

Il-Huttafa

Numru 155

Novembru - Dicembru 2019



Blongun
Sekond

€2 għal min mhux membru



Hbieb Huttaf . . .

Meta nistaqsi studenti x'gid jagħmlu s-siġar, ħafna minnhom iwieġbu:
“Nieħdu l-karti!”

U iva orrajt veru li mis-siġar nieħdu l-karti, imma x'waħħad din dik l-ewwel haġa li tiġi f'mohħna? Donnhom is-siġar qeqħid hemm jistennew biex isiru pitazzi u tissues!

Ar'hemm žu ħa ngħidilkom jien x'gid jagħmlu s-siġar!

Is-siġar **jieħdu mill-arja ħafna carbon dioxide**, il-gass li qed isahħan il-klima tad-dinja. Is-siġar huma l-aqwa fabriki li bihom nistgħu nsolvu l-problema tal-klima.

Is-siġar **jiproduċu ħafna ossiġnu**, il-gass li l-annimali u aħna l-bnedmin għandna bżonn biex nieħdu n-nifs – il-famuža “arja tajba”.

Mill-weraq tas-siġar **joħrog ħafna fwar tal-ilma**. Fejn hemm foresti kbar (bħal rain forests) dal-fwar jifforma shab ta' nida li jzomm l-arja umda.



Is-siġar huma l-**habitat għal eluf ta' speci** ta' insetti, brimb, dud, bebbux, għasafar, mammiferi, rettili, amfibji, fungi, likeni, hażiż u anke pjanti oħra.

Is-siġar **jiproduċu ħafna weraq, fjur, frott u żrieragħ** li huma l-ikel ta' miljuni ta' annimali.

Il-weraq li jaqa' mis-siġar **jiforma terriċċju (kompost) eċċelenti** u jsahħħa il-ħamrija bis-sustanzi.

Is-siġar jagħtu lil ħafna annimali **kenn mill-maltemp**, mix-xita, mir-riħ u mir-raġġi qawwija tax-xemx. Is-siġar **joffru wkoll moħba** lil ħafna annimali biex jaħarbu mill-predaturi.

Is-siġar huma **post perfett biex fihom ibejtu** ħafna annimali, fosthom eluf ta' għasafar. Jipprovu wkoll materjal bħal zkuk u weraq niexef għall-bini tal-bejtiet.

L-gheruq tas-siġar **jorbtu l-ħamrija u ma jħalluhiex tinġarr mix-xita**. Il-weraq tas-siġar jieħdu fuqhom il-qilla tax-xita u jipproteġu l-art milli titmermer u titkaxkar. Is-siġar **iwaqqfu l-firxa tad-deżer**.

Is-siġar **jispirawna u jsaħħruna**. Fihom għaxxa thares lejhom, timxi taħthom, tmiss dak iz-zokk oħxon li forsi jgħodd il-mijiet tas-snin, tisma' t-thaxwix tal-weraq u timla l-pulmun bl-arja safja.

Kos mhux karti biss mela!

Hobbuhom is-siġar, ħbieb. U kull čans li jkollkom ħawlu iktar minnhom.

Il-Milied it-Tajjeb.

Victor

Victor Falzon L-Editur



Blonġun Sekond Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*
Il-blonġun sekond huwa wieħed minn tliet speċi ta' blonġuni li jżuru Malta. Jgħix hajtu kważi kollha fil-ilma – fil-fatt fuq l-art ibati fit-tit biex jimxi. Huwa għasfur tal-ghadajjar, xmajjar u bajjet kennija. F'daž-żmien tas-sena fir-riservi naturali tal-Għadira, Is-Simar u s-Salina spiss ikun hemm xi lieta jew erbgha jgħaddu x-xitwa jgħoddsu għall-hut u l-għamblu.

Bufula Sewda, (Sardinian warbler)
tiffanga fil-frott tad-deru (lentisk).



F'din il-ħarġa...

