

Il-Ħuttafa

Numru 154

Settembru – Ottubru 2019

Kuċċarda



€2 għal min mhux membru



Il-magażin ta' Klabb Ħuttaf





mill-editor

Jekk tmur timxi fix-xagħri kmieni fil-harifa għandek mnejn issibha.



Din hija **xewka tal-mixta**, (ground thistle), pjanta stramba li tkabbar il-fjura čatta fl-art flok fuq zokk.

Ħbieb Ħuttaf . . .



Din is-sena Klabb Ħuttaf jagħlaq **50 sena!** Mela xiex! Klabb Ħuttaf twieled fl-1969. Dak iż-żmien il-BirdLife kien jisimha Malta Ornithological Society (MOS fil-qosor) u fost il-membri tagħha kien hemm grupp żgħażaġh akkaniti għall-għasafar u n-natura.



Għalhekk l-MOS waqqfet il-**Young Members Section** (YMS fil-qosor) u bdiet toħroġ ittraħbar għalihom u torganizza ħarġiet apposta għall-membri tal-YMS. Jien niftakarhom sew dawk il-ħarġiet, u mnalla kont immurhom għax tgħallimt ħafna fuq in-natura u għamilt ħbieb ġodda.

Ftit ftit il-YMS ždiedet fil-membri u žiedet il-ħarġiet. Fis-snin Tmenin il-YMS sar jisimha **MOS Youths** (MOSY fil-qosor) u fis-snin Disgħin saret **Klabb Ħuttaf**.



Dik l-ittraħbar ukoll inbidlet maż-żmien. Kibret, židnielha l-paġni, qalbet għall-kulur... u saret **Il-Ħuttafa!** Yaaayyyy!

Il-ahwa! Mela jekk baqghu hajjin dawk is-siġar illum għandhom 42 sena!

Victor
Victor Falzon L-Editor



Jannar 1977. Membri tal-YMS ihawlu s-siġar fid-Dwejra (Għawdex)

Kuččarda Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*
Il-kuččarda hija tajra tal-priża li spiss naraw f'Malta. Dan l-għasfur ma jbejjitx f'pajjiżna imma xorta ngawduh għax fir-rebbiegħa u fil-harifa ħafna kuččard ipassi minn fuqna. Dawk li jaslu tard wara nofsinhar ma jkomplux sejrjn imma jinżlu jorqdu f'siġar kbar (spečjalment fil-Buskett) u l-ghada jkomplu l-vjaġġ. Għalkemm imħares bil-liġi, ħafna kuččard jinqatel mill-kaččaturi.



Ritratt ta' Raymond Galea



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Kitbu f'dil-ħarġa

Martina Brancato (National Aquarium), Desirée Falzon, Victor Falzon, Marie Vella (BOV)

Klabb

Klabb Ħuttaf is the junior section (-18yrs) of BirdLife Malta. Members can attend many activities, including walks, visits to nature reserves, boat trips and environmental work. Members received by post the bi-monthly magazine *Il-Ħuttafa*. Families too can become members, and will then also receive the quarterly adult members' magazine *Bird's Eye View*. Subscription is €10 per annum for Klabb Ħuttaf and €29 for Family.

Kuntatt

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Kanġu mhux ta' Filfla!

Il-kanġu ta' Filfla huwa għasfur żgħir skur b'dabra bajda fuq dahru. Jgħix haġtu kollha fuq il-baħar u kull sena ħafna kanġi jbejtu fuq Filfla (għalhekk jismu hekk).

Nhar il-Ħadd 25 t'Awwissu 2019 filghodu grupp berdwocers tal-BirdLife kienu fuq dgħajsa xi 5km 'l barra minn Marsaskala. Kienu qed josservaw it-tajr tal-baħar iħuf hdejn xi fishfarms. F'in minnhom il-ħabib tagħna Martin Austad lemaħ kanġu f'it ikbar mill-oħrajn u mingħajr dik id-dabra bajda, li s-soltu tidher sew. Urih lil sħabu u b'eċitament kbir ikkonfermaw li dan kien **Swinhoe's storm petrel** (*Oceanodroma monorhis*). X'ma jkunux eċitati! Dan l-għasfur is-soltu jħuf f'ibhra fl-inħawi taċ-Ċina u l-Ġappun – fil-Mediterran deher biss erba' darbiet. U issa tfaċċa Malta wkoll! Prosit Martin!

Il-BirdLife semmiet din l-ispeċi ġdida **kanġu tal-lvant**.

Grazzi!!! Raymond Galea tat-tagħrif.



Il-kanġu ta' Filfla għandu dabra bajda tispikka fuq dahru.

Grazzi !

Il-Fluttafa ssellem lil **Ray Vella** li għal 15-il sena kien ir-*ranger* ta' Foresta 2000. F'idejn Ray, Foresta 2000 minn ħolma saret vera. Fiha ħawwel, saqqa u kkura eluf ta' sigar u arbuxxelli. Is-sigar qed jikbru u llum igawduhom ħafna insetti, għasfar u animali oħra li jsibu kenn u ikel f'dal-bosk żagħżuġh. Qed igawduhom ukoll ħafna nies li jmorru passiġġata, u mijiet ta' studenti li kull sena jmorru hemm jagħmlu *fieldwork* – forsi inti stess mort xi darba mal-klassi.

