Il-Ħuttafa

Numru **158**

Mejju – Ġunju 2020

€2 għal min mhux membru

Gremxula

BirdLife MALTA

Il-magażin ta' Klabb Ħuttaf

Klabb Huttaf

Aron Tanti

Ħbieb Ħuttaf . . .

Żanżarell tat-Tikek (Spotted Flycatcher) qed jistenna tgħaddilu dubbiena!

mill-editur

Hawn nies jaħsbu li d-dinja teżisti għalihom biss!

Ftit ilu fuq Facebook xi ħadd tella' dawn iż-żewġ ritratti ta' bejta ta' bufula sewda li kellu fil-ġnien jew fl-għalqa.

Ir-ritratti tellagħhom biex jaqsam il-ferħ li ħass kull darba li jittawwal u jara l-frieħ jikbru. Fil-kummenti kulħadd qabel miegħu u kulħadd iggustahom dawk il-flieles. Ħlief wieħed għaref li kiteb hekk:

Ma nafx xi trid tkun biex tħajjar lin-nies jeqirdu bejta ta' bufula!

L-iskuża li ġab kienet li "ma jħallux enba"!

L-ewwelnett *għenba* tibda bl-*għ*.

It-tieni nett oqtol għalfejn? Mela nesa kemm eluf ta' xgħat u ħanfus jiekol il-bufula? Mela ma jafx li dawn l-għasafar jeħilsuh mid-dud li aktarx jikollu l-weraq tal-ħxejjex li jkabbar fl-għalqa? Anke dawk il-frieħ fil-bejta minn jaf kemm mijiet ta' *caterpillars* temgħuhom il-ġenituri tagħhom sa ma kibru. *Caterpillar* mhux aħjar f'żaqq ta' għasfur milli jgerrimlek il-weraq tal-kaboċċi, Sur Għaref?

Il-bufula sewda u ħafna għasafar oħrajn jagħtu servizz b'xejn ta' *pest control*. U min għandu l-għelieqi jagħmel tajjeb japprezza din il-ħaġa, u mhux iqajjem paniku għax isib għenba mnaqqra!

In-natura dejjem tipprova tgħallimna kif inżommu bilanċ. Imma min hu żaqqieq ma jafx x'inhu bilanċ għax irid kollox għalih. Kif taraw mill-istampa tal-kumment, kien hemm ħafna li rrabjaw b'li qal (u tawh tweġiba xierqa). X'effett kellhom ma nafx, nispera tgħallem.

U nispera li tgħallem ukoll kif tispelli *għenba*.

Victor

Victor Falzon L-Editur

Gremxula Maltese Wall Lizard *Podarcis filfolensis*

Ritratt ta' Desirée Falzon

Il-Gremxula hija waħda mid-disa' rettili tal-art li għandna Malta. Għadek taraha komuni fil-ġonna tad-djar, imma mill-kampanja qiegħda tonqos. Il-gremxula hija endemika għal pajjiżna u ma ssibha mkien iktar fid-dinja. Bħar-rettili l-oħrajn, hija mħarsa bil-liġi. Jekk għandek ġardina bil-gremxul, oħroġlu biċċa tadama u forsi jidra jiekol minn idejk!

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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.

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Tliet siti Natura 2000 ġodda

Joe Sultana

Desirée Falzon

Victor Falzon

Siti Natura 2000 huma biċċiet art jew baħar li fihom in-natura tkun imħarsa minn żvilupp bl-addoċċ. F'Malta għandna 48 minnhom, 34 fuq l-art u 14 fil-baħar. U issa s-siti ta' fuq l-art ser jiżdiedu bi tliet inħawi ġodda. Dawn huma **Wied Ħas-Saptan** (ħdejn Marsaxlokk), **Wied il-Mielaħ** (f'Għawdex) u **Tal-Wej** (ħdejn il-Mosta).

Kumbinazzjoni dwar Tal-Wej ktibna m'ilux f'*Il-Ħuttafa*. Tabilħaqq post li jixraqlu ħarsien għan-natura u l-istorja tiegħu. Wied il-Mielaħ huwa wied fond b'ħafna xagħri madwaru (u tieqa fil-blat), u Wied Ħas-Saptan jista' jkun ġenna tal-art għan-natura jekk jingħata l-kura li ħaqqu. Iktar 'il quddiem ngħidulkom iktar dwar dawn is-siti ġodda protetti. Prosit!