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Kitbu f'dil-ħarġa

Thais Amaral (National Aquarium), Desirée Falzon, Victor Falzon, Claudette Pace (BOV), Marie Vella (BOV)

Klabb

Klabb Huttaf 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-Huttafa*. 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 Huttaf and €29 for Family.

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Disinn u produzzjoni Victor Falzon
Stampat għand Poulton's Print Shop
Reg.Vol.Org. VO/0052

Gawwi bir-rimi!

Għal ftit berdwoċing bis-sens, aqbżu qabża sas-Salina dix-xitwa. Dan ir-ritratt ittieħed ftit ġimġħat ilu, u kif taraw is-salini qed ikunu kuljum invażati għas-safar – filbiċċa l-kbira għawwi (xi erba' jew ħames speċi) imma anke agretti bojod, blonguni sekondi, marguni u forsi xi russett griż u pispisell. Biex tkunu komdi hemm hajd apposta fejn tistgħu toqogħdu bil-qiegħda tgawdu x-xena. Jekk għandkom tromba ġuduha magħkom.

Illum jien
il-kaptan!



Kburin u bir-raġun!

Svetlana Shevchuk



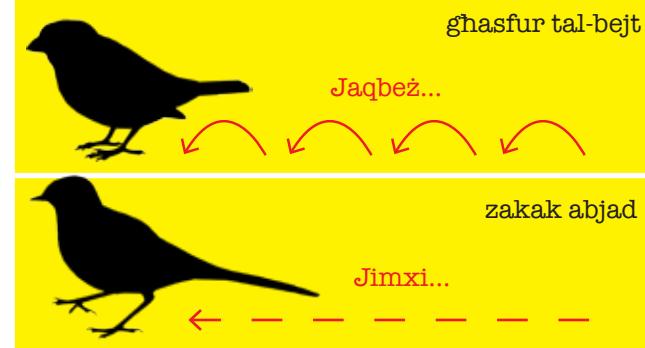
Nhar is-26 Novembru 2019 saret I-Għotja tal-Premjijiet Dinja Waħda. Fiċ-Ċentru tax-Xjenza Esplora ngabru tfal u ghalliema minn 97 skola primarja u 5 skejjel sekondarji. Ingabru biex jingħataw il-premju għall-attivitajiet Dinja Waħda li għamlu matul is-sena skolastika li għaddiet. Fir-ritratt jidher xi tfal li attendew, kburin iħaddnu t-trof jew iċ-ċertifikat li ġadet l-iscola tagħhom. Grazzi kbira lill-istudenti u l-għalliema kollha, lit-tim Education tal-BirdLife, lill-Esplora li offrewlna l-post u l-facilitajiet eċċelletti tagħhom, u lil Bank of Valletta l-isponsor ta' Dinja Waħda.



Qatt innutajt fix-xitwa għasfur żgħir iswed u abjad jippassiġġa fil-bitha tal-iskola, jew f'xi parkeggħ tal-karozzi? Jekk le, ibda fittex f'wesghat u pjazez, jew fuq bankini mal-ġnub tat-triq, u aktarx tara z-

Zakak Abjad

Desirée Falzon



Biex jaħarbu l-bard!

Iz-zizka bojod jiġu Malta fil-harifa biex jaħarbu l-kesha tan-Nord, fejn ma jsibux x'jekku. Hafna jinfirxu mal-kampanja jnaqqu dud u insetti mill-hamrija, oħrajin iħu fuq fil-pjazez, parkeggħi u btiehi kbar fl-abitat tan-nies. Fuq art lixxa jaraw sew u jkunu jistgħu jiġru wara l-insejti bla xkiel. Forsi l-griż ta' dħarhom jgħinhom xi ffit għax jaqbel mal-kulur tal-art! Post favorit huwa fejn jiffurmaw għadajjar tal-ilma xita, għax hemm iktar ċans li jsibu nemus, ecc.

Ritratti Aron Tanti • Tipnejha Victor Falzon



Raqda komunali!