Ray issa rtira mix-xogħol. Grazzi ta' kollox Ray!

Parrotzilla!

Fi New Zealand sabu fossili ta' pappagall enormi. Bil-wieqfa kien twil metru, jiżen xi 7kg u aktarx ma kienu itir. Kien jgħix xi 19-il miljun sena ilu. Semmewh *Heracles inexpectatus*. Dan bla dubju huwa l-ikbar speċi ta' pappagall li nafu biha.



Pretty Polly!

Birds of Malta

A memory game from BirdLife Malta

€9.75

Available from BirdLife outlets or online at www.birdlifemalta.org



Dik tajba biex toqghod tilgħabha waqt ġurnata xita mgeddsin ġewwa...

...b'magg *hot chocolate* u pakkett gallettini tal-krema.

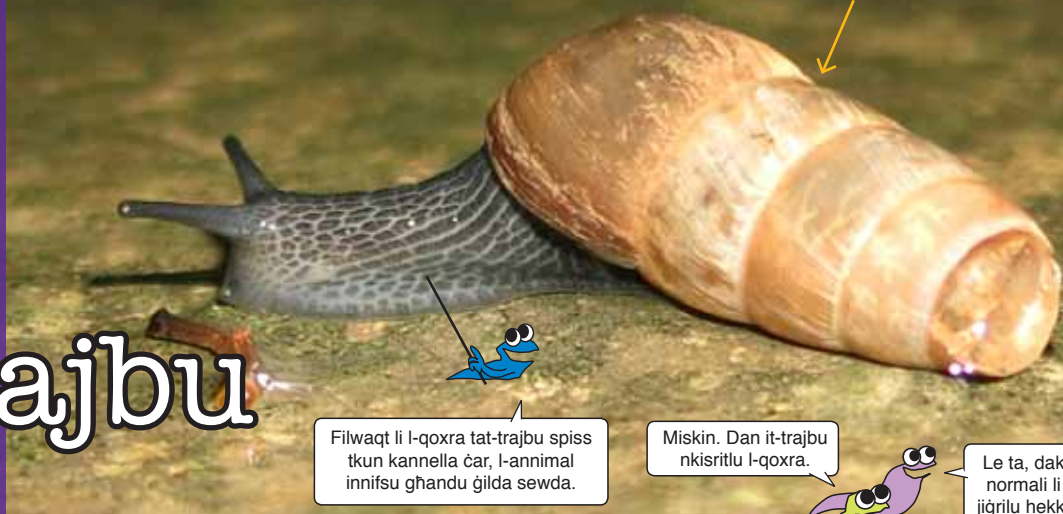
Meta ssemmi l-bebbux hafna nies jaħsbu biss fil-ħsara li jagħmel lill-qsari li forsi jkollhom fil-bitha. Imma l-bebbux ukoll għandu postu fin-natura. Hawnhekk nagħtu daqqa t'għajn lejn it-trajbu, tip ta' bebbuxu li għandu xogħol speċjali fil-ġnien.

it-Trajbu

Desirée Falzon

isem bl-Ingliż **Decollate snail**
Isem xjentifiku **Rumina decollata**

It-trajbu tagħrfu mill-ewwel mill-forma tal-qoxra tawwalija qisha ċilindru, differenti hafna mill-bebbux l-iehor li naraw fil-ġnien.



Filwaqt li l-qoxra tat-trajbu spiss tkun kannella ċar, l-annimal innifsu għandu ġilda sewda.

Miskin. Dan it-trajbu nkisritu l-qoxra.

Le ta, dak normali li jġirilu hekk!

Dieta speċjali!

Filwaqt li l-biċċa l-kbira tal-bebbux jiekol haxix u weraq, it-trajbu huwa **karnivoru!** Dal-bebbuxu jhuf il-ġonna u l-btiehi tagħna u jfittex annimali oħrajn għall-ikel, fosthom bebbux iehor, bugħarwien (*slugs*) kif ukoll il bajd tagħhom. Għalhekk jekk ikollok trajbi fil-ġnien se jzommulek il-popolazzjoni tal-bebbux milli tinfirex bla kontroll. It-trajbu jaf jiekol ffit haxix ukoll.



Heqq, salad hux!



Trajbu għadu ferh

Qoxra shiha

Jibda shih!

Meta t-trajbu jkun għadu żgħir il-qoxra tiegħu tiġi għall-ponta. Huwa u jikber, it-trajbu jhokk mal-ġebel u z-zkuk u jtajjar il-biċċa ta' fuq u ma jibqax bil-ponta. B'hekk il-forma tiġi qisha ċilindru. Għaliex jiġri dan? Hadd ma jaf!

