

bird's eye view



issue 24 • winter 2007


BirdLife
MALTA

new beginnings

Dear Member,

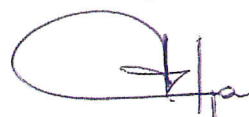
As you may already know, BirdLife Malta has undergone a radical restructuring since the second half of 2006. Early last year, the BirdLife Malta Council took an important decision to bring its office up to professional standards in order to meet the requirements of our changing socio-political and economic environment. In the 21st Century, as a young member of the European Union, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) will undoubtedly play a crucial role in Malta's progress on several important issues, including the protection of the country's natural environment.

BirdLife Malta (MOS at the time) was the first environmental organisation on our islands and has since been the leading force for nature conservation and environmental education. With your support, our organisation today is managing two nature reserves, carrying out a joint afforestation project at Foresta 2000 near Ghadira, reaching more than 20,000 children every year through its Dinja Wahda (One World)

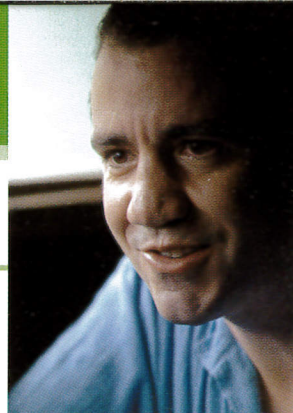
education project, carrying out Malta's biggest EU Life conservation project at Rđum tal-Madonna, and is the main driving force behind the change in hunting and trapping legislation. Moreover, our policy, advocacy and scientific research work is contributing to the designation of more protected areas in the Maltese Islands. Together with other NGOs we are actively working to stop development projects in ecologically important areas such as Ta' Ċenċ.

This upgraded magazine is a result of this change. In return for your generous contributions, you deserve a better product on everything we do. Our new website is also growing with more information about our work for Maltese and foreigners alike to enjoy. Although we are bigger and stronger than ever before, there is yet a lot of improvement to be made. We are aware of this. Together with you we believe that we will achieve our objectives. I hope that you will enjoy your revamped Bird's Eye View.

With my warmest regards,



Tolga Temuge
Executive Director
BirdLife Malta



Common Stonechat
photo Denis Cachia

Bird's Eye View has shifted format. From this edition onwards, Bird's Eye View and BirdTalk have merged into one full-colour magazine which will be issued quarterly.

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foresta 2000 ranger shot in the face

Ray Vella, ranger of Foresta 2000 and long-time member of BirdLife Malta, was shot in the face by a hunter while tending his field in Wied il-Mizieb, Mellieħa. Ray had just arrived and was working his land when a hunter shot in his direction from a distance of around 35 metres.

"I was hit in the face in several places and shouted out in pain, making it clear to the hunter that I was hit," said Ray. "The hunter in turn shouted back aggressively, swearing at me and cursing BirdLife, clearly showing that he knew who I was. He then ran off, taunting me over his shoulder and daring me to call the police."

While Ray *did* call the police, they took an inordinate amount of time to arrive on site, a full 1 hour and 45 minutes after the incident, thus allowing the criminal to abscond. Ray was admitted to hospital, where an X-ray revealed a lead pellet embedded in his nose. The pellet



Ray holding the extracted lead pellet.

photo André Raine

was surgically extracted and Ray was lucky to have sustained only superficial injuries - had the shot been a centimetre to the right he would have been hit in the eye.

Ray has since fully recovered and remains more determined than ever to continue in his commitment towards the Maltese natural habitat and against such bullying tactics.



Ghadira is open on Saturdays and Sundays.

photo BirdLife Malta

nature reserves

Ghadira and Is-Simar nature reserves are again open to the public. This is an excellent weekend outing for the family, a chance to learn something together and to spend some time immersed in nature. Ghadira and Is-Simar (in Xemxija) offer the visitor an opportunity to forget the outside world and to enjoy peace and tranquillity. At this time of the year the reserve shelters aquatic birds like grebes and rails, but also Common Kingfisher, Common Stonechats, Meadow Pipits, White Wagtails, Reed Buntings and, this year, a few Penduline Tits.