Il-fekruna terġa' tbejjet!

BirdLife Cyprus

Il-fekruna tal-baħar reġgħet biedet fuq ramla Maltija... anzi biex inkunu iktar preċiżi ramla Għawdxija.

Fid-29 Mejju, għall-ħabta tal-10pm, xi nies li kienu r-Ramla l-Ħamra raw fekruna tal-baħar (loggerhead turtle *Caretta caretta*) tielgħa l-art, tħaffer fir-ramel, tbid partita bajd, tgħattihom u terġa' lura fil-baħar. Waww! B'xorti tajba dawk li rawha kellhom id-diċenza ma jfixkluhiex. Prosit!

F'dawn l-aħħar snin il-fekruna tal-baħar biedet tliet darbiet f'pajjiżna – darbtejn fil-Ġnejna (fl-2012 u fl-2018, ara *Il-Ħuttafa* 111 u 147) u darba fir-Ramla tal-Mixquqa fl-2016 (ara *Il-Ħuttafa* 135). F'Għawdex kien ilu xi 70 sena ma titla' fekruna l-art. Għalhekk is-sbejħa li biedet fir-Ramla tatna pjaċir doppju, mhux biss għax żanżnet ramla oħra, imma wkoll għax ma setgħetx tagħżel xatt aħjar. Ir-Ramla l-Ħamra hija l-ikbar ramla li għandna fil-Gżejjer Maltin. Barra minn hekk hija sit Natura 2000, jiġifieri protetta minn żviluppi bħal lukandi u bini ieħor. Insomma għamlet għażla għaqlija l-fekruna!

Issa nittamaw li kollox imur b'wiċċ il-ġid, u li f'*Il-Ħuttafa* li jmiss inħabbru kemm faqqsu fkejruni u kemm ġrew lejn il-baħar :) .

Jekk tixtieq tgħin fl-għassa tal-bejta ibgħat imejl lil
turtle.ramla@gmail.com

Ġnien għan-Natura

Desirée Falzon

Kif tiġbed in-natura lejn il-ġnien tiegħek

Biex niġbdu n-natura lejn il-ġnien tagħna tajjeb niftakru li annimali differenti jħobbu affarijiet differenti. Iktar ma jkollna varjetà iktar ħa tkun b'saħħitha n-nisġa tal-ikel fil-ġnien. Għalhekk idea tajba li noħolqu ftit ħabitati differenti. Hawnhekk se nħarsu lejn tnejn minnhom: il-ġebel u z-zkuk.

Victor Falzon

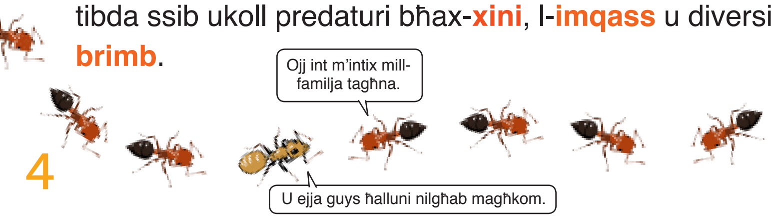
Victor Falzon

Gorboġ ġebel

Sib post li jara x-xemx filgħodu u oħloq gorboġ żgħir ġebel. Ġebel tal-gagazza ideali għax jidher sabiħ, imma qis li ma tiħux mix-xagħri jew mill-ħitan tas-sejjieħ. Min jagħmel ġnien għan-natura ma jħottx ħabitati fis-selvaġġ. F'ħafna trejqiet fil-kampanja ssib ġebel mormi u faċli ssib xi erba' jogħġbuk.

Oħloq munzell żgħir bil-ġebel fuq il-ħamrija fejn jara x-xemx. Issa l-**gremxul** jibda' jużah biex jixxemmex fuqu. Minn hawn fuq, il-gremxul jieħu gost jgħasses it-territorju tiegħu u spiss tarahom ikeċċu lil xulxin. Jekk il-ġebel jisħon wisq, il-gremxul jitlaq għal ġod-dell jew jibda jfittex l-ikel.