Ambjent umdu

Bhall-bebbux l-iehor tal-art it-trajbu għandu bżonn iżomm niedi, inkella jmut. Johroġ mill-qoxra biss bil-lejl jew fix-xita, u l-bqija jhaffer 'l isfel fil-hamrija. Fi żmien ta' nixfa kapaċi jagħlaq il-fetha tal-qoxra billi johloq 'għatu' minn bzieq speċjali li jagħqad u jsakkar il-fetha. B'hekk it-trajbu jzomm ġewwa umdu.



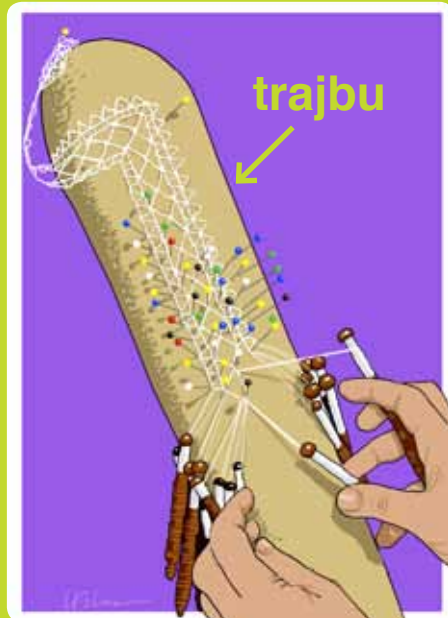
Kif nista' ngħin lit-trajbu?

Tajjed li jkollok tahlita ta' bebbux fil-ġnien jew il-bitha għax kollha għandhom xogħolhom u posthom fin-natura. Sib qasirja mdaqqa, imla nofsa bil-hamrija u n-nofs l-iehor bi zkuk u haxix, u zommha mxarrba. B'hekk it-trajbu jkollu fejn jistkenn halli jkompli jaqdi lin-natura u lilek.

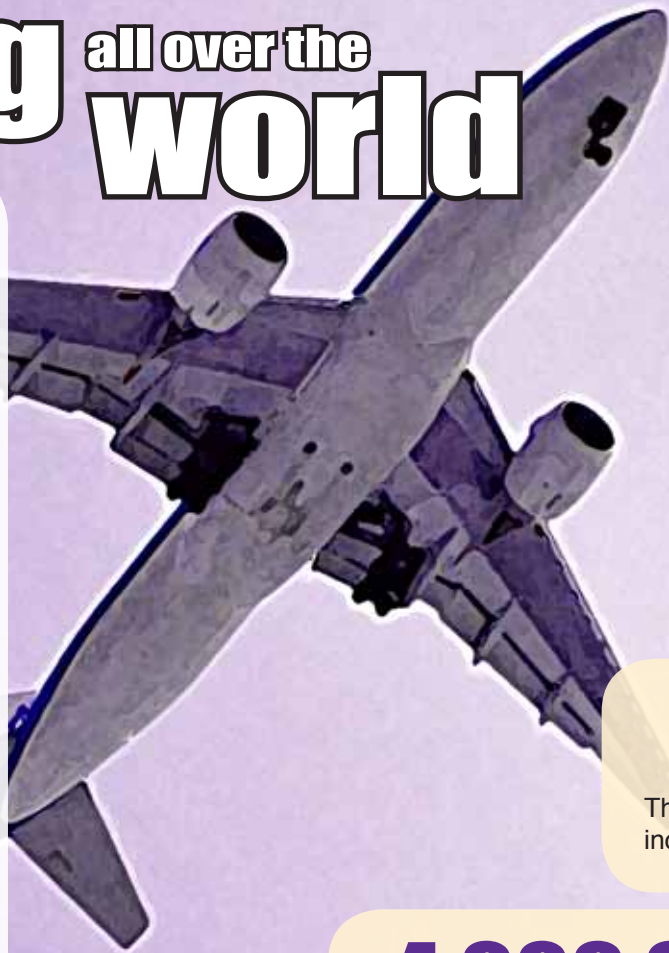


Għaliex jismu hekk?

L-isem **trajbu** ġej mill-forma tal-qoxra, li tixbah dak it-tubu tal-*brown paper* li jaħdmu l-bizzilla fuqu biċ-ċombini, li wkoll jgħidulu trajbu.



Flying all over the world



Air tickets are so cheap today! Planes fly so fast, so you get to spend more time enjoying your holiday. And flying is so exciting, up there looking at the world from over the clouds!

That's why every year more and more people travel by plane, and they go to fantastic faraway places on the other side of the world – Thailand, Perù, Bora Bora!

But did you know that flying is a big problem for the environment? The problem is air pollution. Planes use lots and lots of fuel, and their fumes are adding many gases that cause climate change.

16,000

The number of planes flying in the air at any moment.

300%

That's how much air travel has increased since 1990.

4,000,000,000

Four billion! That's how many people fly on a plane every year. That's more than ten million every day!

640kg

That's how much **carbon dioxide (CO₂)** a plane produces on **one flight** from Malta to London and back... **for each passenger!** That's as much CO₂ as you would produce with 900 laundry washes... or 330 days of non-stop watching TV!

