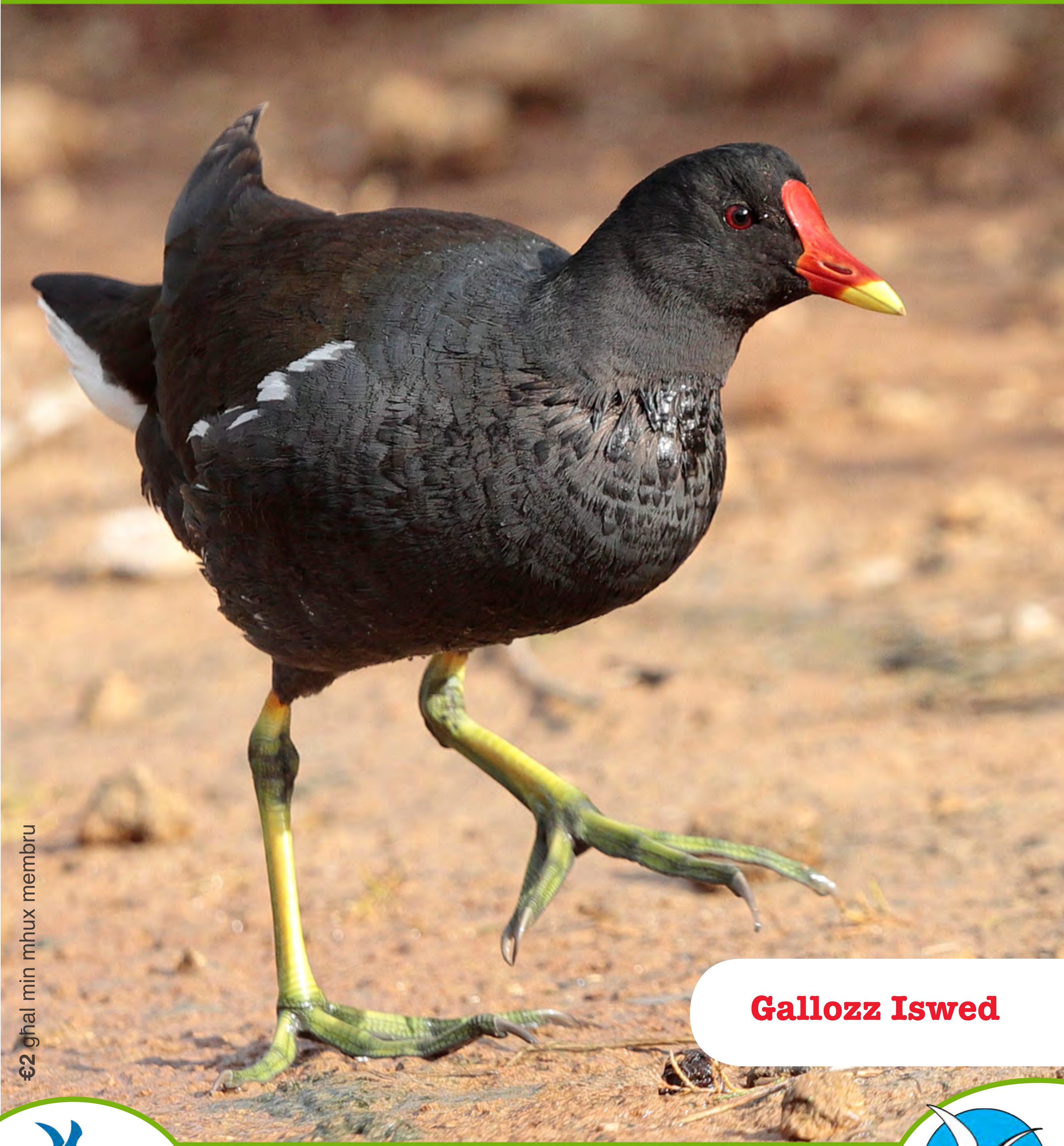
Il-Ħuttafa

Numru **157**

Marzu - April 2020



Gallozz Iswed

€2 għal min mhux membru

Il-magażin ta' Klabb Ħuttaf

Aron Tanti

Bagħdan Aħmar (Marsh Harrier) jissaqqar fuq is-siġar f'Foresta 2000.

Ħbieb Ħuttaf . . .

mill-editur

Xi żmien stramb qed ngħixu fih bħalissa hux! Toroq baħħ u ajruplani xejn. Skejjel, ħwienet, ristoranti, knejjes u lukandi magħluqin. Turisti xejn. Ħafna nies magħluqin fi djarhom, jaħdmu u jitgħallmu onlajn.

Żmien diffiċli, speċjalment għal min jista' jitlef xogħlu. Imma ma' marda serja li tittieħed ma tiċċajtax. Żewġ miljuni infettati, eluf mejtin. Irridu noqogħdu attenti ħalli ma tkomplix tinfirex.

Imma waqt li aħna qegħdin fuq slow motion nistennew il-periklu jgħaddi... in-natura qed tixxala!

B'inqas karozzi, vapuri u ajruplani, it-tniġġis tal-arja naqas madwar id-dinja kollha (anke f'Malta naqas b'70%). Naqas ukoll l-istorbju (*noise pollution*) mill-magni u l-ġettijiet, u naqas id-dardir tal-ilma miż-żjut u l-iskrejjen tal-vapuri. U sintendi naqas l-użu (u l-ħela) taż-żejt, tal-petrol, tal-gass u tal-faħam.