Ftit mill-ġebel agħmilhom ċatti fuq il-ħamrija fid-dell, jekk jista' jkun ma' ħajt. Binhar jistkennu taħthom ħafna annimali bħall-**ħnieżer l-art** u **ħniex tal-indewwa**, annimali li l-fdalijiet tal-ikel tagħhom huwa sustanza għall-ħamrija. Peress li dawn joħorġu bil-lejl għandhom bżonn post umdu fejn joqogħdu binhar. Biż-żmien tibda ssib ukoll predaturi bħax-**xini**, l-**imqass** u diversi **brimb**.



Munzell zkuk

Jekk tkun żbart siġra jew arbuxxell li għandhom zkuk nixfin, tista' tagħmel munzelli bihom. Varja l-postijiet: ftit fix-xemx, ftit fid-dell u ftit nofs u nofs ħalli jkollok ħabitati għal annimali differenti.

Munzell hekk huwa tajjeb għal varjetà ta' annimali għaliex dawn jistgħu jistaħbew taħthom, ibidu fihom u anke jikkaċċjaw fihom. Ix-**xaħmet l-art** iħobbhom ħafna l-munzelli biz-zkuk. Ħafna insetti wkoll jorqdu qalb zkuk nixfin fid-dell, bħall-**baħrijiet**. Dawn imbagħad jagħmlu festa minnhom il-**wiża'**. Zkuk irqaq iħobbhom ukoll in-**naħal tal-ġonna**, li binhar idakkrulek il-fjuri fil-ġnien u filgħaxija jsibu zokk u jorqdu mqabbdin miegħu.

Kumbinazzjoni hawn ritratt tagħhom f'paġna 5

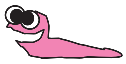
Desirée Falzon

X'qed jagħmlu?

Għall-ewwel taħsibhom naħal fuq il-fjuri. Imma jekk inħarsu sew naraw li dawn l-erba' naħliet mhux fuq il-fjuri qegħdin imma donnhom qed jigdmu z-zokk tal-pjanta! Mhux biss, imma saqajhom lanqas biss qed imissu z-zokk, anzi qegħdin marsusin ma' ġisimhom. X'qed jiġri?
Xejn ta' barra minn hawn! Dawk l-erba' naħliet ... **reqdin!**

Dan mhux naħal tal-għasel imma **naħal tal-ġonna** (white-banded digger bee, *Amegilla quadrifasciata*)

Indiġenu jew endemiku ?



Kemm hawn min iħawwadhom daż-żewġ kelmiet! X'inhi d-differenza?

Indiġenu *(indigenous* or *native)*

Speċi indiġena tfisser speċi li dejjem kienet teżisti f'dak il-post, fi kliem ieħor ma jkunx daħħalha l-bniedem minn post ieħor. Għalhekk pereżempju s-siġra tal-ballut hija indiġena għal pajjiżna għax meta wasal il-bniedem Malta kienet diġà hawn tikber selvaġġ. U bħalma hija indiġena f'Malta l-balluta hija wkoll indiġena f'ħafna nħawi oħra tal-Mediterran. Mill-banda l-oħra l-bajtar tax-xewk pereżempju mhux indiġenu għal Malta għax inġab mill-Amerka u tħawwel hawn. Meta speċi tinġab minn art oħra tissejjaħ aljena jew eżotika.

Endemiku *(endemic)*

Speċi endemika tkun speċi li tinstab f'post wieħed u mkien iktar fid-dinja. Il-kiwi endemiku għal New Zealand għax hemm biss jinstab. Il-gremxula tagħna hija endemika għal Malta għax ma ssibha mkien iktar fid-dinja. L-istess widnet il-baħar, is-sempreviva t'Għawdex u l-musbieħ il-lejl. Imbagħad hemm speċi li jkollhom razez endemiċi. Pereżempju l-qabru tagħna huwa l-istess qabru tal-Italja, imma tagħna jkollu xi differenzi żgħar li ma ssibhom imkien iktar. Għalhekk il-qabru huwa razza endemika għal Malta.