Filghaxxijiet iz-zakak abjad jingħabar f'numri kbar biex jorqod f'postijiet nghidulhom **roosts**. Dawn ikunu xi pjazza b'siġar folti fejn iz-zizka jistahbew qalb il-weraq u jitgeddsu kontra l-kesha. L-ikbar roost taz-zizka f'Malta qiegħda fi Pjazza Assedju fil-Belt Valletta. Kull sena l-BirdLife tħodd id-zizka bojod li jorqu f'dal-post. F'Jannar 2019 għoddejnejna total ta' **14,475** - rekord assolut!



Wiċċinu

Nirien kbar



L-Australja bħalissa għandha l-ikbar nirien ta' foresti li qatt jaftakru. Tant infirxu n-nirien li l-forzi tat-tifi tan-nar qed jaqtgħu qalbhom li jikkontrollaw l-inċendji. Bħalissa hemmhekk sajf, għalhekk ffit hemm ċans ta' xita biex titfi n-nirien. Miljuni ta' annimali, fosthom eluf ta' koalas, sfaw vittmi ta' dawn in-nirien. S'issa nħarqu xi **2.7 miljun ettaru**, medda art kważi daqs l-Italja. Tgħid tort tal-bdil fil-klima?

Miljuni ta' żwiemel



Barra għadam tat-tigri u elf ħaqġo, iċ-Ċiniżi jużaw ukoll żwiemel tal-baħar fil-mediċini tradizzjoni (li ħafna minnhom ma jiswew xejn). Minħabba din il-kilba, kull sena jinqabdu xi **37 miljun żiemel tal-baħar**. Dawn jinbiegħu mnixxfin lic-Ċiniżi minkejja li suppost protetti mis-CITES. Is-sajd bla kontroll huwa wkoll problema kbira. Xi speci qiegħdin fil-periklu ta' estinzjoni.

Kien mitluf reġa' nstab



Spiss naqraw li annimali qed isiru estinti. Kemm hu sabiħ meta kultant taqra li annimal li kien maħsub estint jerġa' jinstab! Wieħed minn dawn huwa **s-silver-backed chevrotain** *Tragulus versicolor*, speċi ta' ġervu żgħira daqs fenek. Dan l-annimal kien ilu 30 sena ma jidher u kulhadd kien haseb li nqered. Imma ffit ilu naturalisti li kellhom kamera awtomatika armata f'foresta fil-Vjetnam sabu l-kamera b'sensiela ritratti ta' dan l-annimal!

Niltaqgħu ma'...

Victor Falzon



Is-CITES huwa ftehim bejn 183 pajjiż tad-dinja biex jikkontrollaw il-bejjh u x-xiri ta' pjanti u annimali rari, jew partijiet minnhom. Il-pajjiżi li ffirmaw dan il-ftehim mhux suppost iħallu lil min jimporta jew jesporta dawn l-affarrijiet.



żokret l-għażuża

Iż-żokret l-għażuża hija pjanta żgħira li ffit tispikka, u lanqas ma ssibha tikber kullimkien. L-ambjent favorit tagħha huma ħitan tas-sejjieħ li ma tantx jaraw xemx (pereżempju dawk li jħarsu lejn it-tramuntana). Għandha weraq tond u mlaħħam, bi speċi ta' ħofra baxxa fin-nofs (għalhekk dak l-isem stramb!). Għal Marzu tiftaħ bukketti fjuri żgħar fuq friegħi li jikbru weqfin minn qalb il-weraq.



Mhux bil-Malti biss jisimha żokra! Bl-Ingliz **navelwort**, bit-Taljan **ombelico di Venere**, bil-Franċiż **nombril-de-Vénus**, bil-Ġermaniż **Venusnabel**, bil-Latin ***Umbilicus horizontalis***.

Birds of Malta

A memory game from BirdLife Malta

€9.75

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



Victor Falzon (mill-ktieb Flora u Fawna ta' Malta)

Sibha komda ghall-Milied, ghax xtrajt wahda għal kull wieħed u waħda min-nepu tijiet.

AMY'S DIARY

Heyyy Huttafers,

A very excited Amy here!