L-arja ċċarat, qed naraw iktar kwiekeb bil-lejl u qed nisimgħu l-għana tal-għasafar u ż-żanżin tal-insetti. Anke d-dniefel qed jidħlu jistadu fil-bajjiet u l-portijiet.

Sewwa jgħidu li **mingħajr in-natura l-bniedem jisparixxi, imma mingħajr il-bniedem in-natura tieħu r-ruħ!**

Għal dawn il-ftit xhur il-bniedem waqaf jitħanżer u jaħli r-riżorsi tad-dinja bl-addoċċ. Imma la tgħaddi l-biża' x'ħa jiġri? Hemm xi ċans li minn dil-problema ħadna tagħlima?

Indunajna kemm affarijiet m'għandniex vera bżonnhom. Tgħallimna napprezzaw kemm hu sabiħ il-kwiet kultant?

Jew għandna ġenn biex nerġgħu nibdew intarrxu u nħammġu d-dinja, u nixtru affarijiet bla bżonn?

Naf li l-kbar diffiċli jibdlu d-drawwiet. Imma intom il-membri ta' Klabb Ħuttaf għadkom qed tikbru. Għadkom qed tiffurmaw id-drawwiet tagħkom.

Għadkom fil-ħin biex titgħallmu tgħixu bla ma tħallu n-natura barra.

Victor

Victor Falzon L-Editur

B'apoloġija lil Edvard Munch

Victor Falzon

FUQ QUDDIEM

Ritratt ta' Charles Galea Bonavia

Gallozz Iswed Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Il-Gallozz Iswed huwa wieħed mill-ftit għasafar li jbejtu f'Malta. Iħobb bwar u għadajjar b'ħaxix twil u folt fejn jista' jistaħba u jaħbi l-bejta. B'xorti ħażina ħafna kaċċaturi joqtlu l-glalez kull fejn jarawhom. Imnalla jeżistu postijiet protetti bħar-riservi naturali tal-BirdLife, fejn dawn l-għasafar jistgħu jgħixu bla ma jfixkilhom ħadd.

Klabb Ħuttaf

BirdLife MALTA

F'din il-ħarġa...

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Kitbu f'dil-ħarġa

Thais Amaral (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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Nicholas Galea

Victor Falzon

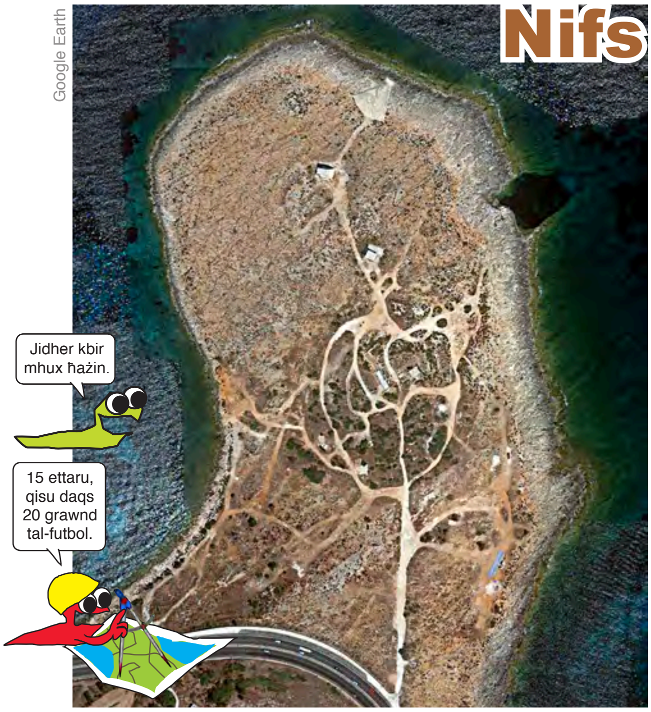
Il-pespus Norveġiż

Waqt li kienu qed jirringjaw fuq Kemmuna fit-18 ta' Ottubru 2019 studjużi tal-BirdLife qabdu **pespus** li kellu diġà ċurkett fuq siequ. Iċ-ċurkett kellu indirizz ta' ċentru tar-ringing fin-Norveġja. Ir-ringers kitbu lil dan iċ-ċentru u saru jafu li dak il-pespus kien ġie rringjat xahrejn qabel f'Pasvik Nature Reserve fin-naħa ta' fuq tal-pajjiż, viċin il-fruntiera mar-Russja. Jiġifieri biex ġie Malta dal-pespus għamel **vjaġġ ta' mill-inqas 3800km**!

Bilkemm temmen li għasfur tant żgħir kapaċi jagħmel vjaġġi daqshekk twal. Il-pespus (meadow pipit) huwa għasfur tal-passa, u ħafna psiepes jiġi minn diversi nħawi tal-Ewropa u jgħaddu x-xitwa magħna. U wara li tgħaddi x-xitwa... jerġgħu lura f'arthom!

Grazzi lil Nicholas Galea tat-tagħrif

Google Earth



Nifs ġdid għal Qalet Marku?