Farfett wieħed... 18-il isem!

Il-farfett tal-bużbież huwa wieħed mill-ikbar u l-isbaħ friefet ta' Malta. Tant jispikka li ħafna nies mhux biss rawh imma anke tawh isem. Min semmieh hekk u min semmieh hekk, tant li llum dal-farfett għandu mill-inqas 18-il isem differenti...

Gallina
Farfett tal-Bużbież
Farfett taż-Żebbuġ
Farfett tal-Madonna
Farfett tar-Reġina
Kavallier
Farfett tal-Pinen
Farfett tal-Fejġel
Farfett tar-Rummien
Ir-Re
Farfett tal-Fjuri
Ajkla
Gardell
Dundjan
Farfett tal-Għalqa
Farfett tal-Lira
L-Ikkulurit
Farfett tal-Kaboċċi

Ħajr lill-Kunsill Nazzjonali tal-Malti għal uħud mill-ismijiet

WE HAVE WILD DOLPHINS IN MALTA!

MALTA NATIONAL AQUARIUM

Dolphins (dniefel) are mammals and there are different species all year that swim around the Maltese archipelago. The common bottlenose dolphin is the most frequent of them! However, with the COVID-19 outbreak, more sightings of dolphins were recorded in the Maltese islands...

IS THE PANDEMIC CHANGING THEIR BEHAVIOUR?

Possibly they are coming closer to shore due to the reduction in underwater noise. But the question is: will this last long? Studies have yet to be developed so we can differentiate short-term effects from long-term alterations in their behaviour.

DO THEY MAKE SOUNDS?

Yes! Dolphins make different types of sounds like clicks and whistles so they can communicate with each other by echolocation - similarly to bats! This is probably why they are coming closer to shore... it's quieter so they communicate better and explore new places without the risk of for instance being hit by a boat!

HOW MANY DOLPHINS DO WE HAVE IN MALTA?

We also have species like the Risso dolphin, the short beaked common dolphin and the striped dolphin, but the common bottlenose dolphin is the most sighted. Its population is estimated to range from 79 to 224 in and around Maltese waters (79 being the most realistic figure).

Photos credit: local dolphins in Malta by EcoMarine Malta.

Smiley and Grumpy

Good news and bad news from around the world

Two months, no coal !

For two whole months Great Britain (that's England, Scotland and Wales) didn't use coal to make electricity! Okay, lockdown helped a bit because people used less electricity during the pandemic. But it's also because wind and solar power have grown so popular in the UK. Ten years ago only 3% of Britain's electricity came from clean eco-friendly ways and many people said: "Oh this is just a craze, it will never work." Well it worked, and one by one the dirty coal power stations in the UK are shutting down. Wind and solar power are winning. Wow, big Smiley!

Shooting sleeping bears

President Trump of the USA is busy chopping down all the laws that protect nature. Some days ago he made a law to let companies look for oil in the nature reserves of Alaska. That means big noisy dirty drilling machines that pollute the sea and scare the animals that live in it, like beluga whales and narwhals. But Mr Trump wasn't happy, he wanted more damage. So now he made a law to let hunters shoot bears while the poor animals are hibernating. Why is this man so horrid to nature?

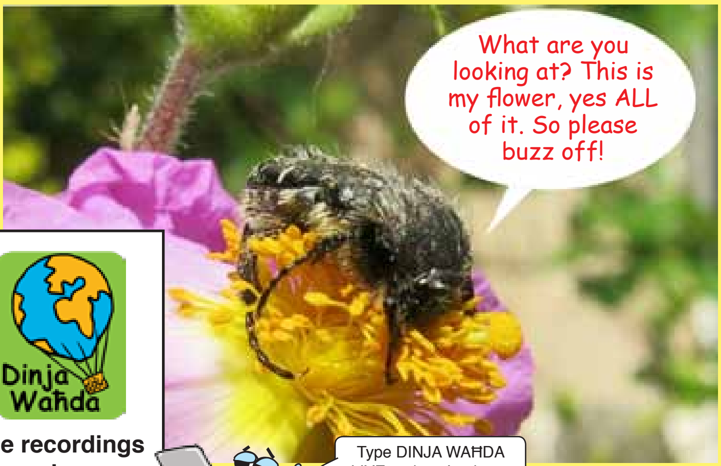
The bison is back !