Ghadira Saturdays and Sundays 10am to 4pm
Is-Simar Sundays 10am to 4pm
Entrance FREE (donations welcome)



Black-necked Grebes regularly winter at the reserves.

photo Charles Gauci

upcoming events

• film screening

Wednesday, **January 16, 2008** • time: 6pm
venue: National Museum of Natural History, Mdina
Join us for the screening of two wonderful short-films produced by the RSPB.

• guided walk - rđum tal-madonna

Sunday, **February 10, 2008** • time: 3.30pm
meeting point: Chapel at L-Aħrax tal-Mellieħa
Weather permitting, a guided walk of Rđum tal-Madonna, home to the EU LIFE Yelkouan Shearwater project. From 5pm onward (places limited) there will also be moth-identification and bat observation.

• birdlife malta annual general meeting

The next AGM will be held in March. Please check our website for more information closer to the date. Members will also be informed by regular mail.

infringement proceedings

Marija Schranz
Communications Coordinator

On October 17, the European Commission sent Malta a final written warning - a Reasoned Opinion - regarding the practice of spring hunting of wild birds, which is illegal under EU law.

Every spring since its accession to the EU in 2004, Malta has permitted hunting of Turtle Dove and Common Quail, in direct contravention of the EU Birds Directive. Article 226 of the EU Treaty gives the Commission powers to take legal action against a Member State that is not respecting its obligations. In a first phase, the Commission opens an infringement procedure and addresses a Letter of Formal Notice to the Member State concerned. In the light of the reply or absence of a reply the Commission may address a Reasoned Opinion, or final written warning. If the Member State fails to comply, the Commission may decide to bring the case before the European Court of Justice.

The Commission started legal action against Malta in 2006 based on a complaint by BirdLife Malta, but progress was slow. Konstantin Kreiser, EU Policy Manager at BirdLife International in Brussels, expressed BirdLife's satisfaction that firm action is now coming from the Commission on this, adding that the Commission needs to be tough on this case. The EU Commissioner for the Environment Stavros Dimas himself assured BirdLife Malta in writing,



BirdLife Malta activists carrying 115,000 petitions to the Prime Minister's Office last January, with President Joseph Mangion (left) and RSPB Director of International Operations Alistair Gammell (centre).
photo BirdLife Malta



A dead Honey-buzzard, a frequent victim of spring hunting.
photo BirdLife Malta

during an online blog session organised by his office, in which BirdLife Malta participated, that Malta will be taken to court if spring hunting isn't stopped.

We are now waiting for the Maltese Government to respond to the Commission's warning by officially declaring the end of spring hunting in Malta, for 2008 and beyond. To this aim, BirdLife Malta also sent open letters to the Prime Minister Dr Lawrence Gonzi and to the Leader of the Opposition Dr Alfred Sant asking them to state clearly their positions on spring hunting.

In the letter to the Prime Minister, BirdLife stated that in light of Dr Gonzi's recent positive statements on the protection of our natural environment, the Government should put words into action and decide in the best interest of the people of Malta and the EU, by banning spring hunting forever. In its letter to the Leader of the Opposition, BirdLife referred to conflicting statements and positions reiterated by various exponents of the Labour Party and called on Dr Sant to clarify his party's position without leaving room for further interpretation. BirdLife also called on Dr Sant to explain what his party would do if in Government: whether it would abide by EU legislation, as Dr Sant's statements seem to imply, or fight this out in court, as the statements made by Deputy Party Leader Dr Michael Falzon imply.

BirdLife Malta also ran a successful email campaign through which concerned citizens around the world sent emails to the Prime Minister urging him to respond to the Reasoned Opinion and call for an end to spring hunting once and for all.

update on government 'study'

Dr André Raine Conservation Manager



Significant numbers of Turtle Doves are killed or maimed while on their spring migration.
photo Denis Cachia

Spring hunting is illegal throughout the European Union and is in direct contravention of the Birds Directive. One of the reasons is that spring hunting kills wild birds before they are about to reproduce and increase their population. In Malta there is of course an alternative to the spring hunting of Turtle Dove and Common Quail, and this is the hunting of both species in autumn, when they pass over Malta in large numbers on their return migration to African wintering grounds.

