Max. counts 1900+ off Ramla on 23rd and off Qbajjar on 29 Jul. Last seen on 12 Sep.

**Maun Shearwater** (Puffinus puffinus): Bred at usual colonies, 5 off Qawra on 31 Dec. (first winter record).

**Storm petrel** (Hydrobates pelagicus): Breeding in usual numbers on Filfla. Already incubating on 18 May.

**Leach’s Petrel** (Oceanodroma leucorhoa): 1 shot off Filfla on 14 July.

**Gannet** (Sula bassana): 1 on 22 Jan. and 5 on 16 Feb. 1 on 31 Oct., 3 on 30 Nov., 1 on 1 Dec. and 8 off Comino on 31 Dec.

**Common or Phalarocorax carbo**: Recorded on 7 days from 21 Oct. to 3 Nov., max. 4 over Rabat on 29 Oct. 1 on 1 Dec.

**Bittern** (Botaurus stellaris): 1 over Rabat on 15 Mar. and 1 shot at Sliema in the 2nd week of June.

**Little Bittern** (Ixobrychus minutus): Only 5 records in spring — on 29 & 30 Mar., 17 & 24 Apr. and 2 May (singles except for 3 on 24 Apr.). In autumn 1-3 on 8 days from 23 Aug. to 6 Oct.; most records being from Buskett/Girgenti.


**Squacco Heron** (Ardeola ralloides): 1-7 on 9 days from 26 Mar. to 3 May, most in late April. No autumn records.

**Cattle Egret** (Bubulcus ibis): Flock of 15+ over Sliema on 31 Aug.

**Little Egret** (Aegretta garzetta): Singles on 8, 13 & 14 Mar.; then on 8 days from 8 to 29 Apr., max. 26 on 20th, 4 on 18th and 2 on 19 May. In autumn 1 on 25th and 16 on 31 Aug.; 8 on 28th, 26 on 29th and 1 on 30 Sep.; and 1 on 26 Oct.

**Grey Heron** (Ardea cinerea): Spring passage 27 Feb., 18 May; recorded on 15 days, single figures except for 14 and 3 ‘flocks’ on 21 Apr. 1 on 7 July.

From 14 Aug. to 2 Nov. in autumn, most in mid-Sep. and the latter half of Oct.; recorded on 22 days in single or low double figures, max. 39 (2 flocks) on 15 Oct.


**Spoonbill** (Platalea leucorodia): 1 at Benghisa on 27 Sep. and 1 shot at Bahar-i-Caghaq in mid-Oct.

**Glossy Ibis** (Plegadis falcinellus): There were 24 records on 11 days in spring from 11 Mar. to 3 May. Most were of singles or twos, but a total of 55+ was recorded on 21 Apr. and a flock of 20 on 29 Mar. 5 on 2 Aug. and 1 on 30 Sep.

**White Stork** (Ciconia ciconia): Singles at Chadwick Lakes and Luqa on 25 Sep. 2 over Rabat on 31 Oct.

**Black Stork** (Ciconia nigra): 2 over Buskett on 11th and 1 over Ghasira on 12 Oct.

**Grey Lag Goose** (Anser anser): Flock of 30+ over Ghasira on 30 Nov.


**Shelduck** (Tadorna tadorna): Singles on 29 Nov., 1st and 14 Dec. ‘Few’ off Qawra on 30 Nov.

**Mallard** (Anas platyrhynchos): Singles on 11th and 30 Mar. 11 on 7th and 1 on 24 Nov. ‘Passage’ reported on 30 Nov.

**Teal** (Anas crecca): 2 on 10 Feb., 49 off Qawra on 7th, 1 on 15th and ‘passage’ on 30 Nov. 1 on 15 Dec.

**Wigeon** (Anas penelope): 3 on 2 Mar. Passages on 1-3 Nov and 29 Nov. -1 Dec. with large flocks (hundreds) passing off Qawra; then 1 on 7th and 2 on 14 Dec.

**Pintail** (Anas acuta): On 12 days in spring from 10 Feb. to 15 Apr., with most in Mar.; max. 21 on 3rd and 12 on 10 Mar; otherwise 1-6. In autumn 1-2 on 31 Aug. and 8-10. Oct., then on 15 days from 28 Oct. to 31 Dec. Flocks of 80+ were recorded on 28 Oct., 29-30 Nov. 1-10 on other days.

**Garganey** (Anas querquedula): Main spring passage 23 Feb. to 11 Apr. with 32 records on 20 days; max. 40 on 10 Mar. and 20+ on 26 Feb. Then 2 flocks on 21 Apr. and singles on 16 May and 2 June. Autumn passage much smaller with 1-2 on 9 days from 14 Aug. to 8 Nov.

**Shoveler** (Anas clypeata): Singles on 9 Mar., 3rd, 8th and 29 Nov. ‘Few’ off Bahar-i-Caghaq on 30 Nov.

**Pochard** (Aythya ferina): Singles on 4 Oct., 3rd and 7 Nov. ‘Few’ reported passing off Bahar-i-Caghaq on 1st and 30 Nov.

**Ferruginous Duck** (Aythya nyroca): Singles at Salina on 5 Oct. and 8 Nov.

**Tufted Duck** (Aythya fuligula): Singles at Ta’ Qali on 28 Nov. and at Salina on 7 Dec.

Osprey (Pandion haliaetus): In spring recorded on 4 days in Apr, 1 on 9th, 2 on 17th, 2 singles on 20th and 1 on 21st. 14 records (1-2 birds) on 8 days in autumn: 4 Sep - 14 Oct, all but 2 in mid-late Sep. Best day was 22 Sep, with singles in 5 different localities.

Honey Buzzard (Pernis apivorus): 3 on 1 Apr., then on most days from 21 Apr. to 15 May; mainly single figures but 22 on 4 May. Singles on 19th and 27th and 2 on 31 May. Autumn passage 30 Aug. to 26 Oct., with records almost daily, but highest figures recorded in mid-late Sep. Highest totals recorded on 19 Sep. (380+), 28 Sep. (283+) and 4 Oct. (73+).

Red Kite (Milvus milvus): Singles at Wardija on 3 Sep. and at Buskett on 19 and 20 Sep. and 4 Oct.

Black Kite (Milvus migrans): Early bird on 18 Feb., then 7 records — all singles — from 14 Mar. to 23 Apr. In autumn 1 on 8 Aug. and 1-4 on 6 Sep. from 19 Sep. to 31 Oct., most over Buskett.

Sparrowhawk (Accipiter nisus): Single on 8th and 30 Apr. Only 1 autumn record — single on 8 Nov.

Buzzard (Buteo buteo): Singles on 15 and 28 Sep., 11 Oct. and 1 Nov. Also 1 shot in Sep.

Lesser Spotted Eagle (Aquila pomarina): 1 over Rabat on 4 Oct.