Qalet Marku hija ras art ħierġa fuq il-baħar f'Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq. Bini fuqha m'hemmx ħlief torri tas-Seklu 17. Mill-bqija blat baxx xagħri, mikxuf għar-raxx tal-baħar u l-qilla tal-grigal. Minkejja dan, qalb il-blat jikbru ħafna pjanti baxxi tipiċi tax-xatt. Ġenna tal-art żgħira?

Mhux eżatt! B'xorti ħażina l-bniedem ilu ħafna snin ikisser u jħammrġ f'dal-post. Pjanti mqaċċtin, kampijiet illegali (sintendi bla toilets!), karavans, fdalijiet ta' baribikjus, ħġieġ, terrapien u skart tal-bini, laned imsaddin, plastik ta' kull xorta. Miżbla sħiħa!

Issa **l-Ministeru tal-Ambjent għalaq id-daħla** għall-karozzi, u smajna li dan sar biex għal sena sħiħa l-post jingħata tindifa kbira u l-kura meħtieħa... ħalli **Qalet Marku jingħata lura lin-natura**!

Ma tantx nisimgħu aħbarijiet sbieħ għall-ambjent naturali, għalhekk din kienet sorpriża sabiħa. Bi ftit attenzjoni u mħabba, Qalet Marku jista' jerġa' jsir ġenna tal-art għan-natura.

Il-proġett ħa jkun f'idejn l-għaqdiet ambjentali **Get Trashed Malta** u **Malta Clean Up**. Nawgurawlhom suċċess.

Il-qtil tal-għasafar mhux bżonn!

Minkejja l-COVID-19, u minkejja t-twissijiet kuljum mit-tobba biex ma noħorġux minn djarna bla bżonn... **l-istaġun tal-kaċċa nfetaħ xorta!**

Sal-aħħar ta' April il-kaċċaturi jistgħu joħorġu joqtlu l-għasafar. Hekk, għall-pjaċir! Jaqaw il-qtil tal-għasafar għall-gost huwa xi bżonn?

Il-kaċċaturi suppost li jisparaw fuq summien biss, imma l-BirdLife kuljum qed jidħlulha għasafar feruti protetti, fosthom arpa (osprey), spanjulett (kestrel) u daqquqa tat-toppu (hoopoe). Dan juri li ħafna kaċċaturi jiksru l-liġi.

Il-BirdLife ilha ħafna snin titħabat biex il-kaċċa fir-rebbiegħa tinqata'.

Nik Barbara

Din l-arpa nstabet f'Marzu 2020 feruta b'tiri ta' senter f'Għawdex. Ma ġibniex ir-ritratt kollu għax tal-biki!

Desirée Falzon

Ġnien għan-Natura

Kif tiġbed in-natura lejn il-ġnien tiegħek

Meta tħawwel siġra tkun qed toħloq żewġ affarijiet: ħajja fis-siġra u ħajja madwarha. Siġra hija kalamita għall-ħajja, kif jixhdu l-ħafna għasafar żgħar tal-passa li jieqfu f'dawk il-ġonna li jkollhom is-siġar. Anke siġra waħda f'kull ġnien żgħir ġo raħal taf toħloq 'bosk' imfittex mill-għasafar tal-passa.

Żewwaq!

Jekk għandek spazju għal iktar minn siġra waħda, ħallat siġar li jħaddru s-sena kollha (*evergreen*) ma' siġar li joħorfu (*deciduous*). B'hekk tinħass iktar il-bidla fl-istaġuni u jkollok tiżwiqa ta' dawl u dell li jvarja minn xahar għal ieħor. Aħseb biex tħalli dejjem roqgħa bla dell għall-fjuri li jħobbu x-xemx.

X'se nħawwel?

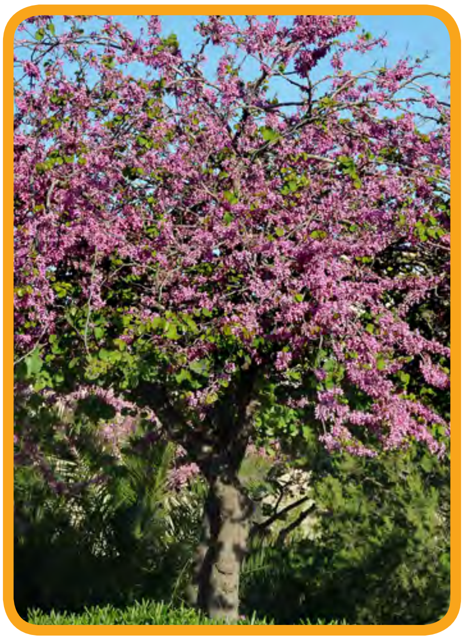
Desirée Falzon

Laringa

Is-siġra tal-larinġ ideali jekk għandek post għal siġra waħda biss u trid tolqot kemm tiflaħ vantaġġi. Mhix siġra kbira, għandha weraq ċar, għalhekk ma ddallamlekx il-ġnien. Il-laringa ġġiblek ħafna tipi ta' insetti – speċjalment naħal tal-għasel fiż-żmien li tkun bil-fjuri – fosthom insetti rqaq bħal *aphids*. Tiġbed ukoll insetti li jieklu insetti oħrajn, bħan-nannakola. Il-laringa popolari ma' ħafna għasafar, bħal buful, vjolini u għasafar tal-bejt. U sintendi tagħmel il-frott!