I was just finishing my Christmas Card for my school's competition. Isn't my Robin adorable? Did you know that little tiny Robins fly all the way from cold Russia to Malta?! Nannu Joe even helped me build a bird table in the hope that one will show up and settle in our garden.

Christmas is my absolute favourite! The decorations, the school concert, Panto, and (shhhh) the presents!!!

I've asked for a bike from Santa this year... fingers crossed :) My family is trying not to use the car as much, and start cycling instead. It will keep us healthy and reduce harm to our environment. I think grandma and all will give me money. Might not sound very exciting, but for me it's GRAND - I really want to save up for that Sicily trip Birdlife is organising for us members!

It will probably be too much for my little savings piggy bank Travvy, to hold all the money at one go (at least I hope so!), so I will ask Dad to take me to the BOV ATM and show me how to deposit my money! I thought that ATMs only gave you money, but apparently you can also put money in them and it goes straight into your bank account! How cool is that!



(travel money)



I hope Travvy won't be too grumpy about me depositing my Christmas money into the BOV ATM. I think this year I might have a couple of angry piggy banks! Donny, my charity piggy bank, always feels a little left out during Christmas. At school we are taking part in the L-Istrina BOV Piggy Bank Campaign to raise funds for the Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation, so I will be putting Donny's share into the school's piggy bank!

That's it from me this year! I wish you all a lovely Christmas and speak to you in 2020

Peace Out
Amy



Donny
(money to Donate)

BOV
Bank of Valletta

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Merry
Christmas



Isimhom leħinhom!

L-ħasafar għandhom ħafna ismijiet strambi. Fost l-iktar ismijiet strambi huma dawk li ssemmew ghall-ghajta tagħhom. Kull iingwa għandha ismijiet hekk, u fil-Malti xejn inqas. Hawnhekk ha niltaqgħu ma' disa' għas-safar li isimhom bil-Malti jixbah xi ftit l-ghajja tagħhom.



Zakak (Abjad)
(White) Wagtail

Aron Tanti



Diżżejj
Tree Pipit

Aron Tanti



Ġaħġaħ
Tree Sparrow

Aron Tanti



Kwakka
Night Heron

Ray Vella



Gurlin
Eurasian Curlew

Aron Tanti



Pispisella
Common Sandpiper

Aron Tanti



Čewċewwa
Greenshank

Ray Vella



Pespus
Meadow Pipit

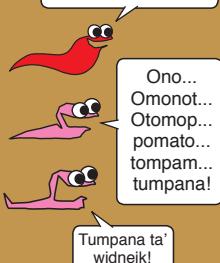
Aron Tanti



Buċaqq (tax-Xitwa)
European Stonechat

Aron Tanti

Ismijiet bhal dawn
jgħidulhom ismijiet
onomatopejċi.



Ono...
Omonot...
Otomop...
pomato...
tompam...
tumpana!

Tumpana ta' widnejk!

Sintendi dawn l-ismijiet
mhumiex il-ħoss eżatt
li jagħmlu. Biex tisma'
l-ghajja vera tagħhom
mur fil-websajt
www.xeno-canto.com
u ttajja l-isem (bl-
Ingliz) fejn għandek
Search recordings.

Buċaqq tax-Xitwa

European Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*



Ritratt ta' Aron Tanti meħud fil-Park tal-Majjistral



LIONFISH INVASION

THEY ARE BEAUTIFUL,
BUT WATCH OUT!

WHY?

**THEY HAVE VENOMOUS SPINES
USED FOR SELF-DEFENCE**
(they do not hunt with them).



The sting is quite painful and, even though it is not deadly, it can cause a person to get very sick!

WHAT TO DO IF STUNG?

Remove any spines left and soak the wound in heated water for at least 30 minutes.

WHY ARE THEIR INVASIONS A PROBLEM?

They are carnivorous predators that can eat anything they fancy! Besides that, lionfish are not recognised as food by the local species in invaded areas (like sharks, for example), so... no one eats them!



WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

Tropical, warm waters from the Indo-Pacific Ocean and Red Sea. But now, due to CLIMATE CHANGE, it is getting warmer and they are able to survive and invade all the seas around the world through ballast water and aquarium trade. This includes the Mediterranean, and they have arrived in Malta too!