Egyptian Vulture (Neophron percnopterus): 1 ad, over Rabat on 4 Oct. 2 shot in September.

Short-toed Eagle (Circaetus gallicus): 2 on 19 Sep and singles on 28 Sep. and 5 Oct. over Buskett, 2 over Rabat on 18th and 1 at Qormi on 19 Oct.

Hen Harrier (Circus cyaneus): Singles on 17th, 19th and 28 Mar. and 5 May. In autumn 1 on 19th and 2 on 28th Sep. over Buskett.

Pallid Harrier (Circus macrourus): 10 records of single birds on 9 days from 20 Feb. to 20 Apr., most in mid-late Mar. None in autumn.

Montagu's Harrier (Circus pygargus): 1-3 on 8 days from 6 Apr. to 8 May. No autumn records.

Marsh Harrier (Circus aeruginosus): Recorded on 30 days in spring — 24 Feb to 9 May — with a peak during the 3rd week of March. No significant passages with only a max. of 5 recorded on any day. Most autumn records from Buskett: 10 days from 18th Sep. to 20 Oct., max. 12 on 19 Sep., otherwise 1-4.

‘Harriers’ (Circus sp.): 17 records on 14 days from 7 Mar. to 5 May, 12 on 6 Apr., otherwise 1-6. Most were 'ringtails' most probably Pallid/Montagu's. 1 ringtail on 28 Sep.

Peregrine (Falco peregrinus): Usual pair resident at Ta’ Cenc. Other records were singles at Lunzjata on 24 Jun.; at Gnejna on 21st and at Mellieha (ad. F. shot) on 22 Apr.; at Flita on 18th and at Dingli Cliffs (ad. M. shot) on 26 May; at Sejmur on 10 Jul.; at Hal Far on 19th and at Delimara (shot) on 31 Oct.; and at Anchor Bay and at Mqabba on 3 Nov.

Hobby (Falco subbuteo): Spring passage 14 Apr. to 13 May: single figures on 13 days, highest 11 on 20 Apr. Singles on 18 and 31 Aug., then on most days from 10 Sep. to 29 Oct., with main passage from mid-Sep. to mid-Oct. Double figures on 6 days, highest 31 on 28 Sep.

Eleonora's Falcon (Falco eleonorae): In spring singles on 7 days from 21 Apr. to 3 Jun. 7 records of single birds also in autumn, 27 Aug. to 28 Oct.


Red-Footed Falcon (Falco vespertius): 1-2 on 8 days from 21 Apr. to 15 May. In autumn early bird on 13 August, then 1 on 11th, 2 singles on 19th and another on 27 Oct.

Lesser Kestrel (Falco naumanni): 1 on 1 Feb., then on 10 days from 30 Mar. to 26 May with a max. of 13 on 10 Apr. Much more frequent in autumn but only low numbers recorded: on 20 days from 10 Sep. to 28 Oct., max. 6 on 22 Sep.

Kestrel (Falco tinnunculus): 7 records of single birds in Jan-Feb. Spring passage from 8 Mar. to 12 Jun., recorded almost daily between 16 Mar. and 16 May. Mainly single figures, highest 16 on 15 May. Singles on 15 Jul., 11 Aug. and 1 Sep. In autumn again on most days from 11 Sep. to 13 Nov., but in much larger numbers than in spring. Max. 46 on 12 Oct. Recorded on 12 days during rest of Nov. and in Dec.

Quail (Coturnix coturnix): Spring passage 23 Mar. to 3 May; only 9 records of 1-6. The only autumn records were of singles on 25 and 28 Sep., and on 24 and 25 Nov.

Crane (Grus grus): 1 on 16 Apr., 2 on 31 Aug., 1 on 26 Oct., 46 (3 flocks) on 3 Nov., 1 on 21 Nov. and 3 on 14 Dec. Also 2 shot at Ta' Qali in mid-Nov.

Water Rail (Rallus aquaticus): 1-2 present at Lunzjata in Jan-Mar., then from 19 Oct. onwards with up to 4 at Lunzjata, Girgenti and Wied il-Luq.


Little Crake (Porzana parva): 1 at Salina on 24 Oct.

Cornrake (Crocethus): 1 on 25 Apr. and 2 on 16 Sep.

Moorhen (Gallinula chloropus): Only a few in spring — singles on 8 days from 20 Mar. to 17 May. 1 at Lunzjata from 15th to 24 Jul. and 1 at Girgenti on 14 Aug., then regular from 11 Sep. to 23 Nov.; recorded on 24 days, max. 5 at Girgenti on 12 Oct. 1 there on 7 Dec.

Coot (Fulica atra): Singles on 7 days from 8th to 27 Nov. All records from Salina.

Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus): Flock of 13 at Marsascala on 6 Sep., 1 at Qawra Pt. on 12 Oct. and singles at Salina on 14th and 18 Nov.

Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula): 1 on 12 Mar., then on most days from 8 Apr. to 9 May, mostly at Gharda. max. 10 at Hal Far on 12 Apr. In autumn singles on 30 Jul. and 10 Aug., then on 9 days from 25 Sep. to 27 Oct., 4 at Luqa on 27 Nov.

Little Ringed Plover (Charadrius dubius): Almost daily from 10 Mar. to 1 May, then singles on 19th and 29 May. Low double figures with a max. of 20 on 2 days. Autumn passage from 16 Jul. to 3 Nov.; recorded on 23 days with a peak in Oct., max. 15 at Luqa on 6th.

Kentish Plover (Charadrius alexandrinus): 1 at Hal Far on 18 Apr. and 1 at Zonqor Pt. on 9 May. Singles at Gharda on 12th and 20th Oct. and 17 Nov.

Dotterel (Eudromias morinellus): Only 1 spring record — single on 23 Mar.
6 records on single figures.

Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria): Flock of up to 55 at Hal Far in Jan., and till mid-Mar.; 9 other records outside Hal Far with a max. of 25 at Luqa, on 15 Mar. Last 4 on 30 Mar. 13 on 27 Oct. and 9 on 3 Nov., then 1-5 on 4 days 1st-8 Dec.


Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola): singles on 3rd, 7th, 19th, 20th and 23 May, and on 22nd and 24 Apr.

Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus): 10 records in Jan-Mar to 26th, max. 14 at Luqa on 14 Jan. 1-30 recorded on most days from 3rd to 12 Nov., then not seen till 30 Nov. On 7 days in Dec., with max. of 76 on 1st and 49 on 2nd.

Turnstone (Arenaria interpreps): 1 on 14th, 7 on 18th and 4 on 20 May, all records from southern coast. 1 on 9 Aug.

Little Stint (Calidris minuta): 6 on 31 Mar., then on most days from 3 Apr., to 19 May, max. 24 at Ghadira on 25 Apr. 1 on 9 June. In autumn: on most days from 22 Jul to 3 Sep., max. 30 at Salina on 26 Aug. Then up to 4 at Ghadira on 7-21 Oct. Singles on 12th and 25 Nov., and 26 Dec.