Għandha bżonn

- Post fix-xemx
- Kenn mir-riħ qawwi
- Tissaqqa fi żmien in-nixfa



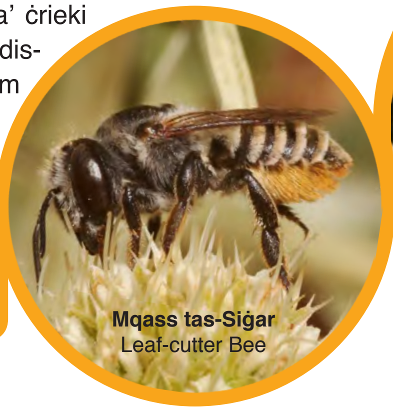
Victor Falzon

Siġra ta' Ġuda

Bħala siġra ħorfija nissuġġerixxi Ta' Ġuda. Meta twaqqa' l-weraq fix-xitwa jidħollok iktar dawl fil-ġnien u meta f'Marzu joħorġu l-fjuri roża (qabel il-weraq) toħloq spettaklu u tiġbed l-insetti. Hemm tip ta' naħla (jgħidulha mqass tal-weraq) li ġieli taqta' ċrieki żgħar mill-weraq ta' dis-siġra, u tirrumblahom f'tubu biex tibni l-bejta bihom.

Għandha bżonn

- Post fix-xemx
- Tissaqqa l-ewwel ftit snin



Mqass tas-Siġar
Leaf-cutter Bee

Victor Falzon

Ċipressa

Jekk trid siġra twila u folta, ħawwel Ċipressa. Tista' tbejjitlek fiha l-bufula sewda, forsi xi żanżarell tat-tikek! Fix-xitwa, il-weraq folt jaf iħajjar xi kapinera biex torqod fiha filgħaxija. U għasafar żgħar tal-passa jistkennu fiha wkoll.

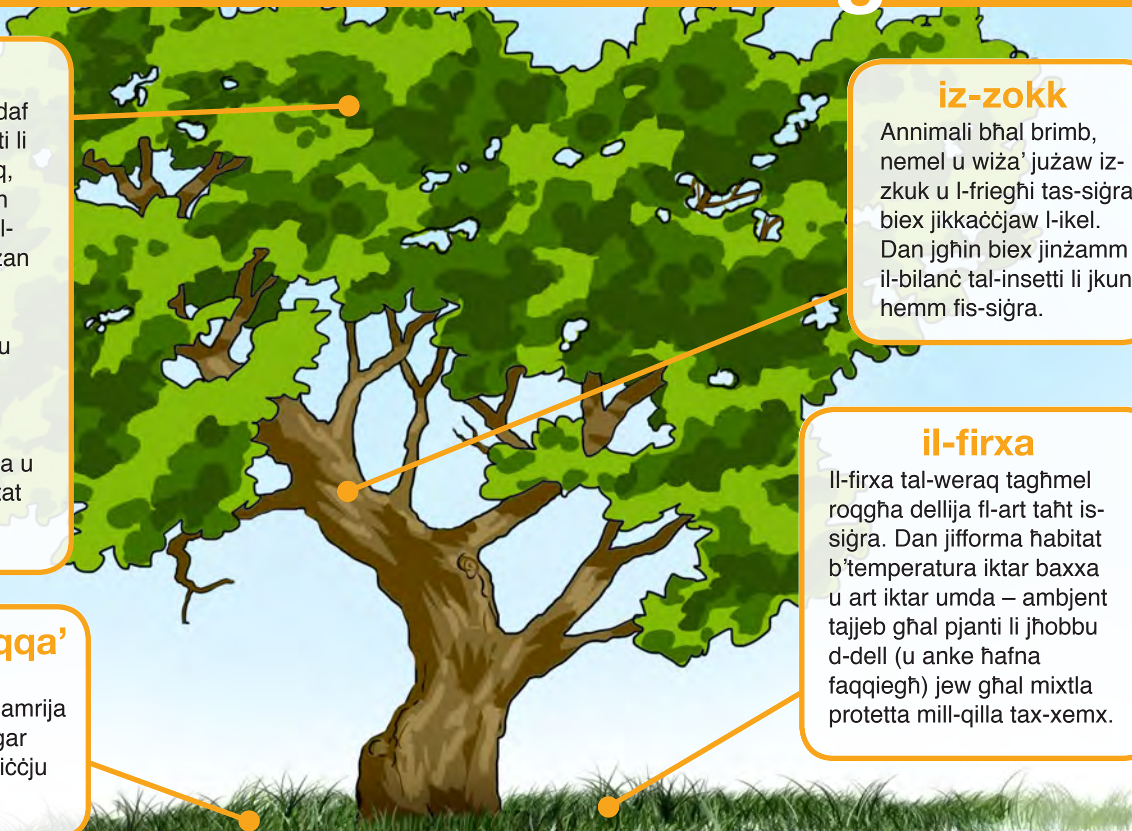
Għandha bżonn

- Post fix-xemx
- Tissaqqa l-ewwel ftit snin
- Kenn mir-riħ qawwi

Żanżarell tat-Tikek
Spotted Flycatcher

Aron Tanti

X'tieħu n-natura mis-siġra?