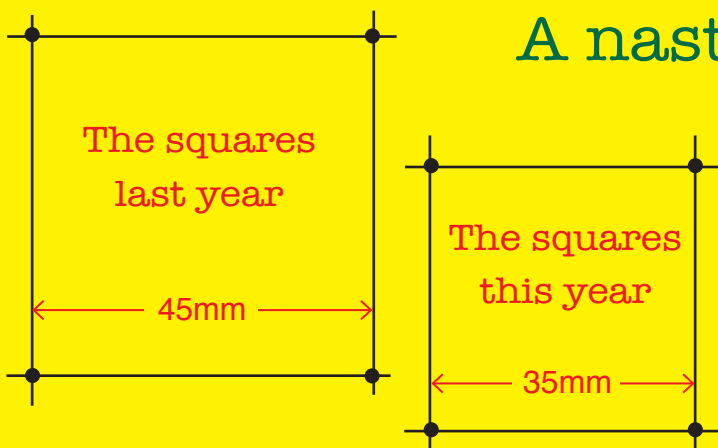
Some people feel bad about polluting the air when they travel on planes. So they try to use less planes and more trains, because trains are much cleaner than planes. In Sweden, less people used planes this year than last year, and the people using trains doubled!

To find how much pollution you are producing in your flight, use the *Carbon Footprint Calculator* at this website <https://flygrn.com/offset-carbon>



A nasty surprise for birds!

The season for trapping song thrushes (*mlievez*) and golden plovers (*pluvieri*) has opened again, and it's sad news for birds. There's a nasty surprise too, because now the trappers can use finer nets. That means the squares in the new nets are smaller, and what does that mean? It means many more birds will be caught, of course. And smaller birds like hawfinch (*taż-żebbuġ*) too.



Why are people so horrid to nature?



Heyyy Huttifers,

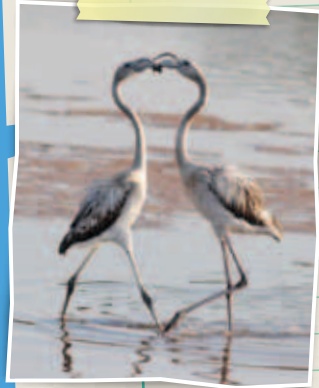
Amy here! How is school? I wasn't very happy to go back, but now I'm actually enjoying it! It's nice to be with my school friends again. But I do miss the beach (and the ice-creams)! I do not have so much free time anymore, but Mum and Dad always seem to find fun activities for us to do during the weekend.

Last week it was grey and a little rainy, so I was a little surprised to see that Dad was heading towards Għadira. But instead of going to the beach, we went to the Għadira Nature Reserve. Who knew what an amazing place there is just across the road from the beach!

Last year, my whole family became a Klabb Huttaf member, just so that I could keep on receiving "Il-Huttafa" magazine. In fact, I was going to use **Donny's** money. (**Donny is my good piggy-bank, I collect money for donations**). But Mum looked into it and said she would be happy to pay for all of us so I could keep Donny's money for some other worthy cause!



Turns out Klabb Huttaf members get invited to loads of fun nature related activities. So there I was, binoculars in hand, trying to figure out what the huge grey bird strolling right in front of us was. Who knew young Flamingos are grey?! Then off we went into the reserve, trying to spot the chameleon in tree branches and frogs in the pond.



Between you and me, I wasn't too keen on the creepy crawlers in our path, but the BirdLife Crew showed us that getting up close to them wasn't as scary at all if you are gentle. They helped us understand how nocturnal creatures cannot see very well in the dark, so they use their senses to find their way around and gather food. So we closed our eyes, and used our noses to identify different foods, and our voices and ears to find 'moths' just like bats.

BTW, aren't **BATS** the coolest?! I got to see loads of them at Għadira! It was getting dark, so they were waking up and super hungry! Our guide had this wicked device that can hear the bats' voices and turn them into noises that we could hear.



I really did not feel like leaving, but I was getting hungry so we walked back to the Hide to say goodbye. Before we left we even got a funky wooden pencil box complete with colours, eraser and sharpener! I was just wondering why it says "BOV for Kids", then they said that the gift was from Bank of Valletta who wanted to help BirdLife encourage more kids connect with nature.

'Just in time for school' Mum said... As if I wanted to be reminded of school during the weekend... But then Dad pointed out that it would replace the stationery I lost on the last day of school. So I didn't have to use emergency money for my piggy-bank **Sosy**! Thank you BOV!



SOSY

Peace out,
Amy

Here come the

Raptors

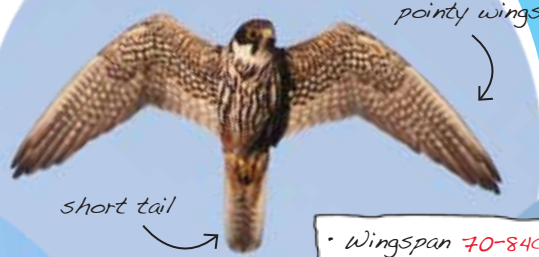
Raptors is another name for **birds of prey** (*tajr tal-priza*). We get lots of different raptors in Malta but most of them don't stay long because they don't live here. They only visit while they're doing their famous migration. Birds of prey don't like to migrate over the sea, so if they spot islands on the way they pass over those.