Temminck's Stint (Calidris temminckii): 1 on 20 Apr. and 2 on 1 May at Ghadira. 1 at Lanzarote on 20 Sep.

Dunlin (Calidris alpina): 10 on 26th and 1 on 25 Apr. were the only spring records. Autumn passage 26 Jul. to 8 Nov., recorded on 21 days with a peak in Oct.; single figures, max. 4 on several days.

Curlew Sandpiper (Calidris ferruginea): 1-4 on 9 days from 21 Apr. to 23 May. Singles at Salina on 2nd and 3 Aug., and 3 Sep.

Knot (Calidris canutus): 1 in summer plumage near Delimara on 23 Aug.

Sanderling (Calidris alba): 7 records on 5 days from 3rd to 14 May. Max. 5 on 9th.

Ruff (Philomachus pugnax): 1 on 21 Feb., then from 2 Mar. to 28 May; almost daily in Mar-Apr with double figures at Luqa and Hal Far on several days, max. 65 on 19 Mar. Autumn passage much smaller - 1-7 on 9 days from 16 Sep. to 17 Oct.

Broad-Billed Sandpiper (Limica falcinellus): 1 at M'secla on 8 Aug.

Spotted Redshank (Tringa erythropus): Singles on 11 Apr., 4 May, 8th and 21 Jul., 16th and 31 Aug.

Redshank (Tringa totanus): As usual, time of passage irregular - 6 records of single on 4 days 11th-21 Apr., 1-2 on 3 days 18th-25 Jul., 1-3 on 4 days 15th-25 Aug., 1-2 on 5 days 27 Oct. - 17 Nov.

Marsh Sandpiper (Tringa stagnatilis): Singles at Ghadira on 3rd, 4th and 20 Apr., and at Salina on 18 Aug.

Greenshank (Tringa nebularia): 1-3 on 5 days from 10th to 27 Apr. In autumn 1-2 on 3 days from 15th to 29 Jul., and on 5 days from 1 Sep. to 7 Oct.

Green Sandpiper (Tringa ochropus): Spring passage smaller than usual recorded on 8 scattered dates from 10 Mar. to 25 Apr., max. 10 at Ghadira on 29 Mar. From 17 Jul. to 12 Oct. in autumn; recorded on 11 days. Flocks of 30+ on 30 Jul. and 28 Aug., otherwise 1-2.

Wood Sandpiper (Tringa glareola): Only a few in spring: 1-6 on 7 days from 10 Apr. to 19 May. In autumn 1-4 on 11 days from 17 Jul. to 24 Sep., most in mid-Jul. to mid-Aug.

Common Sandpiper (Tringa hypoleucos): Recorded only in Apr. in spring with up to 10 on most days from 3rd to 29th. Almost daily from 30 Jun. to 12 Sep., max. 20+ on 2 days. 1-2 on 3 days 13th-26th Oct.

Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa): Spring passage 21 Feb. to 31 Mar. 19 records on 16 days, max. 8 at Salina on 1 Mar. 1 on 25 Apr. None in autumn.

Curlew (Numenius arquata): 1 at M'secla on 7 Oct. 2 shot at 'A' Qali in Nov. and 4 at Salina on 24 Nov.

Whimbrel (Numenius phaeopus): 2 at M'xlokk on 9 Mar. and singles at Benghisa Pt. on 7th and at Delimara on 9 Jul.

Woodcock (Scolopax rusticola): Singles on 5 Jan. and 23 Feb. Only a few recorded in autumn, 26 Oct. to 1 Dec. 1-2 on 10 days.

Snipe (Gallinago gallinago): No records in winter. Spring passage 28 Feb.-25 Apr., 10 records mainly in Mar. with a max. of 7 at Luzzafata on 11th. 2 singles on 18 Sep. then singles on 9 days from 11 Oct. to 2 Nov., and on 30 Dec.

Great Snipe (Gallinago media): Singles on 25 Apr. and 19 May.

Jack Snipe (Lymnocryptes minimus): 1 on 22 Feb. 2 on 15th and singles on 18th and 27 Nov. and 31 Dec.

Black-Winged Stilt (Himantopus himantopus): 1-4 on 9 days from 10 Mar. to 1 May. Singles on 29 May, 30 Jun. and 1 Jul. 6 on 30th and 2 on 31 Jul.

Avocet (Recurvirostra avosetta): Singles at Wardija on 5th and at Salina on 30 Sep., and at Zonqor Pt. on 19 Oct. Flock of 10 at M'secla on 20 Oct.

Stone Curlew (Burhinus oedicnemus): In spring 1-3 recorded on 16 days from 6 Mar. to 29 Apr., with most records in Apr. In autumn 3 on 15th, 5 on 25th and 1 on 26 Oct. and 1 on 3 Nov.

Cream-Coloured Courser (Cursorius cursor): 1 at Qrendi on 18 Feb.

Pratincole (Glareola pratincola): Singles at Zonqor Pt. on 21 Apr. and at Hal Far on 29 May.

Great Skua (Stercorarius skua): 1 offshore on 2 Apr.

Pomarine Skua (Stercorarius pomarinus): 1 off Minnlar Pt. on 10 Jul. and singles offshore on 9th, 18th and 21 Jun.

Mediterranean Gull (Larus melanocephalus): Up to 20 in Jan-Mar. to 16th. No records in Nov. and Dec.


Black-Headed Gull (Larus ridibundus): Treble figures, max. 400, in Jan, to mid-Mar. Last seen on 28 Mar. 1 on 5 Nov., then from 30 Nov., reaching a max. of 80 on 31 Dec.

Sanderling (Larus alba): 7 on most days from 6 Mar. to 29 Apr., with most records in Apr. In autumn 3 on 15th, 5 on 25th and 1 on 26 Oct. and 1 on 3 Nov.

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Sanderling (Larus alba): 7 on most days from 6 Mar. to 29 Apr., with most records in Apr. In autumn 3 on 15th, 5 on 25th and 1 on 26 Oct. and 1 on 3 Nov.

Cream-Coloured Courser (Cursorius cursor): 1 at Qrendi on 18 Feb.
Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) : Breeding colony on Filfla apparently on the increase - 140+ adults were counted there on 18 May. No large concentrations in winter in Grand Harbour - only double figures.

Common Gull (Larus canus) : 1 near Delimara on 19 Jan.

Black Tern (Chlidonias niger) : Singles on 2 May, 14 Jul, 3rd and 7 Aug.

White-Winged Black Tern (Chlidonias leucopterus) : 1 at Bbugia on 5 May.

Caspian Tern (Hydropodus ischegravu) : 2 singles on 8th, 5 on 13th and 1 on 20 Oct. Singles on 8th and 8 Nov.

Sandwich Tern (Sterna sandvicensis) : Singles on 14 May and 27 Sep. Then 7 records on 5 days from 8th to 22 Nov., max. 7 at Tas-Surfa on 8th.