Victor Falzon

il-weraq

Jagħmel l-ossiġnu, inaddaf l-arja, jiġbed ħafna insetti li jixorbu l-meraq tal-weraq, bħall-*aphids*. Ħafna minn dawn l-insetti jittieklu mill-għasafar, anke miż-żnażan li jaqbdu dud u insetti żgħar biex jitimgħuhom lill-frieħ tagħhom. Is-sugu żejjed li jarmu xi insetti saħansitra jixorbuh in-naħal. Weraq folt jagħti kenn lill-għasafar mix-xita u mix-xemx, u joħloq ħabitat biex għasafar ibejtu fih.

iz-zokk

Annimali bħal brimb, nemel u wiża' jużaw iz-zkuk u l-friegħi tas-siġra biex jikkaċċjaw l-ikel. Dan jgħin biex jinżamm il-bilanċ tal-insetti li jkun hemm fis-siġra.

il-firxa

Il-firxa tal-weraq tagħmel roqgħa dellija fl-art taħt is-siġra. Dan jifforma ħabitat b'temperatura iktar baxxa u art iktar umda – ambjent tajjeb għal pjanti li jħobbu d-dell (u anke ħafna faqqiegħ) jew għal mixtla protetta mill-qilla tax-xemx.

il-weraq imwaqqa'

Meta taqa' werqa tibda titmermer u l-kimika tal-ħamrija tinbidel. Il-weraq ta' xi siġar bħall-ħarrub jagħmel terriċċju (kompost) eċċellenti.

Desirée Falzon

X'inhu jagħmel?

X'inhu jagħmel dal-farfett jittawwal minn taħt werqa? Qed jistaħba? Qed jistrieħ? Qed jistkenn mix-xemx? Dieħel jorqod?

Xejn minn dan! Din farfett tal-kaboċċi mara, u qiegħda mperrċa mal-werqa għax hemm taħt qiegħda tbid! Il-friefet joqogħdu attenti ħafna fuq liema pjanti jbidu għax ix-xagħat tagħhom ma jikolx kull tip ta' weraq. Il-weraq fir-ritratt huwa ta' pjanta li nsejħulha nasturzjum, waħda mill-ispeċi favoriti tal-farfett tal-kaboċċi.

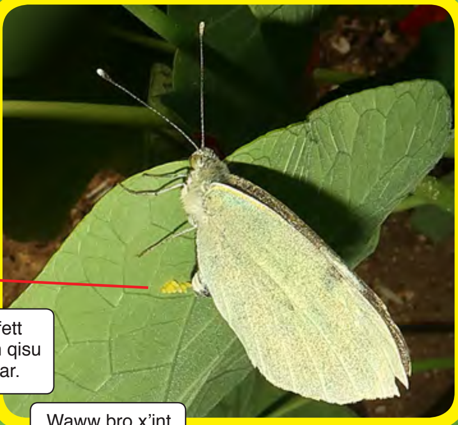
Meta l-bajd ifaqqas ix-xagħat jibda jiekol il-weraq li jkun fuqu. Meta jikber biżżejjed jagħmel il-fosdqa u wara xi żmien mill-fosdqa joħroġ il-farfett lest.

Xagħat x'inhu?

Ix-xagħat huwa d-dudu tal-farfett, dak li bl-Ingliż ngħidulu *caterpillar*.

Desirée Falzon

Il-bajd tal-farfett tal-kaboċċi jkun qisu ross żgħir isfar.



Desirée Falzon

Waww bro x'int kamuflaxx illum!

L-istess farfett min-naħa l-oħra tal-werqa. Issa jidher sew x'inhi tagħmel Madame Butterfly!

AMY'S DIARY

Heyyy Ħuttafers,

Amy here!

At Home... STAYING SAFE, keeping busy, and trying not to be disappointed.

Who thought I would miss my school friends sooo much??!! We video chat, BUT it's not the same is it?

I'm even missing my trips to the supermarket with Daddy. Now we're buying everything online, he pays using his BOV Card, or their App, BOV Mobile. He says that now more than ever it's important not to use cash.

So yes, I was eager to tell you all about my trip to Sicily this time round but that didn't happen... I was devastated, after all I've been VERY good with my chores, and I was very proud that I saved up for the trip!

As always, Daddy came up with a brilliant way to cheer me up.

We used some of Travvy's Money to buy **BINOCULARS**. It got delivered straight to our door.

So now, I'm on STAYCATION. and I get to use the binoculars to SPOT BIRDS in our garden, because let me tell you I am not an INSIDE kinda girl!

Mom always says she can't tell which is which, I bet she doesn't read Ħuttafa as well as I do...

Here's my #staysafe #stayhome RAINBOW, hoping to see you when things are better.