WHAT CAN WE DO?

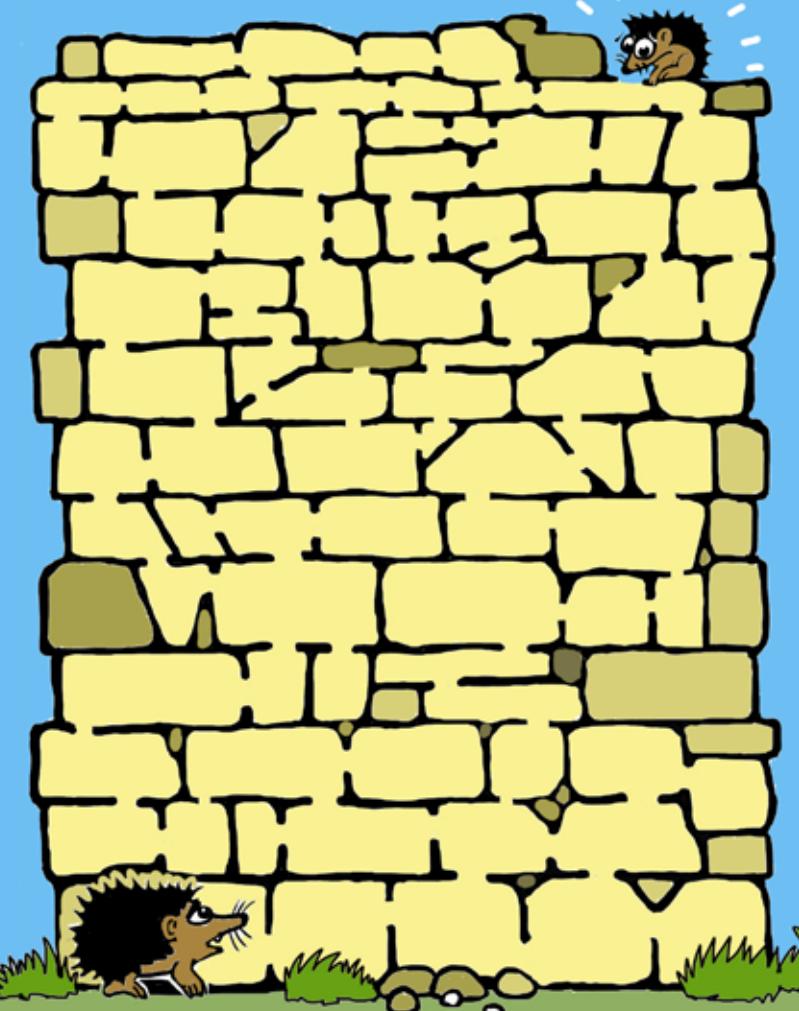
In some countries people eat lionfish and they are considered a delicacy. This practice is also SUSTAINABLE in areas where their invasion needs to be controlled. Hunting and banning their import for aquariums is also another option!



MALTA NATIONAL
AQUARIUM

Little Hedgehog Lost!

Victor Falzon



Can you help Mummy Hedgehog find her little boy?

If you have drawings that you would like us to publish in our magazine, email them here: education@birdlifemalta.org



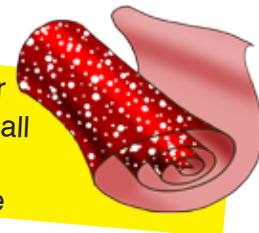
Frog
Emily Marie Vella (7)

WHAT DO YOU GET IF YOU EAT CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS?
TINSILITIS!



HOW TO BE AN ENVIRONMENTALIST AT CHRISTMAS

Stop using coloured wrapping paper. Go for brown paper with a small card/tag. Remember – all that wrapping will be thrown away.



Eat less meat this Christmas. To produce meat wastes lots of energy and takes up lots of space. It's not nice for the animals either!



Give your friend a gift membership in Klabb Huttaf! That way you can learn about nature together and attend activities together.