Little Tern (Sterna albifrons) : 1 at Marfa on 27 Apr. and 1 at Zonqor Pt. (M'Scala) on 25 Sep.

Woodpigeon (Columba palumbus) : 1 on 22 Jan. Only 4 records in autumn - 1 on 20 Oct., 2 Singles on 3rd and 1 on 21 Nov.

Rock Dove (Columba oenas) : 1 shot on 26 Oct.

Turtle Dove (Streptopelia turtur) : Occasional singles from 19 Jul. to 26 Apr., single figures almost daily. Fewer in autumn : 1 on 5 Aug., then 1-3 on 12 days from 18 Aug. to 29 Sep. Singles on 23 Mar. to 3 May; present on most days but only low single figures. Autumn passage 1 Sep. to 17 Nov.; more records than in spring, but again only single figures. 1 stayed at Xemxija throughout Dec.


Great Spotted Cuckoo (Clamator glandarius) : 1 at Delimara on 18 Apr.

Long-eared Owl (Asio otus) : Singles on 20 Oct. and 7 Nov, 2 others seen shot in autumn.

Short-eared Owl (Asio flammeus) : 1-2 on 5 days from 19 Mar. to 18 Apr. In autumn recorded on 18 days from 26 Sep. to 16 Nov., always 1-2.

Seep Owl (Otus scops) : Only a few in spring - single figures on 8 days from 23 Mar. to 25 Apr. In autumn recorded on several days from 19 Sep. to 23 Nov., often in low double figures. Heavy passage on 10 Oct. with 200+ recorded at Tas-Salib, 1 on 24 Dec.

Barn Owl (Tyto alba) : A pair bred at Fort Chambray from where 2 fledged young were stolen in late Apr. Singles were shot at Mosta and Mellieha in Apr. 1 at Buskett on 16 Oct.

Nightjar (Caprimulgus europaeus) : Spring passage 23 Mar. to 9 May, with a peak on 20-28 Apr., max. 33+ on 21st. From 13 Sep. to 25 Oct. In autumn; single figures, occasionally up to 12, on most days.

Red-breasted Nightjar (Caprimulgus rubricollis) : 1 shot at Mellieha in early Apr.

Pallid Swift (Apus pallidus) : 1 at Mellieha on 6 Apr.

Swift (Apus apus) : Recorded from 20 Mar. to 18 Oct., almost daily in Apr.-Sep. Peaks in mid-Apr. to mid-June and late July to early Sep. Treble figures, max. 560, in peak periods. Late singles on 3rd and 5 Nov.

Alpine Swift (Apus melba) : 1-5 on 11 days from 11 Apr. to 1 June. Singles on 27 Jun., 16th and 24 Jul. In autumn on 9 days from 30 Sep. to 11 Nov., mainly singles but 11 on 5 Oct.

Koeler (Coracias garrulus) : Spring passage from 13 Apr. to 12 May; single figures, almost daily in Apr. 2 on 21st and 4 on 22 Sep. 2 others were shot in September.

Kingfisher (Alcedo atthis) : Passage from 7 Jul. to 23 Oct., mainly mid-late Sep. when recorded daily. Always seen singly.

Bee-eater (Merops apaster) : Spring passage from 9 Apr. to 7 Jun.; recorded on 18 days. Single figures except for 11 on last date. In Autumn 40+ on 14th and 1 on 28 Sep. at Lunzjata.

Hoopoe (Upupa epops) : Early birds on 3rd and 19 Feb., then from 14 Mar. to 25 Apr., single figures almost daily. 1-4 on 5 days from 2 May to 8 Jun. Fewer in autumn : 1 on 5 Aug., then 1-3 on 12 days from 18 Aug. to 29 Sep. Singles on 23 Mar. to 3 May; present on most days but only low single figures. Autumn passage 1 Sep. to 17 Nov.; more records than in spring, but again only single figures. 1 stayed at Xemxija throughout Dec.


Crag Martin (Hirundo rupestris) : Up to 10 at Lunzjata in Jan. and Feb. to 16th. 1 at Ta' Qell on 30 Oct. and 1 at Wied il-Kbir on 12 Nov., then up to 5 at Lunzjata from 18 Nov. till end of year.

Swallow (Hirundo rustica) : Spring passage from 5 Mar. to 8 Jun.; there were only isolated days without records. Main passage in Apr. to mid-May with a max. of 700 on some days. 2 on 22 June, and 2 on 18 Jul. A pair bred in a house at Mqabba in July. 4 pulli fledged successfully on 1 Aug. In autumn occasional from 6 Aug. then from 23 Aug. to 1 Dec. Much larger numbers than in spring with high treble figures on several days in Sep.-Oct.

Red-Rumped Swallow (Hirundo daurica) : 7 records on 6 days from 31 Mar. to 3 May; all singles. In autumn 1 on 31 Aug. and 2 on 27 Sep.

House Martin (Delichon urbica) : 5 on 24 Feb., then on most days from 5 Mar. to 26 May. High double figures in most areas. On 5 days in Jun. to 19th. 1 on 10 Jul. and 3 on 23 Aug., then from 2 Sep. to 25 Nov. Much larger numbers than usual with treble figures on many days in Oct., max. 560+ on 22nd.

Short-Toed Lark (Calandrella cinerea) : First on 24 Mar., than daily till 29 Sep. Bred in usual large numbers.

Crested Lark (Galerida cristata) : 1 at Luqa on 3 Nov.

Shore Lark (Eremophila alpestris) : 1 at Siggiewi on 10 May.

Wood Lark (Lullula arborea) : Recorded on 7 days from 9 Oct. to 17 Nov. Max. 5 at Ta' Zuta on 26 Oct.

Skylark (Alauda arvensis) : Up to 20 in a few areas in Jun.-Feb., numbers
increasing in mid-Mar., with a max. of 80-+ on 19th., then single figures. Last seen on 12 Apr. 1 on 13th and 2 on 28 Sep., then from 12 Oct. with frequent passages with flocks over 300 till mid-Nov. Max. recorded on 27 Oct. with a total of 5000-+ in 5 localities. Only single figures in Dec.


**Tree Pipit (Anthus trivialis):** Almost daily from 10 Mar. to 12 May, with main passage in Apr. Double figures in most places on many days with totals of 210-+ on 12th and 350+ on 21 Apr. highest. In autumn also daily from 31 Aug. to 27 Oct., with stragglers till 17 Nov., but in much smaller numbers. Only single or low double figures with 160-+ on 16th and 60-+ on 17 Sep. highest.


**Water/Rock Pipit (Anthus spinolletta):** 1 (A.s. spinolletta) at Marsa on 20 Feb. and 2 (A.s. littoralis) at Xemxija on 17 Nov.