Peace Out

Amy

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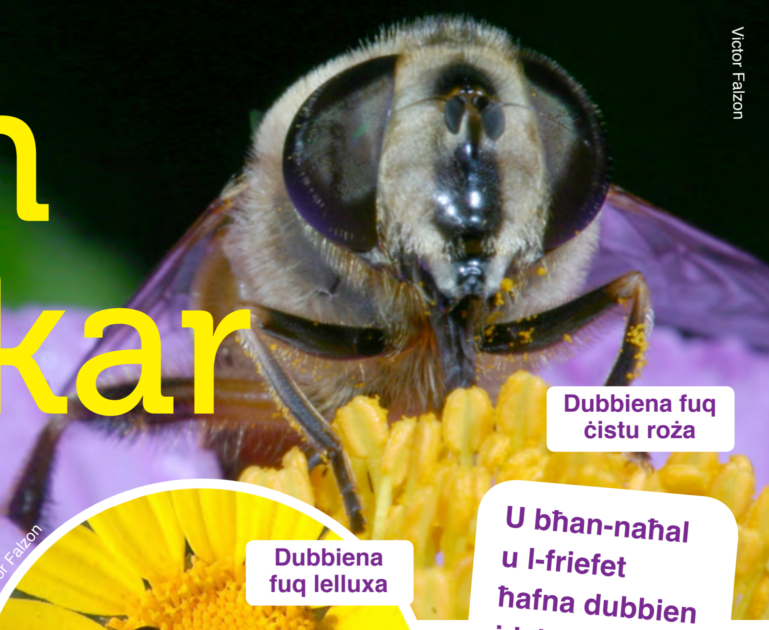
Dubbien Dakkar



Victor Falzon

Dubbiena fuq ċistu roża

Meta nsemmu d-dubbien naħsbu f'dak l-insett żgħir li jidħlilna d-dar u joqgħod idur magħna u jinżlilna fuq l-ikel. U ngħajtu: "Uff kemm hu fitt id-dubbien!" Dik hija d-dubbiena tad-djar, imma dik **speċi waħda biss fost xi miljun speċi** oħrajn ta' dubbien!

Ħafna speċi ta' dubbien ma jfittxux l-ikel tagħna imma jfittxu l-fjuri. Bħan-naħal u l-friefet, ħafna dubbien jixrob in-nektar u jiekol il-polin. Hekk qed jiġri f'dawn ir-ritratti.

Victor Falzon

Dubbiena fuq lelluxa

U bħan-naħal u l-friefet ħafna dubbien idakkar il-fjuri li jinżel fuqhom. Mingħajr id-dakra l-pjanta ma tagħmilx żerriegħa.

Mela anke d-dubbien jixraqlu li nuruh rispett!

Desirée Falzon

Dubbiena fuq lelluxa

Aron Tanti

Dubbiena fuq is-sagħtar

Desirée Falzon

Dubbien fuq suffejra kbira

Id-dubbien f'dawn ir-ritratti huma kważi kollha speċi differenti. U bħalhom għandna ħafna oħrajn.

Desirée Falzon

Dubbiena fuq tfiefa

Victor Falzon

Dubbiena fuq it-tengħud

Victor Falzon

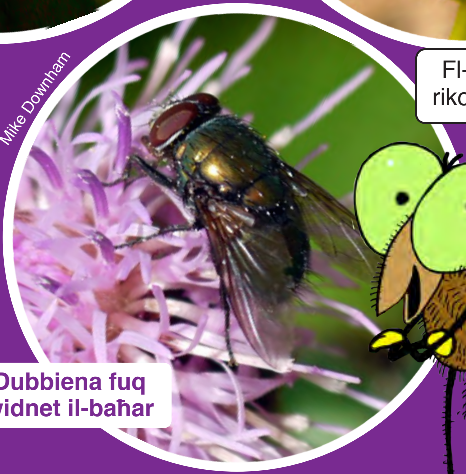
Dubbiena fuq il-ferla

Desirée Falzon

Dubbiena fuq il-ġarġir isfar

Desirée Falzon

Dubbiena fuq lelluxa



Mike Downham

Dubbiena fuq widnet il-baħar

Żumbrell

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

Ritratt ta' Aron Tanti – meħud fl-inħawi ta' San Blas (Malta)

BirdLife
MALTA

BLUE ROCK THRUSH

WE ARE SO LUCKY! Lucky that in Malta we share our lives with so many different types of plants and animals some of which have been crowned as National species. In this issue we are featuring the Blue Rock Thrush *(Monticola solitarius)*, popularly known as il-merill.

WHERE DOES IT LIVE ?

This thrush lives in coastal cliffs throughout the Maltese Islands, as well as around bastions or abandoned buildings in the countryside.

IS IT PROTECTED ?

The Blue Rock Thrush was declared as the national bird in 1971. ERA gave it additional protection as a national species in 2018.*

male

WHEN DOES IT BREED ?

This bird is one of the few breeding birds we have and breeds between March and June. The young leave the nest about two weeks after they hatch.

BLUE ROCK THRUSH
Photos: © Carmel Camilleri

female

*SL 549.120 of 2018

LOOK OUT FOR THE MALTESE ROCK CENTAURY IN THE NEXT ISSUE!

X'hemm għall-ikel?