Did someone call me?

Sorry, not your kind of raptor!

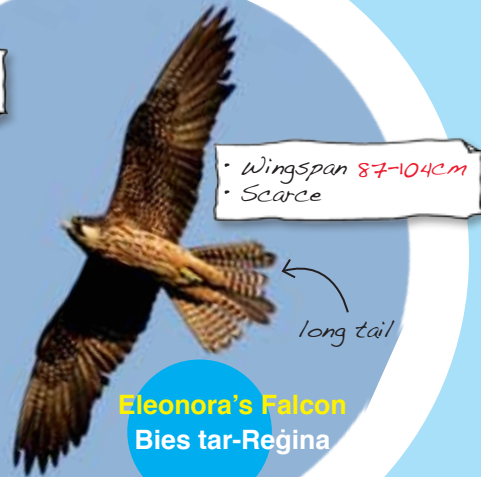
velociraptor

Here are seven magnificent raptors that bird lovers enjoy watching in autumn. At first they look a bit alike but look closer and you'll spot many differences.



Hobby
Seqer tal-Ħannieqa

- Wingspan 70-84cm
- Common



Eleonora's Falcon
Bies tar-Regina

- Wingspan 87-104cm
- Scarce

In these pictures the birds all look the same size but they're not really. Check those wingspans!

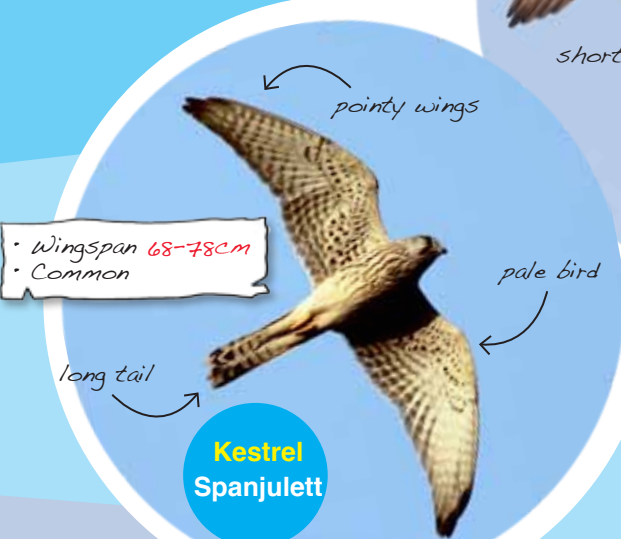
Raptors are not always easy to watch because they often fly high up. You need **binoculars** to see the details and to really enjoy birds of prey.

A great place to enjoy birds of prey is **Buskett**. That's because the tired birds often land in the old trees for a nice long sleep!

The best way to learn to identify birds of prey is to have an expert friend near you. So if you want to be a raptor fan, make sure you stay in **BirdLife** because that's where all the bird experts are!

And me! Don't forget me! I'm the bird on the front cover and I'm a raptor too! What am I?

You are a



Kestrel
Spanjulett

- Wingspan 68-78cm
- Common



Sparrowhawk
Sparvier

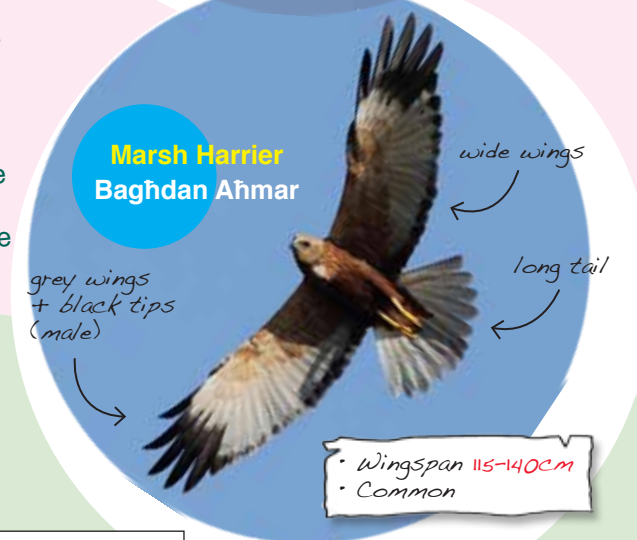
- Wingspan 58-80cm
- Scarce



Black Kite
Astun Iswed

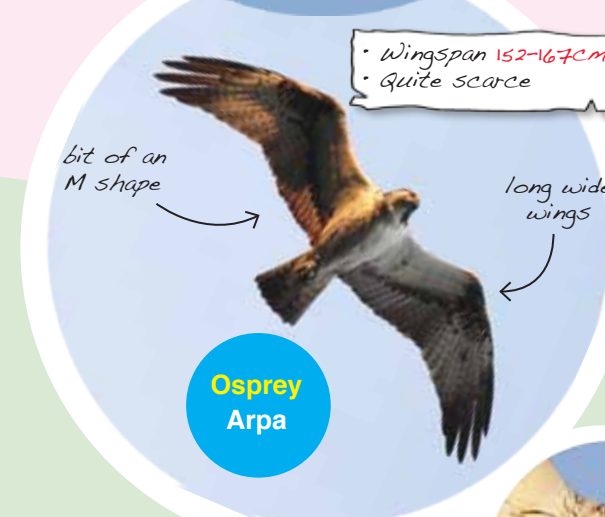
- Wingspan 130-155cm
- A bit scarce

These tips are called "fingers"