**Yellow Wagtail (Motacilla flava):** Spring passage 3 Mar. to 28 May, mainly late Mar.-Apr. Double figures on several days and occasionally up to 500. In autumn from 17 Aug. to 7 Nov. Double figures on most days in Sep.-Oct. and up to 100 for roosting at Girgenti and Lunzjata.

**Grey Wagtail (Motacilla cinerea):** Up to 8 in several places in Jan.-Mar., to 14th. Few from 14 Sep., then daily from 28 Sep. onwards. Double figures in mid-Oct to mid-Nov. with 100-+ at Lunzjata on 29 Oct. highest.

**White Wagtail (Motacilla alba):** Widespread in Jan.-Mar. to 24th. Usually only single figures except for flocks going in to roost at Valletta. Singles on 7 and 17 Apr. From 14 Oct onwards in autumn with a peak in mid-Oct. to mid-Nov., when seen in flocks of up to 45. Up to 200 were roosting at Marsa in Nov.

**Red-Backed Shrike (Lanius colurio):** Singles on 16th and 19 May, 5th and 11 Jun., and a pair at Buskett on 26 May. In autumn singles on 24th and 31 Aug., then 1 on most days at Buskett and Xemxija from 14th to 30 Sep. 1 on 18 Nov.

**Woodchat Shrike (Lanius senator):** Spring passage 31 Mar. to 2 Jun. with most from mid-Apr. to mid-May when recorded on most days. Single figures with max. totals of 11 on 26 Apr. and 13 on 12 May. 1 (L.s. badius) on 11 May. Much smaller numbers in autumn, 15 Aug. to 28 Sep., with 1-2 on 15 days. 1 on 1 Nov.

**Lesser Grey Shrike (Lanius minor):** 1 taken at M’Scala in early Oct.
continually at Buskett on 11-18 Jul.

**Garden Warbler** (Sylvia borin): 2 on 8 Apr., then from 20 Apr. to 6 Jun. with a peak in the first half of May, max. 15+ on 5 May. From 12 Aug. to 3 Nov.; recorded almost daily with a peak in Sep., max. 60+ at Buskett on 28 Sep.

**Blackcap** (Sylvia atricapilla): As usual in Jan.-Mar. mainly found in areas with ivy. Max. of 800+ at Buskett in early Mar. and 100+ at Mdina throughout. Most left in the last days of Mar, but a few migrants were noted till 15 Apr. Male at Buskett on 6 Jun., Singles on 4 days from 7 to 23 Sep., then from 4 Oct. onwards reaching 80+ at Buskett in late Dec.

**Whitethroat** (Sylvia communis): Spring passage, 3 Apr. to 8 Jun., very small. Main passage in Apr.-early May, but there were several days without records. Max. was 4 at Xemxija on 5 May. In autumn recorded on 8 days from 16 Aug. to 19 Oct., max. 4 at Buskett on last day.

**Lesser Whitethroat** (Sylvia curruca): 1 at Wied Znuber on 16 Oct.

**Ruppell's Warbler** (Sylvia ruppeii): Singles at M'Xlokk on 5 Apr., at Sta. Lucia in early Apr., and at Buskett on 5 Sep.

**Sardinian Warbler** (Sylvia melanocephala): Common resident. Many juveniles in May-Aug. Unusually large influx in late Oct.-early Dec., with much higher numbers in coastal areas.

**Subalpine Warbler** (Sylvia cantillans): Almost daily from 20 Mar. to 16 Apr., then singles on 24-25 Apr. Max. of 20+ at Xemxija on 24-30 Mar.; up to 10 in other localities. In autumn daily from 13 Jul. to 29 Sep., then less regular till 26 Oct. 1 stayed at Xemxija till 24 Nov. Main passage mid-Aug. to mid-Sep. with Buskett, as usual, the best area. Max. 60+ there on several days in August.

**Spectacled Warbler** (Sylvia conspicillata): Present in usual numbers. Highest count 30+ at Ta' Qali on 23 June.

**Tristram's Warbler** (Sylvia deserticola): A male was taken at Miziep, (? 8 Mar.). See note on page 29.

**Dartford Warbler** (Sylvia undata): 1 at Ghadira on 9 Feb. Influx in Nov.-Dec. with 1-2 at Xemxija from 26 Oct. onwards, and 5 at Salina, 1 at Mellieha and 2 at Ghadira from 9 Nov. onwards, 1 at Ghajn Tuffieha on 15 Nov., 1 at Dingli on 20 Nov. and 2 at Bahar ic-Caghaq on 1 Dec.

**Willow Warbler** (Phylloscopus trochilus): Spring passage 11 Mar. to 11 May, mainly Apr. when recorded daily. Mainly single figures with max. of 20+ at Buskett on 20 Apr. In autumn recorded from 18 Aug. to 3 Nov., an unusually late date. Main passage in Sep. to mid-Oct. Recorded on most days mostly single figures but 10+ in some places.

**Chiffchaff** (Phylloscopus collybita): Very common in Jan. to mid-Mar., with high double figures in several places and up to 150 at Lunzjata. Smaller numbers after mid-Mar., with last record on 11 Apr. 1 on 29 Sep., then daily from 12 Oct. onwards. Double or low treble figures from late Oct., with max. of 300+ at Lunzjata on 15 Dec.

**Bonelli's Warbler** (Phylloscopus bonelli): 4 records of 1-2 birds on 3 days from 30 Mar. to 5 Apr., then 3 on 1 May. In autumn singles on 13th and 17 Sep.

**Wood Warbler** (Phylloscopus sibilatrix): From 30 Mar. to 19 May in spring; recorded on most days, highest 10+ at Buskett on 27 Apr. In autumn recorded from 18 Aug. to 20 Oct., almost daily in Sep. Low double figures on several days from 17th to 28 Sep. with a max. of 50+ on first date.

**Goldcrest** (Regulus regulus): Up to 8 in pine groves in Jan.-early Feb., then 1 on 13 Apr. First in autumn on 17 Oct., then in same numbers as before.

**Firecrest** (Regulus ignicapillus): Only singles recorded in Jan.-Mar. to 37th. Then from 27 Oct. onwards with a peak in early Nov. Up to 5 in several areas.

**Gold/Firecrest** (Regulus sp.): Up to 10 at Buskett, 6 at Rabat and singles in several localities in Jan.-Mar. Almost daily records from 25 Oct. onwards with a max. of 15+ on several days.

**Fan-tailed Warbler** (Cisticola juncidis): At least 2-3 pairs bred at Ghadira on 1 at Xemxija, 1 at Salina and 1 near Bahirja. In Apr.-May males held territory at Dingli, Rabat, Fiddien, M'theieb and Wied il-Hmar. From July birds were also recorded at Mistra, San Martin, Girgenti and Lunzjata (where up to 4 were present in early Oct.).