Aqta' x'inhu l-ikel tal-annimali fuq ix-xellug billi tirranġa l-kliem imgerfex, imbagħad qabbel il-kliem mal-istampi fuq il-lemin

Tpinġija Victor Falzon

Aron Tanti

malvizz → buxebb → bebbux

Aron Tanti

ħuttafa → semun

Gilbert Haber

bugeddum → sunħafa

Joe Sultana

qanfud → ubwiengħar

John J Borg

pipistrell → ħabjari

Aron Tanti

spanjulett → ruġnied

Victor Falzon

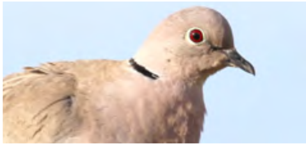
kamaleonti → atruġ

Victor Falzon

brimba → badniebu

Guido Bonett

bufula → ħexna


Raymond Vella

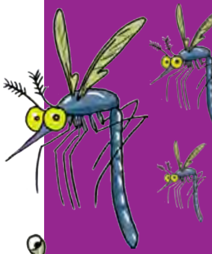
gamiema tal-kullar → għerrieża

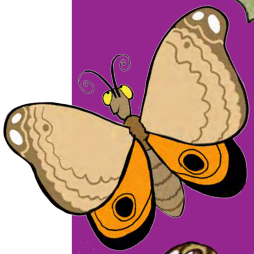
Desirée Falzon

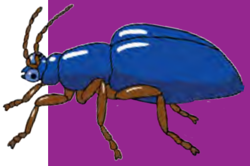
bebbuxu → ħixxa

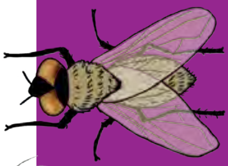
Suzanne Maas

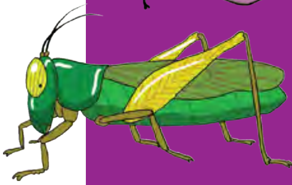
ballottra → fra











Phil Koken

Aron Tanti

Victor Falzon

il-bies

Is-seqer Malti!

Munqar tipiku ta' seqer: b'saħħtu, milwi ganċ u jaqta' daqs sikkina – għodda perfetta biex iqatta' l-laħam tal-priża.

Par għajnejn kbar li jistgħu t-tnejn iħarsu 'l quddiem għal vista eċċellenti.

L-isfumar kafellatte juri li dan il-bies huwa ferħ.

Fl-adulti jkun abjad, kif jidher hawn

Ir-rix tad-dahar jagħti ftit fil-kannella. La jsir adult ir-rix ikun blu skur.

Isem xjentifiku *Falco peregrinus*
Isem bl-Ingliż Peregrine Falcon
Daqs 38-51ċm
Medda 89-113ċm
Piż 400-1500g
Ikel Għasafar
Ħabitat Sisien mal-baħar
Status Rari, xi par jew tnejn ibejtu kull sena. Jidher ukoll fil-passa.

Il-piż ivarja daqshekk għax il-mara tkun ikbar u itqal mir-raġel.

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

Victor Falzon

Id-daqs proprju ta' bajda tal-bies

Il-bies magħmul għall-ħeffa, bi ġwinħajh twal ġejjin għall-ponta u ġisem [1]erodinamiku. F'dar-ritratt il-bies qed itir mingħajr għaġla partikulari. Imma meta jfettillu jlebbet wara xi [2]borka jew [3]tudun...

Aron Tanti

...jagħlaq ġwinħajh...

...u jsir missila!

Fi żmien il-Kavallieri l-bies tant kien komuni f'Malta li kull sena kien jingħata par bisien lir-Re ta' Spanja. Minħabba f'hekk il-bies hemm min għadu jsejjaħlu The Maltese Falcon.

Top speed tal-bies ▶ 390 km fis-siegħa

Aron Tanti

Il-bies għandu par strixxi suwed niżlin ma' ħaddejh donnhom mustaċċi! L-isqra li jgħaddu minn Malta tista' tgħid kollha għandhom xi ftit jew wisq "mustaċċi" bħal dawn. Tal-bies jispikkaw sew, anke meta jkun qed itir.

Aron Tanti

Il-bies ibejjet f'ħofor u xquq mal-uċuh weqfin tas-sisien. Is-sisiem ta' Malta kważi kollha jagħtu fuq il-baħar. Fir-ritratt jidher l-ambjent ideali fejn ibejjet il-bies, u tidher ukoll bejta.

[1]**erodinamiku.** Forma li tnaqqas ir-reżistenza tar-riħ (bl-Ingliż *aerodynamic* jew *streamlined*)
[2]**borka.** Papra selvaġġa
[3]**tudun.** Ħamiema selvaġġa

Smiley and Grumpy

Good news and bad news from around the world

Victor Falzon

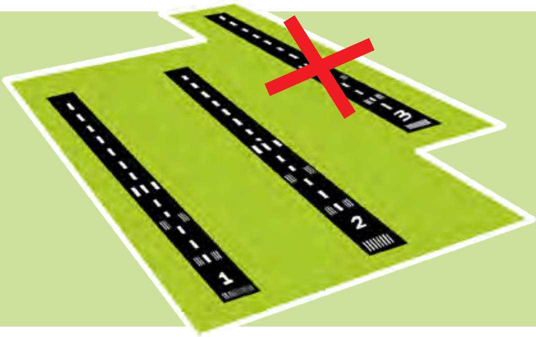
Say Bye to plastic bags!

We all know that plastic bags are bad for nature. In March, a new law in the State of New York (USA) said shops cannot give plastic bags to shoppers any more. People now bring reusable bags when they go shopping. That's terrific news because in New York State people use **23 billion plastic bags** every year, and then throw them all away. Well done! Many other states, like California and Oregon, are doing the same.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, some of these plastic bag laws in America have been stopped for now. Shops can use plastic bags again, because some people think they're more hygienic than reusable bags. Others think it's a silly idea.