Marsh Harrier
Baghdan Aħmar

- Wingspan 115-140cm
- Common



Osprey
Arpa

- Wingspan 152-167cm
- Quite scarce

Russett Griż

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*



Ritratt ta' Aron Tanti mehud fir-riserva naturali tal-Ghadira



BirdLife
MALTA



YOURS TO DISCOVER

THE AMAZON

The Amazon rainforest is the largest tropical forest in the world. It is found in South America and if we would lay the Amazon out over the United States, it would cover over half of it!

One million people live in the Amazon forest. They are divided in about 400 tribes.

It is also called "The Lung of the Earth" because it produces lots of the oxygen we need to breathe.

The Amazon river is the second largest river in the world - it is 6,400 km (4000 miles) long!



40,000 types of plants and 3,000 different types of insects live there.

More than 3,000 species of fish live in the Amazon River.

The red belly piranhas are carnivorous fish. They have very pointy and sharp teeth!



Pacu fish are the cousins of piranhas and they have flat teeth instead like ours!

The Silver Arowana is also called jumping fish as it can jump out of water to catch its food!



Unfortunately the Amazon rainforest is burning at the moment and it means that a lot of the species mentioned above are losing their home...

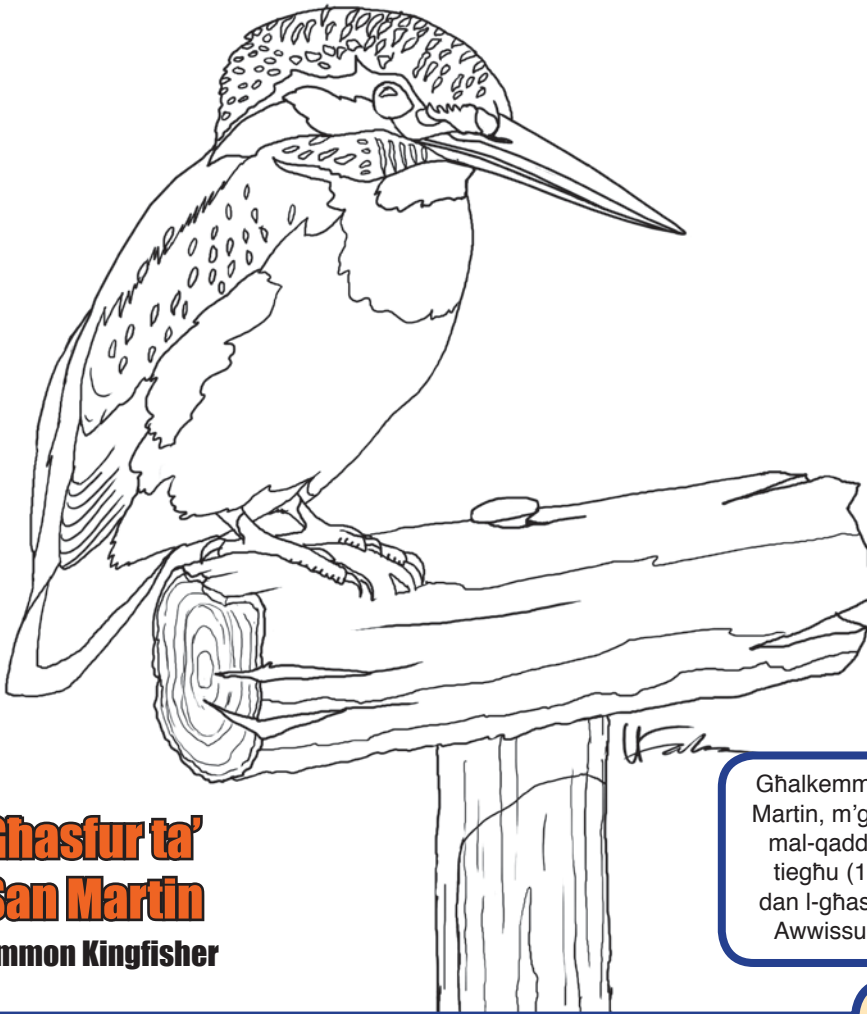
IS THERE SOMETHING WE CAN DO TO HELP?



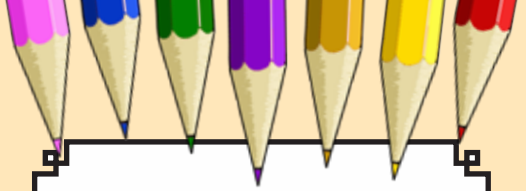
Contact: info@aquarium.com.mt
WWW.AQUARIUM.COM.MT

Aghriha l-kulur...