**Pied Flycatcher** (Ficedula hypoleuca): Spring passage from 24 Mar. to 12 May with a peak in mid-end Apr. Double figures during main passage with a max. total of 120+ at Chadwick Lakes/Mtahleb/Bahirja on 24 Apr. Autumn passage, 2 Sep. to 16 Nov. much smaller. Most records from mid-Sep. to mid-Oct. with a max. of 6 at Girgenti on 14 Sep.

**Collared Flycatcher** (Ficedula albicollis): 6 records of 1-2 in spring from 7th to 24th Apr. 1 on 29-30 Sep.

**Red-breasted Flycatcher** (Ficedula parva): A very good year with 21 records of 1-2 from 6 Sep. to 23 Nov.

**Spotted Flycatcher** (Muscicapa striata): Singles on 9-11 Apr., then daily from 20 Apr. to 20 May. Double figures in late Apr. and till mid-May with a max. of 100+ at Tal-Handraq on 12 May. A pair bred at Buskett; 3 young fledged successfully on 15 Jul. Autumn passage from 18 Aug. to 20 Oct., then 1-2 on 3 days from 10 to 17 Nov. Almost daily in Sep. but only single figures with a max. of 10 at Buskett on 28th.

**Whinchat** (Saxicola rubetra): Spring passage 6 Apr.-15 May, most in mid-end Apr., with a max. of 100+ at Mtahleb/Bahirja on 24th. Not more than 25 days on other days. In autumn 1-4 most days from 12 Sep. to 10 Oct. 1 on 16th and 2 on 24 Nov.

**Stonechat** (Saxicola torquata): Up to 15 in suitable areas in Jan.-Feb., numbers reducing in Mar. with last record on 24th. From 2 Oct. in autumn with up to 40 in most areas from mid-Oct. to late Nov. Smaller numbers in Dec.

**Wheatear** (Oenanthe oenanthe): On most days from 16 Mar. to 12 May, with double figures from late Mar. to late Apr. Max. 69+ at Hal Far on 12 Apr. First in autumn on 18 Aug. reaching double figures from 23rd and on to 2 Nov. Odd singles till 27 Nov. Autumn max. 250+ at Mtahleb/Bahirja/Bingemma on 3 Sep.

**Pied Wheatear** (Oenanthe pleschanka): Male at Il-Biddal (M'Scala) on 28 Feb.
Isabelline Wheatear (Oenanthe isabellina) : 1 at M’Sela on 31 Mar.
Kuños Bush Chat (Cercotrichas galactotes) : 1 at Hal Far from 22-27th and 1 at Girgenti on 26 Apr. Singles at Zonqor Pt. and at il-Battil on 3rd, at Sta. Lucia on 6th, at M’Xlokk on 7th, and at Ghallis on 14 May. 3 others were taken in late April.
Rock Thrush (Monticola saxatilis): Only 5 records in spring, 18 Mar. to 19 Apr., at singles, in Autumn 1 on 16th and 17 Sep.
Blue Rock Thrush (Monticola solitarius) : Present in usual numbers. Good numbers at Sarradu, Gozo where 20+ counted on 24 Mar.
Rock Redstart (Phoenicurus ochruros) : 1 in many areas in Jan.-Mar. until 24th. 1 on 14 Oct., then from 2 Nov. onwards with a peak in Nov. Max. 9 at Malta on 18th.
Redstart (Phoenicurus phoenicurus) : Spring passage, 17 Mar. to 19 May (mainly mid-Apr. to early May), smaller than usual; only single figures.
Singles from 24 Mar. to 20 Apr. 1 on 15 Apr. Singles in mid-Jun. with up to 12 in Dec.!
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<th>Total Grand 1974</th>
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<td>Meadow Pipit 18</td>
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<td>Manx Shearwater</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Little Bittern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whinchat</td>
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<td>Black Redstart</td>
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Total Ringed in 1974: 8,131

Grand Total Ringed (as on 31/12/1974) 44,467.
RINGING RECOVERIES

This section of the report deals with both recoveries of birds ringed in Malta with British Trust for Ornithology rings and recoveries in the Maltese Islands of birds ringed abroad. Of the locally ringed birds only those recovered at least 5 km away from the ringing site are included. Some of the birds listed, both locally and foreign ringed, were recovered previous to 1974 but came to our notice during this year. For local recoveries the distance covered is given together with the direction; both distance and direction are approximate.

Key to symbols and terms used in the recovery list

Arrangement of entry: recoveries are arranged by species, and within the species usually by date of recovery. Ringing details are given on the first line and recovery data on the second.

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 0.0 in the date indicates that the exact day or month are unknown.

Abbreviations used for foreign ringing schemes:
B. - Budapest Museum.
Bol. - Bologna University.
C. - Copenhagen Museum.
GD. - Gdansk.
H. - Vogelwarte Heigoland.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Species</th>
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<th>Date of Recovery</th>
<th>Manner of Recovery</th>
<th>Sex</th>
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<td>03.08.73</td>
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<td>Night Heron (Nycticorax nycticorax)</td>
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<td>Montagu’s Harrier (Circus pygargus)</td>
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<td>07.07.64</td>
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*Abbreviations for ringing schemes:*

- **B.** - Helsinki Museum.
- **Bol.** - Bologna University.
- **C.** - Copenhagen Museum.
- **GD.** - Gdansk.
- **H.** - Vogelwarte Heigoland.