The Maltese Government's response to the infringement proceeding opened by the European Commission was to begin an 'independent' and 'scientific' study to 'prove that there is no satisfactory alternative to spring hunting' as they claim there are not enough birds to shoot in autumn, a view not shared by the Commission. This 'study' has been on-going since spring 2007, using a methodology created initially by Prof. Jean Claude Ricci (closely affiliated to the French hunting fraternity) and co-ordinated in the field by an Italian, Dr Giuseppe Micali (closely affiliated to the Italian hunting fraternity). Dr Micali also has no academic qualification in ornithology. Furthermore the fieldwork is carried out predominantly by hunters.

BirdLife Malta and the British Trust for Ornithology have strongly criticised the study for its severely flawed and highly biased methodology. Indeed, at the outset, BirdLife Malta released two position papers on the study,

highlighting the many faults inherent in the methodology which would lead to seriously compromised data collection, with an obvious bias towards spring counts. Therefore, this study will not come to any scientific conclusions about the migration of Turtle Dove and Common Quail. All of the above was ignored by the Government, and the exercise went ahead regardless.

After the initial field season Prof. Ricci was removed from the study for unclarified "personal reasons", and was replaced by Prof. Thomaidis, a Greek researcher on huntable gamebirds. On a recent trip to Malta he agreed that there were many problems with the initial methodology and has since suggested that in the following spring (2008) a new - as yet unspecified - methodology be adopted. Switching methodologies from season to season and year to year is of course not scientifically sound and presents serious analytical issues. It is therefore doubtful whether this year's study will provide any useful results, something BirdLife has also pointed out on several occasions.

A report outlining the results of the spring study was initially due in September of this year. It has since been delayed. While the Maltese Government gives pro-environment messages, its insistence on wasting taxpayers' money on this flawed and biased study makes us question the Government's sincerity with regards to nature conservation in Malta.

illegal hunting

Dr André Raine Conservation Manager
Marija Schranz Communications Coordinator

Illegal hunting activity continues to be rife around the Maltese Islands. An indicator of the high level of illegal hunting is the number of injured and dead protected birds received at the BirdLife office throughout the year. These birds only represent the tip of the iceberg, as they have to escape the poacher who shot them, then be found by a member of the public or a birdwatcher, and ultimately delivered to BirdLife. The majority of injured birds simply starve to death in the countryside.

The total number of injured or dead protected birds with gunshot injuries brought in to the office since the beginning of the year to date stands at 76. All of these birds were independently assessed by a veterinarian and, where the injury was not too severe, a BirdLife volunteer attempted to rehabilitate them.

Since the opening of the autumn hunting season on September 1, BirdLife Malta received 24 shot birds belonging to 11 protected species. Of these individuals, 17 were birds of prey with the most common species being Honey-buzzards and Common Kestrel. Unfortunately most of these birds had to be euthanised. However, this autumn five birds have been rehabilitated and released. These

raptor camp

During Raptor Camp, the 57 international participants witnessed many incidents of illegal hunting activity. The high number of individuals present enabled BirdLife to effectively monitor 22 different locations in Malta and Gozo during the two weeks of Raptor Camp.

From data recorded during camp operations, 209 illegal hunting incidents were observed. Of these incidents, a total of 109 birds of 14 protected species were seen shot at and/or killed. These included 42 Honey-buzzards, 15 Marsh Harriers and 13 European Bee-eaters. Illegal hunting was recorded island-wide, with the three worst locations being Tas-Salib (Laferla Cross), Nadur Tower (Malta) and Girgenti, in that order.

Raptor Camp was widely covered in the local media and international press. On September 16, BirdLife held a press conference with the backing of all the international participants present. During the press conference a dead Honey-buzzard with gunshot injuries was presented to the media, along with a live but injured Honey-buzzard



An injured Night Heron
photo Marija Schranz

were a Common Kestrel, released at Ghadira in July, a Night Heron, released at Is-Simar in September, two Honey-buzzards, released on Comino in October, and another Common Kestrel, released on Comino in November. A third Common Kestrel and a Common Buzzard are still being rehabilitated.