Victor Falzon



Ghasfur ta' San Martin
Common Kingfisher



Jekk tmur sar-riservi naturali tal-Ghadira jew Is-Simar dal-weekend u tghaddi ftit hin fil-hajds ghandek cans tajjeb li tara dan l-ghasfur tal-genn!

Ghalkemm jghidulu Ta' San Martin, m'ghandux x'jaqsam mal-qaddis jew mal-festa tieghu (11 Nov). F'Malta dan l-ghasfur narawh minn Awwissu sar-rebbiegha.



Aron Tanti

Ghal taghrif u avvizi fuq attivitajiet tal-BirdLife zuru l-websajt www.birdlifemalta.org/events/



Jekk ghandek tpingija tan-natura li trid ingibuhielek fil-magazin ibghatha hawn: education@birdlifemalta.org



Gecko
Kyle Vella (11)

Kull xahar in-nies jarmu 40 biljun flixkun tal-plastik! Bizzejjed biex tibni muntanja bhal din!

Inti qed izzid ma' dil-muntanja?

It-Torri Eiffel (324m)

**WHAT KIND OF TREE FITS IN YOUR HAND?
A PALM TREE!**





Victor Falzon

Id-Durrajsa

Iċ-ċuqlajta tal-kampanja

Għasfur żgħir li lanqas tinduna bih...
sakemm jibda jgħanni!



Munqar goff

"Mustaċċi"!

M'għandhiex kuluri
jispikkaw. Tixbah sew lil
għasfur tal-bejt mara.

Ħafna tikek u strixxi
skuri fuq sidirha

Isem xjentifiku *Emberiza calandra*
Isem bl-Ingliż **Corn Bunting**
Daqs **16-17ċm** Piż **38-55g**
Ikel **insetti, żrieragħ, dud**
Ħabitat **Beraħ, raba' maħdum, xagħri**
Status **Residenti u tbejjet, naqset**
ħafna f'dawn l-aħħar 20 sena.



Jekk trid titgħalliem iktar fuq
l-għasafar li jbejtu f'Malta
**The Breeding Birds of
Malta** huwa l-ktieb għalik.
Għall-bejgħ mill-BirdLife u
xi hwienet tal-kotba.

Joe Sultana



Id-daqs proprju ta' bajda tad-durrajsa ▶



Id-durrajsa tibni l-bejta fl-art, moħbija sew qalb ħaxix niexef. Fiha l-mara tbid minn tlieta sa sitt bajdiet, li jfaqqsu wara xi 13-il ġurnata. Kif jidher fir-ritratt, il-frieħ ikollhom kamuflaxx tajjed ħafna

Biex tgħanni, id-durrajsa tħobb titperreċ x'imkien fl-għoli, bħal wajers tad-dawl u arbli. Id-durrajsa m'għandhiex għanja melodjuża (ħoss ta' xi ħadd qed iċekċek mazz ċwievet!) imma hija għanja prezzjuża għax tant sar rari li tismaghha.



Matthew Borg Cardona

Victor Falzon



Peress li l-bejta tad-durrajsa tkun fl-art, il-bajd u l-frieħ tagħha spiss isibhomlha u jkolhomlha s-serp iswed.

Victor Falzon



Ix-Xagħra l-Ħamra, fil-Park tal-Majjstral, hija waħda mill-ftit postijiet f'Malta fejn id-durrajsa għadha tbejjet.

How to be a goo

Victor Falzon

What you need



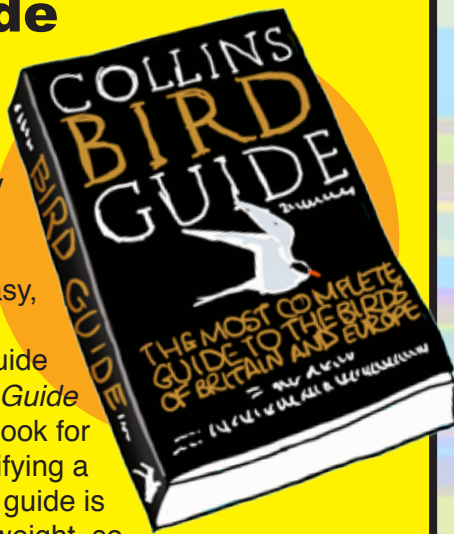
Binoculars

You really need binoculars if you want to be a birdwatcher.

Birds are very shy and won't let you go near them. And many of them are really small. With a good pair of binoculars you will see them up close and you'll enjoy all their lovely detail and behaviour. Without disturbing them!

Field guide

More than 400 species of birds have so far been seen in Malta. Many of them are easy to tell apart, but many others are not so easy, and some are really hard. A good field guide like the *Collins Bird Guide* will tell you what to look for when trying to identify a mystery bird. A field guide is also small and lightweight, so you can take it with you out in the countryside.