*Geographical locations:*

- Filfla, nr Zabbar (17 km NE).
- Voro, Horsens Fjord: 55° 52’N, 10° 01’E (Jutland), **Denmark**.
- Mgarr, Gozo: 35° 01’N, 14° 18’E.
- Carska bara: 45° 20’N, 20 26’E (Vojvodina) Yugoslavia.
- Rabat: 35° 53’N, 14° 23’E.
- Zabbar: 35° 53’N, 14° 32’E.
- M’8cala: 35° 52’N, 14° 34’E.
- Rabat: 35° 53’N, 14° 23’E.
- Delimara: 35° 49’N, 14° 33’E.
- Turun Ja Porin (Laani) Finland.
- Girgenti: 35° 51’N, 14° 25’E.
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<tr>
<th><strong>Hobby</strong> (Falco subbuteo)</th>
<th>P</th>
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<th>24.04.65</th>
<th>El Haouaria: 37°05’N, 11°02’E (Cap Bon), Tunisia.</th>
<th>Marsa: 35°54’N, 14°32’E.</th>
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<td>Bjorkohey, Vasaer: 63°25’N, 21°05’E (Laant) Finland.</td>
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<tr>
<td>H-104.221</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td>28.10.73</td>
<td>Marva: 35°58’N, 14°23’E.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>St.</strong> 7.057.453</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>16.06.74</td>
<td>Tradaskarskobben, Svartogafjord: 58°34’N, 18°58’E, (Uppland), Sweden.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>+</td>
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<td>09.10.74</td>
<td>Marsascala: 35°52’N, 14°34’E.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>St.</strong> 7.015.878</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>06.07.64</td>
<td>Fagelsundet, Itialnas: 60°36’N, 17°56’E, (Uppland), Sweden.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td>20.10.74</td>
<td>Luqa: 35°52’N, 14°30’E.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Turtle Dove</strong> (Streptopelia turtur)</td>
<td>Pha.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>07.06.72</td>
<td>Sudumer: 49°15’N, 14°03’E, (Pisek), Czechoslovakia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>H 39.280</td>
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<td>24.04.74</td>
<td>Kalafrana: 39°50’N, 14°32’E.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pha.</strong> H 35.723</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>01.07.72</td>
<td>Chmeliste: 49°54’N, 15°03’E, (Kutna Hora) Czechoslovakia,</td>
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<td>20.04.74</td>
<td>Zejtun: 35°51’N, 14°33’E.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bol.</strong> T 3.321</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>03.05.73</td>
<td>Piume Estella Chivari: 44°20’N, 6°19’E (Genoa) Italy.</td>
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<td>+</td>
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<td>Malta,</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scops Owl</strong> (Otus scops)</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>04.06.65</td>
<td>El Haouaria: 37°05’N, 11°02’E (Cap Bon), Tunisia.</td>
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<td>GS 6347</td>
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<td>30.09.65</td>
<td>Birzebbuga: 35°50’N, 14°31’E.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>P.</strong> GA 55.543</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>27.03.66</td>
<td>ibidem.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>FS 8191</td>
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<td>15.10.66</td>
<td>Dingli: 35°52’N, 14°22’E.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>P.</strong> 4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>04.05.66</td>
<td>ibidem.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>14.10.66</td>
<td>Rabat: 35°53’N, 14°23’E.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Swift</strong> (Apus apus)</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>23.05.68</td>
<td>Roxheim: 48°35’N, 08°22’E, Kr. Frankenthal, (Pfalz), W. Germany.</td>
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<td>HA 58.880</td>
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<td>30.04.74</td>
<td>San Lawrence: 36°04’N, 14°12’E.</td>
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<td><strong>Skylark</strong> (Alauda arvensis)</td>
<td>BR</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>27.10.74</td>
<td>Hal Far, Zeibbug (9 km NW), (Malta).</td>
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<tr>
<td>79.668</td>
<td>+</td>
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<td>27.18.74</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sand Martin</strong> (Riparia riparia)</td>
<td>JV</td>
<td>15.840</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>21.04.74</td>
<td>Luntzaja Valley, (Gozo), Zeibbug (25 km SE), (Malta).</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td>22.04.74</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>JV</strong> 15.100</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>23.04.74</td>
<td>Targa Gap, Qawra Pt. (5 km NNW),</td>
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<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td>01.05.74</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

21
Mourne Abbey, Mallow: 52°05'N, 08°39'E, (Cork) Ireland.
Lunzjata Valley: 36°03'N, 14°14'E.

White Wagtail (Motacilla alba)
B. 2 08.09.74 Kisorozzi: 47°48'N, 19°00'E, Hungary.
188.281 ( ) 21.11.74 Ta' Bulebel: 35°52'N, 14°32'E.

Golden Oriole (Oriolus oriolus)
+ 19.04.73 Xnghra: 36°03'N, 14°16'E (Gozo).

Starling (Sturnus vulgaris)
GD 14.475 + 01.11.74 Tarxien: 35°52'N 14°31'E.

Dunnock (Prunella modularis)
JR 59.796 4 02.03.74 Buskett: 35°51'N, 14°26'E.
x 14.10.74 Radilje: 46°37'N, 15°14'E, (Slovenija), Yugoslavia.

Garden Warbler (Sylvia borin)
JP 09.199 2 30.09.73 Wied il-Luq, Buskett.
+ 06.09.74 Melito: 40°55'N, 14°14'E (Napoli), Italy.

Blackcap (Sylvia atricapilla)
JR 59.303 2 M 25.11.73 Salina,
v 21.03.74 Mdina (7 km S).

BoI. 2 18.09.74 Montello, Montebelluno: 45°32'N, 10°13'E, Italy.
L 337.577 y=M 10.12.74 Lunzjata Valley.
(Ring KA34.289 added)

Willow Warbler (Phylloscopus trochilus)
R 4 09.08.71 Tittmoning: 48°04'N, 12°45'E, Kr. Laufen (Oberbayern), W. Germany.
BA 90.829 v 25.03.74 Dingli: 35°52'N, 14°23'E.

Chiffchaff (Phylloscopus collybita)
763.362 2 16.11.74 Salina.
v 01.12.74 & 08.12.74 Lunzjata Valley (17 km, NW).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fan-tailed Warbler</strong> (Cisticola juncidis)**</td>
<td><strong>Xemxija, St. Paul’s Bay</strong>: 35°57’N, 14°23’E**</td>
<td><strong>Girgenti</strong> (11 km, S.)</td>
<td><strong>14.10.73</strong></td>
<td><strong>03.05.74</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Robin (Erithacus rubecula)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Xemxija, St. Paul’s Bay</strong>, <strong>Haffouz</strong>: 35°38’N, 09°38’E (Kairouan)**</td>
<td><strong>14.10.73</strong></td>
<td><strong>01.03.74</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Blackbird (Turdus merula)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Wied Znuber, Hal Far</strong>: 35°49’N, 14°31’E</td>
<td><strong>23.10.72</strong></td>
<td><strong>00.10.72</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Song Thrush (Turdus philomelos)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Wied Znuber, Hal Far</strong>, <strong>Cassano delle Murge</strong>: 40°53’N, 10°46’E (Bari)**</td>
<td><strong>17.10.72</strong></td>
<td><strong>01.01.74</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Linnet (Acanthis cannabina)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ghadira</strong></td>
<td><strong>09.11.74</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.11.74</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lutino (Carduelis chloris)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>San Martin</strong></td>
<td><strong>09.11.74</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.11.74</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spanish Sparrow (Passer hispaniolensis)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Xemxija, St. Paul’s Bay</strong>, <strong>Paola</strong>: 12 km, S.)</td>
<td><strong>Budapest</strong>: 47°29’N, 19°03’E</td>
<td><strong>06.05.73</strong></td>
<td><strong>12.10.74</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Serin (Serinus serinus)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Hal Far</strong></td>
<td><strong>06.04.74</strong></td>
<td><strong>07.04.74</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**References:**
- **Fan-tailed Warbler** (Cisticola juncidis)
- **Robin (Erithacus rubecula)**
- **Blackbird (Turdus merula)**
- **Song Thrush (Turdus philomelos)**
- **Linnet (Acanthis cannabina)**
- **Spanish Sparrow (Passer hispaniolensis)**
- **Serin (Serinus serinus)**
ADDENDA TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1971

Shag (Phalacrocorax aristotelis) : 1 at Ghar Lapsi on 13 March and 1 on Filfla on 13 June.

Heron Harrier (Circus cyaneus) : 1 on 2 October.