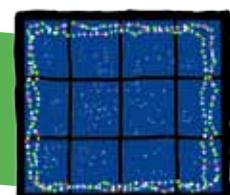
Never NEVER give animals as presents! Hundreds of kittens and puppies get thrown out a few days after Christmas. How sad!



Make your own Christmas decorations using fallen pine cones, poinsettia flowers, twigs, etc. Later they can go in the compost bin!



Don't send paper Christmas cards, send e-cards. Whole forests get chopped down every year, just to be turned into Christmas cards!



Don't leave Christmas lights on all night. Get a timer and set it to turn them off soon after you all go to sleep!

More information about BirdLife Malta events at our website www.birdlifemalta.org/events/

Victor Falzon

Il-Fras-servjent

Il-ballerin tax-xtut

Għasfur spettakolari li sa 10 snin ilu ftit konna noblsru
li għad ibejjet f'pajjiżna

Munqar donnu pinzetta
twila rqiq, perfett biex
jaqbad prija żgħira mill-
ilma bla ma tizloqlu



Charles Coleiro



Id-daqs propriju ta' bajda tal-fras-servjent



Victor Falzon

Aron Tanti



Fellus ta' ftit ǵranet – il-fleiles jitilqu jimxu hekk kif ifaqqsu!

Il-bajd ifaqqs wara xi 25 jum

Ferħ ta' ftit ǵimġħat u li aktarx digà jtir



Aron Tanti

Nicholas Galea



Għandi n-nghas,
Ma. Nista' nidhol
norqod?

Il-fras-servjenti jkeċċu kull annimal li jersqilhom lejn il-bejta jew lejn uliedhom. Hawnhekk jidher ir-raġel qed ikeċċi par kuluverti.

Aron Tanti

WINTER IS COMING

VICTOR FALZON

For people who live in northern countries winter is the cold dark season. The sun hardly shows, the ground gets covered with snow, and the ponds, lakes and rivers freeze. The trees drop their leaves, reptiles and mammals hide away and hibernate, and most of the birds fly away to warmer lands.

But here in Malta, winter is the season when much of nature wakes up! So put your woollies on and get outdoors to enjoy some cool nature.

Snails just love winter. Watch them come out at night and patrol the wet paths and walls looking for a juicy leaf to nibble.



Garden snail (għakrux)



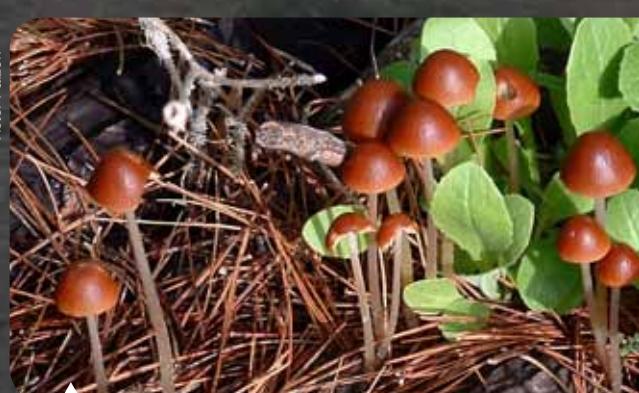
Destra Falzon

Some trees do drop their leaves and go to sleep in Malta too. As the leaves dry up, they change into lovely yellow, orange and brown colours. Look at the **tamarisk** (bruka) shrub in the picture. Isn't it just beautiful?



Victor Falzon

After the dry summer, the rain in autumn gets plants to wake up and start growing new leaves. Here's the **sea squill** (ghansar) with nice new bunches of fleshy leaves. You will surely meet these if you go walking in rocky places, but to see the flowers you'll have to wait for summer!



Mushrooms love shady, damp places. So autumn and winter are a great time to look out for them. We have hundreds of species. This tiny Smurfy bunch growing out of pine needles are called **parasola**.



Aron Tanti



Victor Falzon

This pretty black bird with lots of white spots is a **starling** (sturnell). Starlings love to stay in big groups, sometimes with thousands of birds in a flock, like you see in the other picture. These big flocks of starlings only stay with us for winter. In spring they all fly north again.