Notebook

You don't need a notebook to see birds and to identify them. But keeping a diary of what you see is a good habit because it will help you get used to the birds of the different seasons and different places you visit. Keeping record is also very good science.



Everyone can be a birdwatcher.

You don't need to be an expert or a scientist, or even a grown-up. If you're **curious** about the birds around you, you're ready to become a birdwatcher.

Get your tools ready.

To start off you need **binoculars** and a **field guide** (see the yellow box). They can be a bit expensive but hey! you only buy them once, and they can serve you many years. You need to look after them, though, so don't bang your binoculars about, or use your field guide as an umbrella.

Find a nice birdsy place

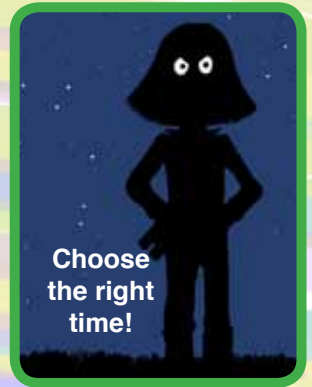
Now find a nice place to watch birds. Luckily birds turn up in all sorts of places – they even snoop around our homes. Spanish sparrows are always on the look out for food that we drop, and Sardinian warblers too live around people's homes. In winter they are joined by robins and starlings and black redstarts. So you can birdwatch even out of your bedroom window.

But of course to see more birds you need to get out. Thanks to BirdLife, today there are nature reserves that you can visit for some easy birdwatching. At our nature reserves like Għadira, Is-Simar and Salina you can use special rooms called **hides** where you can sit cosy and hidden so birds won't spot you while you're busy



Make your phone shut up!

d birdwatcher



spotting herons and grebes and sandpipers. Places like Foresta 2000 and Buskett are good spots for woodland birds.

Keep still. Keep quiet.

Birds are very shy of people, so when you're out birdwatching don't do crazy things that will scare them away. Don't shout, wave or run about. Keep as still as you can and when you move do it slowly. And make sure your phone is on quiet mode.

If you scare a bird and it flies away it won't come back any time soon. Don't chase it.

Be invisible.

Be careful where you sit. Find a spot where you don't stick out. If there's a wall sit behind it not on top of it. Trees and shrubs are also good places to hide behind.

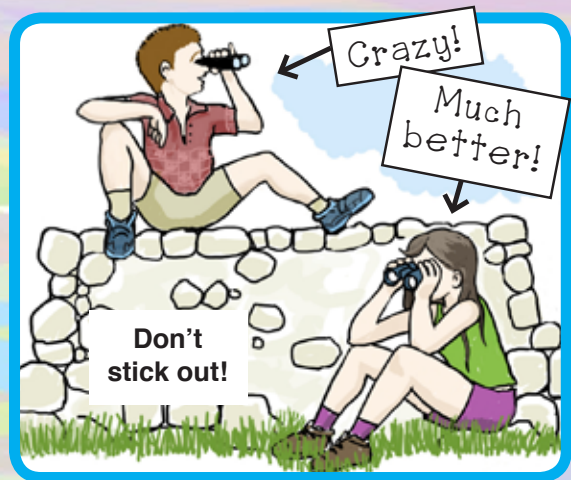
Don't wear bright clothes. Greens, greys, browns and blacks are best so that you'll be camouflaged, like a chameleon.

Be comfy.

Make sure you don't wear too much or too little. A good idea is to wear clothes in layers, so you can take layers off if it gets hot, and put them on again if gets cool. A cap helps protect your head from the sun and if it has a front flap it shades your eyes from the glare, so you can see better.

Find a good time.

Many birds wake up early to look for food. They are very active at that time, so morning is the best time for a birdwatcher to spot them. In summer it's best to avoid the early afternoon, because that's when many birds take a siesta!



Good company!

Birdwatching is fun, but it's a hundred times more fun when you can share it! When you're with other birdwatchers you can share the fun of spotting exciting species, and there are more eyes to spot and more ears to listen for bird calls. And if there are expert birdwatchers about they will help you with tricky species. That's why it's a good idea to be a member of BirdLife Malta – because that's where all the best birdwatchers are!

Have fun in good company!



IX-XABBATUR!

Fir-ritratt jidher il-ħabib tagħna Martin Austad jixxabat mal-irdum ħalli jistudja l-bejtiet tal-garnija (*yelkouan shearwater*), tajra tal-baħar li tbejjet f'ħofor fl-irdumijiet. Meta kien tifel Martin kien membru fi Klabb Ħuttaf. Illum huwa espert tal-għasafar u jaħdem mal-BirdLife.

Iktar ma nitgħallmu fuq l-annimali iktar inkunu nistgħu ngħinuhom u nħarsuhom. Il-BirdLife ilha ħafna snin tistudja t-tajr tal-baħar, u illum nafu ħafna sigrieti fuqhom – fejn jistadu, fejn imorru fix-xitwa, x'perikli jsibu. Dawn l-għasafar ibejtu mas-sisien tal-baħar u għalhekk mhux faċli tistudjahom. Anzi perikoluż!

Prosit Martin, imma oqgħod attent xbin!