A further 27 protected birds were brought in to the office suffering from injuries other than gunshot wounds and of these, 21 were successfully released back into the wild. These included Yelkouan and Cory's Shearwaters, Black-necked Grebes and a Scops Owl.



Raptor Camp participants monitoring bird migration.
photo Marija Schranz

(which was then successfully rehabilitated and released). Following this, three dead birds of prey were left (surrounded by piles of dung) at Nadur Tower by someone who intended - but failed - to scare off the team posted there.

tree-planting weekend

Marija Schranz Communications Coordinator

Back in 1997, as its millennium gift, BirdLife Malta undertook an ambitious project: re-creating a stretch of Mediterranean woodland for future generations of people and wildlife. This was the birth of Foresta 2000.

Foresta 2000 differs radically from the plantation groves spearheaded by MRAE in its 34U initiative. Foresta 2000



Thousands came to plant trees at Foresta 2000, not least the Italian ambassador Paolo Tralbalza (centre).
photo Victor Falzon

will be a wild stretch of mixed Mediterranean forest, with native flora providing food and shelter for birds and other fauna. Located on the south slope of Marfa Ridge, Foresta 2000 will cover an area roughly three times the size of Buskett.

In May 2007, Foresta 2000 made the news when on the night between the 8th and 9th criminals entered the site and destroyed 3000 young trees. This was a deliberate and methodical act with trees and shrubs uprooted, broken or sawn off one by one. The criminals are still at large. The reaction from the Maltese public was immediate and unprecedented. Support poured in, and the result was a massive tree-planting event held on October 26-28. Individuals, schools, groups and companies showed up and planted thousands of trees and shrubs at Foresta 2000. The weekend proved to be very popular with families who also visited Ghadira nature reserve and the EU LIFE Yelkouan Shearwater Project site at L-Ahrax tal-Mellieha. This weekend would not have been possible without the many volunteers who offered their time to BirdLife, as could be seen from the blue T-shirts dotting the landscape!

Foresta 2000 is a joint project by BirdLife Malta, Din l-Art Helwa and PARK.

ta' ċenċ

hands off ta' ċenċ

Tolga Temuge Executive Director

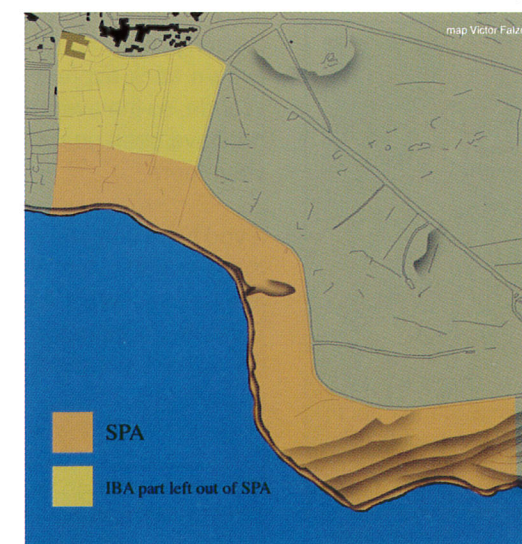
Despite its significant importance for breeding seabirds, other threatened species and rare endemic plants, Ta' Ċenċ is again under threat from a development proposal put forward by Victor J. Borg. Since he purchased a significant part of the land, Mr Borg has been trying to get permit to build villas, bungalows, a new hotel and a golf course in this area, which is one of Malta's last remaining unspoilt natural habitats.

Mr Borg is proposing to build a new hotel in an area designated as a Bird Sanctuary and Important Bird Area. The irony is that the very same area (see map at right) is subject to a pending infringement procedure opened by the European Commission against Malta. The reason is that the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) had failed to designate this land as a Special Protection Area as required by the EU. Furthermore, the proposed development of the

villas is to be located Outside Development Zone as defined in Maltese law.