Oil or nature?

Ecuador is a country in South America and it has a nice big patch of Amazon rainforest. In this forest is the wonderful 10,000km^2 **Yasunì National Park**, with 200 species of mammals, 550 species of birds, 380 species of river fish and 2000 species of trees. But under the park there's lots of oil and the government wants to dig it up and sell it. If this happens, it's bye bye Yasunì Park and all its biodiversity.



Environment 1 Heathrow 0

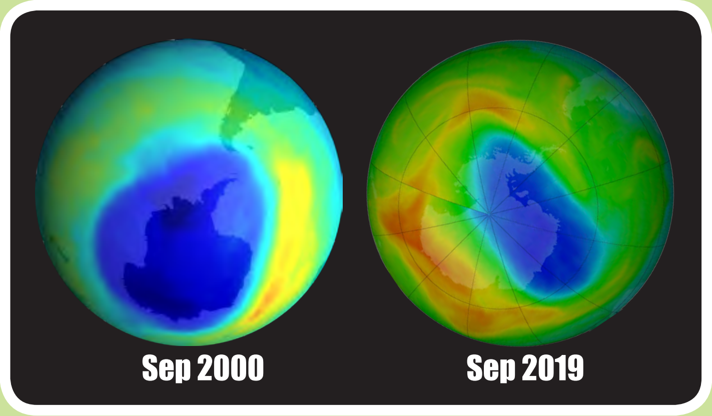
Heathrow is the biggest airport in the UK, where 1300 planes land or take off every day. The airport has two big runways but now they want to build another one. Many people are angry because more flights = more air pollution and noise pollution. But the UK government didn't care and said Okay let's build the third runway. So a group of people went to court to stop the project. The judges agreed and **stopped the runway project**! Yayyy!

Fridays for future

In March*, BirdLife Malta youth member Alvin Farrugia joined other young people from 25 EU countries in Brussels. They were all members of the group Fridays for Future, and they were there to ask EU leaders to make laws to reduce air pollution. They also organised protests in front of the EU Counsil building and in the streets of Brussels. While he was there, Alvin also met **Greta Thunberg**, the brave girl who set up Fridays for Future International.

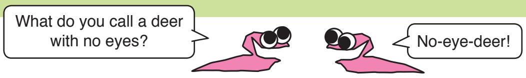
*This all happened before the COVID-19 lockdown

NASA



The hole is healing!

High up in the air all around Earth there's a thin layer of gas called ozone. This layer is very important because it stops nasty rays from the sun from getting through and making people and animals sick. For many years people used some bad chemicals called CFCs to make sprays and fridges. The CFCs mixed with the air and made a huge hole in the ozone layer. Luckily many countries listened to science and they stopped using CFCs. Slowly the ozone layer began to heal. Last year the ozone hole over Antarctica was **the smallest ever seen**. Well done everybody!



We blame them… but it's our fault really!

Here's a cute **pangolin**. People are not supposed to catch and sell pangolins because they are in danger of extinction. But people don't care and they catch many thousands every year. Scientists think that pangolins carried the COVID-19 germ from bats to people.

Scientists think that people first caught the coronavirus in a wildlife market in China. They think it all began with **bats**.

Jumping germs

Many animals carry germs. Even people do! The COVID-19 germ can jump from an animal to a different animal (or human) and make it sick.

How did it happen?

Wild animals usually keep away from people. But all over the world hunters catch millions of animals. And that's how people caught the COVID-19 infection.

Whose fault?

People blamed animals for COVID-19 and in some countries people panicked and killed even more animals. But that's a silly thing to do because the animals are not the danger. The danger is when you catch them or touch them or eat them or keep them at home.

Why do people hunt animals?

Many animals are caught and sold as pets, for example parrots, monkeys, reptiles and tropical fish. Many animals are becoming extinct because of the pet trade.

Millions of animals are caught so parts of their body can be turned into medicines, for example pangolins, tigers, bears and rhinos. A lot of these medicines do not really work.

Animals are also hunted for food, like antelopes, whales, bats and birds. Many species have been hunted so much that they are now rare or extinct.

Many animals are hunted to be turned into decorations in people's homes, for example elephants, leopards and birds. Many Maltese hunters kill birds to stuff them.

Time to STOP

How to stop germs jumping from animals to people

- Stop people from catching and selling protected animals
- Stop live animal markets that sell wildlife

This will save thousands of people from getting sick and dying. It will also save many animal species from going extinct.

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A "MORINA" IN MALTA?

MALTA NATIONAL AQUARIUM

Look for rocky shores since they spend most of the day in cavities between rocks. Eels are more active during the night, when they go out to hunt fish, squids, octopus and even weak or dead animals. They are very solitary and territorial, and their bite can be dangerous due to a toxic slime coat on the skin and mouth, which can even lead to an infection.

WHAT ARE THE NOSE PROTRUSIONS?

We call them nostrils, and they are openings of the nasal cavity connected to olfactory nerves. They enable them to smell! Moray eels rely heavily on smell since their food of choice is often weakened or dead, being easier to detect.

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