Maybe you read about the millions of bison killed in North America long ago in the 19th century. These massive animals almost went extinct but luckily some were saved in a US national park and slowly their numbers increased again. Horrible things happened to the bison in Canada too and they were almost wiped out there too. Luckily some people wanted to save this fantastic animal, and they kept a small herd on a ranch. They are slowly increasing too and other parks are doing the same. Bison calves are running free in the Canadian prairie again. What a nice feeling.

Waħda Live • Dinja Waħda Live • Dinja Waħ

Since people couldn't go out much in nature during the covid pandemic, BirdLife had this idea to do live Dinja Waħda programmes about nature for students and teachers at home. So in May and June field teachers Desirée and Victor Falzon created and presented nine weekly programmes, and they had subjects like pollinators, animal senses, habitats and nest building. We were very happy to learn that we had over 250 online listeners.

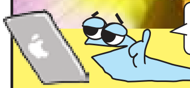
Many kids sent in tons of questions that we tried to answer while presenting at the same time, and some also became members of Klabb Ħuttaf. One popular bit was the caption game, where we showed pictures of animals with speech balloons, and the listeners had to invent something for the animals to say! We had some great answers, here's two of them...



Mia
St Dorothy School

Dinja Waħda

The recordings are also on YouTube.



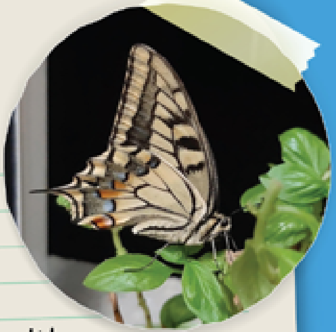
Monakella Imperjali

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Ritratt ta' Aron Tanti – meħud fix-xatt ta' Marsaskala

BirdLife
MALTA

AMY'S DIARY



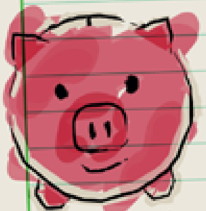
Heyyy Ħuttafers,

Amy here!

What have you been doing these past weeks? I've kept myself busy with schoolwork, gardening, bird watching and craft-making! Mom has been following BOV on social media, and they are posting loads of activities and fun stuff. Dad looked hilarious doing the workout videos and I loved how my DIY Face Shield turned out.

LILY
(spending money)

We've been going on long walks and bike rides in the countryside, careful to keep our social distancing. We also visited Nanna and Nannu but we stayed outside and chatted with them from beneath their balcony. They threw me some pocket money too, €10 as a reward for keeping them entertained on the phone every day! Not to brag, but they really are GRANDparents! :P



DONNY
(donations)

My piggies are sharing the gift; I put €4 in LILY so that I can spend it on the little things like ice cream and games. Before I buy something I check if Lily has enough.

DONNY gets €2, which I can donate or buy food for the cats in our street and extra treats for the creatures in our garden.

SOSY
(use only in case of emergency)

I might have to use SOSY's money a little more now that we're finally going out. (she's my emergency piggy and very important, since I am always losing my stuff...)

Finally I put €3 in TRAVVY, who keeps the money safe for my future travels.

I hadn't put coins in my piggies for quite a while because we are avoiding cash, we got used to buying everything online and local when possible. So Dad suggested that I save some of my pocket money directly in my bank account. I wasn't too keen on Travvy's empty tummy at first, but now Dad transfers money from his account to mine using the BOV Mobile app and I get to see my savings grow.

Peace Out

Amy

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BOV
Bank of Valletta

Fishy quiz!

Here's a quiz about life in the sea. You have three answers to choose from. How many can you get right?

Desirée Falzon

Why is this fish called a peacock wrasse?

A Because it opens its tail to show off like a peacock.
B Because it's colourful like a peacock.
C Because it has a loud call like a peacock.

Mark Anthony Falzon

Why are the eyes of a flounder on top of its head?