This development proposal is unacceptable in so many ways that should the MEPA board accept it, it will not only violate Maltese legislation but also the main conservation Directives of the EU. Thanks to pressure from BirdLife and

other NGOs, MEPA's Planning Directorate last month recommended the refusal of this development proposal. As we go to print, the MEPA board had not yet taken a decision. However BirdLife remains committed to safeguarding this important natural heritage. We believe that with strength from our supporters we will pressure the Government to designate it as a 'Natura 2000 site and ensure its full protection.



'Natura 2000 is a European-wide ecological network that safeguards the most important natural habitats in the EU.

dinja wahda 2007 launched

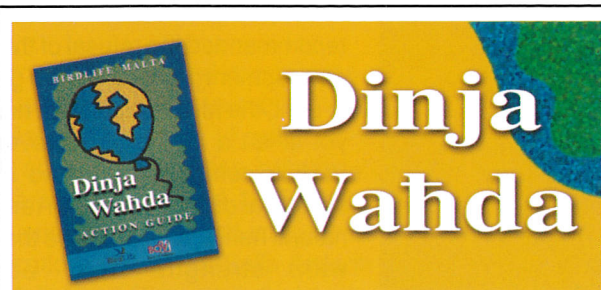
Marija Schranz
Communications Coordinator

This year Dinja Wahda (One World), BirdLife's environmental education programme for primary schools, has just got bigger!

Dinja Wahda aims to give students a firm grounding in environmental awareness through an innovative and entertaining approach, and has now expanded to include 30 different activities. Furthermore, from 2007 Dinja Wahda will run on a yearly basis rather than biennially. This is also thanks to Bank of Valletta which has become BirdLife's Education Partner on Dinja Wahda.

Dinja Wahda for 2007 was launched during an event for heads of school, teachers and students of all primary schools at Savio College Gymnasium, Had-Dingli on November 15. The turnout was excellent with some 75 schools represented.

During the launch, teachers had the opportunity to witness first-hand some of the activities found in the Action Guide (see box) which is distributed through Dinja Wahda. In one activity students made robin pom-poms while others hunted for 'litter' that had been scattered around the gym for them to collect and separate. In another activity students coloured a drawing of a lizard, gave it a name and promised never to hurt lizards, and a fourth group learned about the challenges of migration through a game from the activity Out of Africa.



action guide

The Dinja Wahda Action Guide is a practical 60-page teacher's handbook with step-by-step instructions about every Dinja Wahda activity. The Guide is also packed with aids, tips, visuals, lists and supplementary information. A copy of the Action Guide has been delivered to every primary school classroom.



The Action Guide is the main tool of the Dinja Wahda programme.
photo BirdLife Malta



Schoolchildren taking part in the Migration Game
photo BirdLife Malta

Many of those present at the launch congratulated BirdLife staff on the event and liked the idea of bringing students - over 150 of them - participating in the activities. The students themselves really enjoyed the morning while learning more about nature, and several schools have written back expressing their intention to take up Dinja Wahda, so the event's objective was reached! This would not have been possible were it not for the help of several volunteers.

If you have children of primary school age and would like them to participate in Dinja Wahda this year, ask their teacher to contact Albert Attard, BirdLife's Dinja Wahda Schools Coordinator. Mr Attard can be reached by email on albert.attard@birdlifemalta.org or phoning 21347644/5.

For more information about Dinja Wahda and the activities in the Action Guide, please visit the section with information for teachers on BirdLife's website www.birdlifemalta.org

their secrets revealed

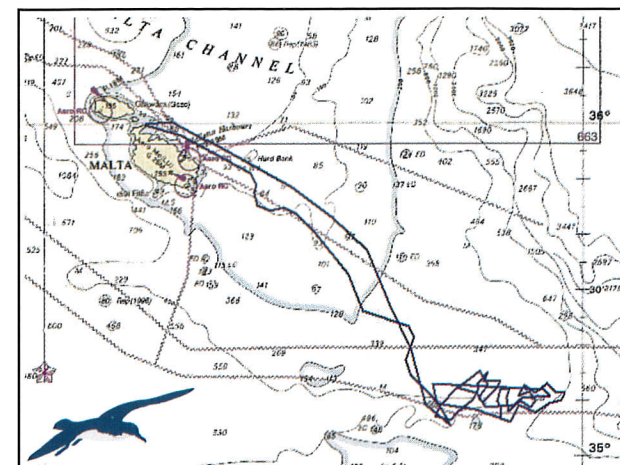
Helen Raine Project Manager

As part of the biggest conservation project of its kind in Malta, the EU LIFE Yelkouan Shearwater Project team has uncovered more about the secret world of Yelkouan Shearwaters by using sophisticated technology.