How many starlings do you think there are in that flock? Quite a lot, and the picture didn't even capture all the flock!

Many of our wild flowers open in winter. Here are three common wild flowers that brighten up our countryside as they wait for you to discover them!

**Annual daisy**

(bebuna)

Desirée Falzon

**Red campion**

(ilsien l-għasfur)

Victor Falzon

**Borage**

(fidloqqom)

Victor Falzon



Aron Tanti

Many gulls flock to our harbours in winter. Some are common and some are scarce, like these two here. The one in the water is a **slender-billed gull** (gawwija munqarha rqiq) and the one pestering it is a **little gull** (gawwija żgħira).



Aron Tanti

Thousands of robins (pitirross) fly to Malta and spend the winter here, singing in our gardens as they catch insects and gobble up berries. Winter here is so much nicer than in frozen-solid Russia!



Frogs like nothing better than to splash around in ponds, catching flies and mosquitoes. So they are happiest in winter, when the rain makes lots of ponds and streams in our valleys. The Maltese frog is called the **painted frog** (żrinġ) because it has like splotches of paint all over its body. Here's one happy froggy sitting on **duckweed** (lemla) floating in a freshwater pond. When the ponds begin to dry up in spring, the frogs dig a hole in the mud and go to sleep. Clever, eh!



Victor Falzon

Ikomplu jsaltnu s-skiet u d-dlam fid-Dwejra

Rebħa għan-natura!

Mela xi hadd ghajnejh ikbar minn żaqqu applika biex ikabbr ristorant fid-Dwejra (f'Għawdex). Proġett bħal dan ifisser iktar bini, iktar dwal, irwejjah, skart, mužika, storbj u tfixxil mill-bniedem.

Issa d-Dwejra hija post speċjali għan-natura. Hija fil-fatt Sit Natura 2000, post protett fejn ġertu žvilupp ma jistax isir, speċjalment jekk joħloq dwal u storbju. Għalhekk il-permess għall-bini tar-ristorant għall-ewwel ma ħariġx. Imma xi għorrief qalbu din id-deċiżjoni u harġulu l-permess.

Meta semgħu b'din l-aħħar, ħafna nies li jħobbu n-natura rrabjaw u nkwtaw. Imma li tirrabja u tinkwieta mhux biżejjed. Għalhekk il-BirdLife għamlet ġabru biex tkun tista' ttella' l-każ il-qorti u f'jumejn ingabru **€3000!** Dan sar bl-għajnuna tal-publiku u ta' 14-il għaqda ambjentali oħra.

Ftit ġimġħat ilu l-każ irbaħnieh! Jiġifieri r-ristorant mhux ħa jitkabbar u d-Dwejra ha tibqa' tgħawdi l-kwiet u d-dlam kif suppost.

Din kienet rebħha kbira għan-natura u għal min għandu l-ambjent għal qalbu – bħalkom il-membri ta' Klabb Muttafha u tal-BirdLife.

Prosit lil kulħadd!



Grazzi!



Čiefa
Scopoli's Shearwater

Grazzi!



Merill
Blue Rock Thrush

Iċ-ċief ibejjet fl-irdumijiet tad-Dwejra u għandu bżonn id-dlam u l-kwiet.

Il-merilli ibejtu fl-irdumijiet tad-Dwejra u l-preżenza tal-bniedem tgħixhom.

L-għaqdiet li hadmu biex salvajna d-Dwejra

Bicycle Advocacy Group • BirdLife Malta • Din l-Art Ħelwa • Flimkien għal Ambjent Ahjar • Friends of the Earth Malta • Isles of the Left • Light Pollution Awareness Group • Moviment Graffitti • Nature Trust-FEE Malta • Ramblers Association • The Archaeological Society Malta • The Astronomical Society of Malta • The Institute of Space Sciences and Astronomy (ISSA) • Wirt Ghawdex • Żminijietna - Lehen ix-Xellug