Caspian Plover (Charadrius asiaticus) : 3 at Birżebbuġa on 17 March.

Whiskered Tern (Chlidonias hybridus) : 1 at Salina on 9 July.

Rock Sparrow (Petronia petronia) : 2 at Ta’ Cenc on 30 January.

ADDENDA TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1972

Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) : 1 on 26 November.

Whiskered Tern (Chlidonias hybridus) : 1 at Salina on 9 July (same date and locality as the year before) and another at Salina on 13 July.

Woodchat Shrike (Lanius senator budius) : 1 (Corsican race) at Ghadira on 5 June.

ADDENDA TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1973

Gannet (Sula bassana) : 1 at Marsaxlokk on 16 March.

Squacco Heron (Ardea ralloides) : 1 at Zonqor Pt. on 3 August.

Little Egret (Egretta garzetta) : 1 at Zonqor Pt. on 20 October.

Glossy Ibis (Plegadis falcinellus) : 1 at Zonqor Pt. on 14 May.

Buzard (Buteo buteo) : 1 at Bahrija on 30 October.

Eleonora’s Falcon (Falco eleonorae) : singles at Zejtun on 1

Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) : Singles at Zonqor Pt. on 4 and 29 May.

Turnstone (Arenaria interpres) : Singles at Zonqor Pt. on 1 April and 3 May.

Dunlin (Calidris alpina) : Singles at Zonqor Pt. on 4 and 7 August.

Sanderling (Calidris alba) : Singles at Zonqor Pt. on 22 and 24 May.

Redshank (Tringa totanus) : 1 at Salina on 15 April and at Marsascala on 8 September.

Merlin (Falco columbarius) : Male at Salina on 28 October.

Coot (Fulica atra) : 1 at Marsa M Blackburn on 29 and 30 October.

Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) : 1 at Zonqor Pt. on 30 August.

Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) : 1 at Zonqor Pt. on 20 August.

Ghali (Pluvialis squatarola) : Singles at Zonqor Pt. on 4 and 29 May.

ERRATA

1-Merill No. 5, August 1971.

Page 15: the entry under Greg Martin (Hirundo rupestris) (1st record since 1973) should read “(1st record since 1929)’.

1-Merill No. 8, August 1972.

Page 9: the entry under Knot (Calidris canutus). “1 at Ghadira” should read “1 at Salina”.


Page 10: “Another addition to the Breeding Species of Malta” (3rd para. 1st line) should read “Last year (1972)”.


Common Scoter : 1 at Salina on 2 November 1948 should read “1 at Salina on 8 November 1948”.

Pin-tailed Sandgrouse : “1 on Gozo on 15 May 1931” should read “1 on Gozo on 18 May 1939”.

Roos : “1 at Il-Qadi on 25 April 1942” should read “1 at Il-Qadi on 20 September 1946”.

Snow Bunting: “One in Malta in December 1955”. This record should be deleted altogether.

The above 4 erroneous records were transmitted in the original script. The following record “Lanner : 1 at Benghisa in April 1948” should be added to this contribution.

NOTABLE UNPUBLISHED OCCURRENCES PREVIOUS TO 1971

In the course of preparing the script for the M.O.S publication “A Guide To The Birds Of Malta” a number of previously unpublished records came to light and appeared in that publication. These records were contributed by various members as listed hereunder.

Cattle Egret (Bubulcus ibis) : 1 at Qormi in January 1964.

Great White Heron (Egretta alba) : 1 at Kalkara in December 1966.

Greater Flamingo (Phoenicopterus ruber) : 1 at Salina on 26 October 1965.

Common Scoter (Melanitta nigra) : 1 in December 1965.

Lesser Spotted Eagle (Aquila pomarina) : 1 at Salina on 26 October 1962.

Saker (Falco cherrug) : Singles at Mġarr on 18 November 1968 and at Mosta on December 1969.

Stone Curlew (Burhinus oedicnemus) : 1 at Hal Far on 5 January 1964.

Pomarine Skua (Stercorarius pomarinus) : 1 offshore on 2 February 1968.

Short-toed Lark (Calandrella cinerea) : 1 in January 1965.

Bar-tailed Desert Lark (Anthus melanocephalus) : 1 at Birżebbuġa on 11 April 1959.

Waxwing (Bombycilla garrulus) : 1 at Gudja on 15 November 1965.
THE 1974 OCCURRENCE OF THE TRISTRAM’S WARBLER

In IL-MERILL (no. 15 for Jan.-June 1975) we reported the occurrence of the Tristram’s Warbler (Sylvia deserticola) in Malta on 8th March 1974. However in an attached slip to the same issue, we pointed out “that the date of occurrence of the Tristram’s Warbler has proved uncertain beyond the fact that it was in 1974.” We promised a fuller presentation of available facts in a future issue of IL-MERILL.

The facts, as far as we could ascertain, are as follows:

During a visit to Mr. George Faure’s residence at Luqa, Malta, in May 1975 we came across the specimen in question, stuffed and mounted. We duly informed the owner that it was the first record of that species for Malta and Europe. Mr. Faure told us that it was taken on the 8th March 1974 and showed us a Moussier’s Redstart, one of two which were also taken on the same date.

We visited Mr. Faure a second time in order to photograph the specimens and to take measurements of the Tristram’s Warbler, all of which appeared in IL-MERILL, No. 15.

Some days later Mr. Faure sold some mounted birds to the Museum of Natural History including the Tristram’s Warbler in question. On 21st. June 1975, a short article, signed by Mr. J. Vella Gaffiero, appeared in the daily newspapers “Malta News” and “L-Orizzont” stating that “a small collection of mounted birds recently acquired by the National Museum of Natural History at Mdina from Mr. George Faure included a specimen of the Tristram’s Warbler (Sylvia deserticola) taken by Mr. Faure himself on 8th July 1974.”

On noting the different date, we contacted Mr. Faure again on 23rd June 1975; he stressed the fact that the Tristram’s Warbler was taken on the same day as the Moussier’s Redstarts — that is on 8th March 1974 and not in the following July. So duly a letter was sent to the Editor of “L-Orizzont” in July 1975 to correct the date given apparently in error by Mr. J. Vella Gaffiero.

We were subsequently informed by Mr. Faure that he had wrongly communicated the 8th March 1974 date to us, since we had taken scrupulous precautions in ascertaining this particular information, the change of date appeared altogether baffling. Consequently, in an attempt to clear the issue, we contacted Mr. Vella Gaffiero, and we agreed that it would be better to simply consider the Tristram’s Warbler as having been taken in 1974.

The fact that Mr. Faure had informed us that the Tristram’s Warbler and the Moussier’s Redstarts were taken on the same day, coupled with the additional information that at least 6 Moussier’s Redstarts occurred in March 1974 as well, tend to strengthen the argument for the March date when due to unusual meteorological conditions very plausibly a movement of North African species overshot their breeding areas.

J. Sultana & C. Gauci.