In June this year, the team recovered an electronic tag from a Yelkouan Shearwater at the project site, Rdum tal-Madonna (L-Ahrax tal-Mellieha). Experts from BirdLife Malta, BirdLife Portugal and the Armed Forces of Malta have now analysed the data from the bird and the results reveal some surprising behaviour.

After being tagged, the shearwater was at sea for nearly three full days, searching for food for its growing chick which remained on land, hidden deep in its burrow. During that time, the intrepid bird travelled well over 180km away from the Maltese islands to deep water to the south-east of Malta, which is equivalent of flying to Sicily and back. The speedy seabird achieved this in around seven hours. The bird spent most of its time in this area fishing, and dived 241 times in search of prey. In between periods of activity, the bird spent time sitting on the water, resting and preening, all of which was recorded by the tag. The team have plotted the bird's movements on a map (see below) as it headed towards North Africa and back to its breeding grounds here in Malta.

This data is incredibly valuable. Previously, no-one had any idea where Yelkouan Shearwaters went to fish when they were feeding their chicks, so this is a first for Malta and is of international interest. This information is not only important to protect these seabirds but also the marine environment, which is under threat from overfishing and pollution. More information on the behaviour of several different birds is needed before we can identify the most important marine areas for the birds, but these initial findings are an excellent start.



The map shows the tagged shearwater's movements from Malta to its feeding grounds and back.



Yelkouan Shearwater
photo Frank Dhermain

The LIFE project team scientists will continue with the tagging work in the coming season. This time they hope to use satellite tags to monitor the maritime journeys of these wide-ranging birds, which will be another first in the Maltese Islands.

The electronic tracking programme is only one part of the team's arsenal to ensure we track down the feeding grounds of these cryptic seabirds. One of the groups who know most about the sea and seabirds are fishermen. The project is fortunate to have the Malta Centre for Fisheries Sciences as a key partner and they have been approaching local fishermen to ask for their help. Several fishermen have already offered to take observers on their boats to track the birds' movements and behaviour. The team are delighted to have had such a positive response from the fishing community.

For more information about the Yelkouan Shearwater project, visit our updated website www.lifeshearwaterproject.org.mt



Boat-based observations help us build a better picture.
photo Helen Raine



The discovery of a huge flock of Sociable Lapwings gives hope for the species's future.
photo Maxim Koshkin

sociable lapwing lives up to its name

BirdLife International

Thanks to a single satellite tag, a 3000-strong flock of Sociable Lapwing has been discovered in Turkey - the largest seen for more than 100 years. "By tracking a single bird from its Kazakh breeding grounds, we have found the location of most of the world population of these birds in Turkey," announced Guven Eken, Executive Director of Doga Dernegi (BirdLife Turkey).

The finding represents another significant rise in fortune for the Critically Endangered bird: almost five years ago, as few as 400 Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius* were thought to exist globally. The birds were found in the Ceylanpinar district of south-eastern Turkey after a satellite tag was fitted to one of the birds migrating from breeding grounds in Kazakhstan earlier this year. The tagged bird covered 3200km, flying north of the Caspian Sea, then down through the Caucasus and south into Turkey, where it effectively stopped. On investigation in October this year, conservationists from Doga Dernegi found that the tagged bird was part of a flock of 1800 other lapwing. The following day a staggering 3200 Sociable Lapwing were observed at the site.

"Sociable Lapwings are finally living up to their name" said Mr Eken. Conservationists from a number of nations (nearly all BirdLife Partners) have been working to conserve Sociable Lapwing in recent years, by coordinating their actions on the ground, focusing their efforts to conserve wintering sites, stopover sites and breeding sites along the species's flyways. This coordinated action has included research and protection of breeding sites in Kazakhstan by the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity (ACBK), actions to protect

wintering and stopover sites in Turkey and Syria (being undertaken by Doga Dernegi, the Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon and BirdLife's Middle East Division), all assisted by research coordinated by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (BirdLife UK).

"Understanding the migration from breeding sites in Kazakhstan is essential for the future protection of this species, so the news of such a large flock is a great cause for celebration," commented Maxim Koshkin of ACBK.

"This discovery is something we didn't dare dream of," said the RSPB's Dr Rob Sheldon, responsible for tagging the bird in Kazakhstan. "The Sociable Lapwing is one of the rarest birds on earth and suddenly it's been found in these large numbers. It shows just how important both Kazakhstan and Turkey have become for the survival of this species. The next step is to protect the bird, both on its breeding grounds and at all the key sites on its migration route."

Where the birds go next is unclear: "They could still move on to Iraq or East Africa but if they stay in Turkey, it will be much easier to make them safe. We can keep an eye on them here, raise awareness amongst local people and work with the Turkish government to protect the areas they are using," said Özge Balkız, a scientist from Doga Dernegi.

The tagging project is partly paid for by the UK government's Darwin Initiative and conservationists from Britain and Kazakhstan hope to win new funds to tag more birds next summer.

our volunteers

Marija Schranz Communications Co-ordinator

The scope and reach of BirdLife Malta's work would be tremendously limited were it not for the sterling contribution of our volunteers. For this issue we chose to focus on two very special volunteers who, among other things, worked like crazy to make sure Raptor Camp 2007 was the success that it was, and who are always among the first to reply to a call for help with injured birds.

Stefan Azzopardi and Jean Paul Fiott both joined BirdLife when they were children. Today, Stefan is a University student and Jean Paul works for a Government entity. Both share a passion for birdwatching and they clearly love volunteering. Stefan says that the satisfaction he gets from volunteering is priceless, especially when he sees the tangible results of his efforts, such as helping to recreate Foresta 2000 in one weekend, watching birds of prey fly safely over the Islands, or releasing a rehabilitated injured bird back into the wild.

Jean Paul remarks that it is his love for birds and nature that urges him to do his part to stop birds from being shot or trapped. His experience in this year's autumn Raptor Camp was a turning point for him as he witnessed first hand that many foreigners care about the situation in Malta and wish to help. In fact, illegal hunting this autumn diminished drastically, also thanks to the many volunteers participating in Raptor Camp.

Thinking back on their volunteering so far, Stefan recalls helping with the ringing of close to 400 birds on Comino in a single day with ringer Dr André Raine and says this was one of his most thrilling experiences. Jean Paul, on the other hand, talks about a stand-off with poachers in Miżieb, a poachers' stronghold. On that occasion, Raptor Camp participants wearing BirdLife T-shirts bore down on the area to prevent the poachers gathered there from shooting down birds of prey flying overhead.

Both Stefan and Jean Paul reckon that their most exhilarating experience so far was the night they guarded the Black Storks. They had been informed that four Black Storks had managed to roost at Buskett - a first for Malta. The activists' intention was to ensure that the storks would

be safe from poachers that night. Jean Paul eventually took up the watch and spent the entire night under the tree where the storks were roosting. Each time poachers attempted to approach, he flashed his torch in their direction and sent them packing. The next morning the storks made it safely over Had-Dingli and out to sea. Mission accomplished!

Stefan and Jean Paul are two of our great activists, and their experiences make them all the more fascinating!



Stefan with an injured Common Kestrel at the vet's.
photo Rob Buiter

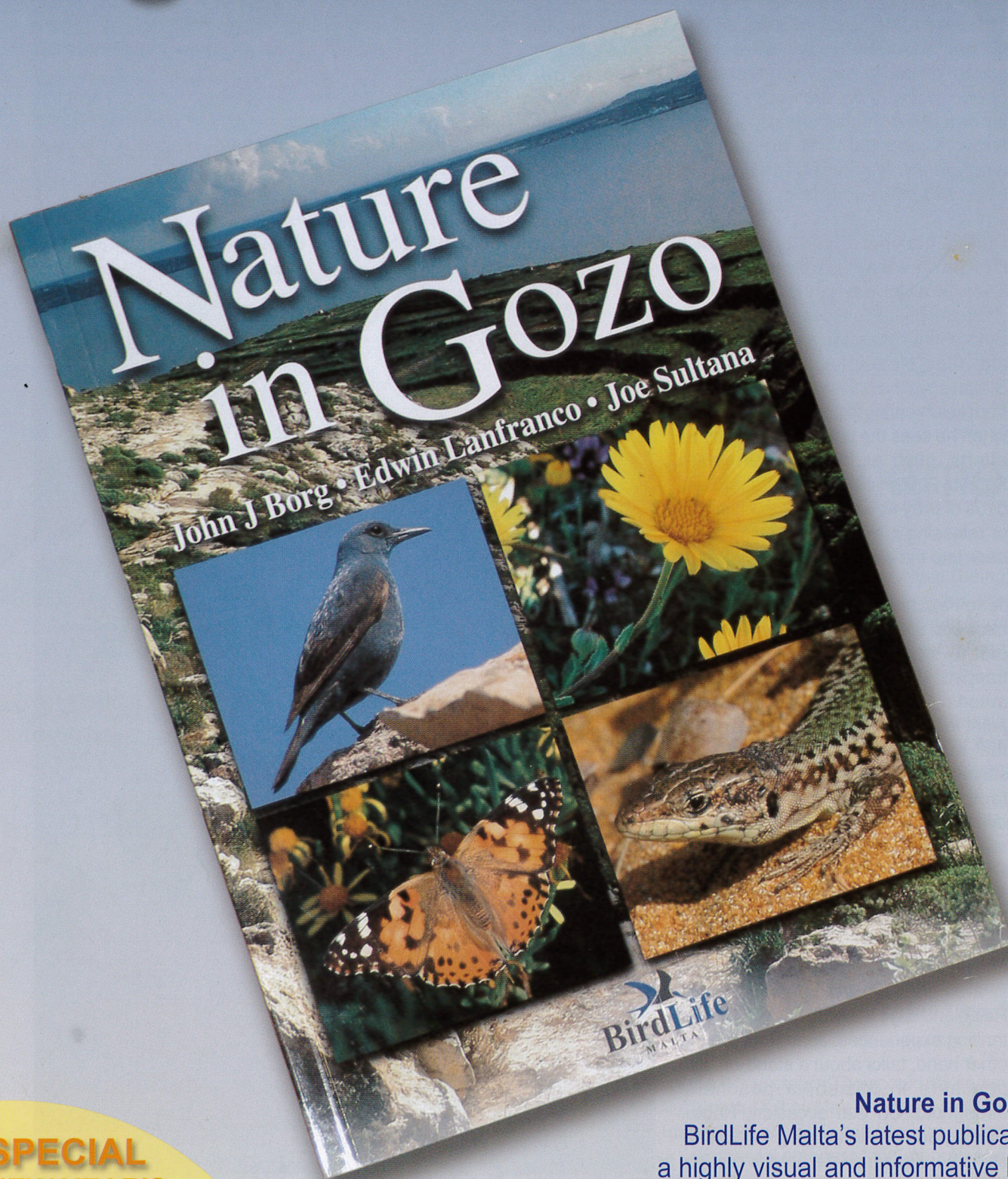


Jean Paul on duty during Raptor Camp 2007.
photo Rob Buiter

vol call

Would you like to become a BirdLife volunteer? BirdLife needs your help. If you're willing to give some of your time for conservation, write to marija.schranz@birdlifemalta.org to see how you can get involved, and at the same time build up an archive of wonderful experiences and memories.

a tribute to a great little island



**SPECIAL
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Nature in Gozo is BirdLife Malta's latest publication, a highly visual and informative book about the natural richness of Malta's sister island. With **400 colour photographs** covering **283 species**, and the combined knowledge of **three leading naturalists**, it is a must for all who cherish our country's natural diversity.

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And DON'T miss our SPECIAL OFFER!

Call BirdLife for a copy. The book is also for sale at Ghadira and Is-Simar nature reserves, and from leading bookshops.