A So it can see while hidden in the sand.
B Because there's no space in the rest of its head.
C So it can look out of the water.

Victor Falzon

How does a sea urchin eat?

A It tears off seaweed with its sharp mouth.
B It spikes small fish on its spines.
C It drinks seawater and filters out its food.

Desirée Falzon

Which of these animals is the octopus's near relative?

A Snakes
B Fish
C Snails

Desirée Falzon

How do blennies use their strong front fins?

A To clap them together and scare off predators.
B To hold on to rocks when the sea is choppy.
C To open clams and eat the soft bits inside.

Desirée Falzon

Where do baby cardinalfish live?

A Among the seaweed.
B In their daddy's mouth.
C Under pebbles on the sea floor.

Victor Falzon

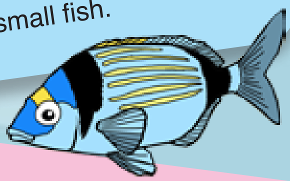
Why is neptune grass important for sea life?

A Because it's a great nursery for young fish.
B Because nutrients come out of its leaves.
C Because its flowers are good for pollinators.

Mark Anthony Falzon

Why do scorpionfish have tufts on their head?

A To be camouflaged among the seaweed.
B To look pretty.
C To give an electric shock to small fish.



Desirée Falzon

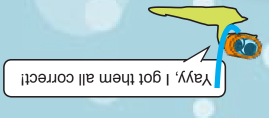
Why do flying gurnards have such big fins?

A To make shade for their babies.
B To fly out of the water.
C To scare off predators.

Victor Falzon

What makes these holes in the sand?

A They are footprints of a passing starfish.
B They are tubes of a clam that's buried in the sand.
C They are marks of a fish that digs in the sand.



Answers
1B • 2A • 3A • 4C • 5B • 6B • 7A • 8A • 9C • 10B

Aron Tanti

Victor Falzon

il-bufula tal-qasab

Kollox bil-moħbi!

Isem xjentifiku *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*
Isem bl-Ingliż Reed Warbler
Daqs 12.5-14ċm
Piż 12g
Ikel Insetti u dud
Ħabitat Meded bil-qasab ħdejn l-ilma
Status Komuni fil-passa, ftit pari jbejtu

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.

Charles Coleiro

Id-daqs proprju ta' bajda ta' bufula tal-qasab

Victor Falzon

Il-bufula tal-qasab tbid minn tlieta sa erba' bajdiet.

Il-bufula qed iżżoqq tliet frieħ imġewħin! Minkejja isimha, il-bufula tal-qasab spiss tbejjet fis-siġar tal-bruk (tamarisk), kif jidher f'dar-ritratt meħud Is-Simar. Basta tkun qrib l-ilma u xi medda qasab.

Charles Coleiro

Charles Coleiro

L-istess bejta tar-ritratt ta' fuq, xi tliet ġimgħat wara. Il-frieħ kibru ġmielhom u ftit ġranet oħra jħallu l-bejta u jitgħallmu jtiru.

Ir-riserva naturali tas-Simar hija l-uniku post f'Malta fejn il-bufula tal-qasab nafu li tbejjet regolari, għalkemm xorta f'numri żgħar.

BirdLife Malta

Victor Falzon

Post ieħor fejn il-bufula tal-qasab ġieli bejtet huwa s-Salina. Il-BirdLife qed tkabbar l-ambjent naturali f'din ir-riserva ġdida, biex tħajjar dan l-għasfur jibda jbejjet regolari hemm ukoll.

MALTESE ROCK-CENTAURY

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 Maltese Rock-Centaury *(Palaeocyanus crassifolius)*, popularly known as widnet il-baħar.

WHERE IS IT FOUND?

This plant can be found in cliffs and boulder screes and flowers from May to July. It is also used in public gardens, as well as urban and rural landscaping.

IS IT PROTECTED?

The Maltese Rock-Centaury was declared as the national plant in 1971. ERA gave it additional protection as a national species in 2018.*

IS IT ENDEMIC?

Yes, this endangered plant is endemic to the Maltese Islands. This means that it can only be found here and nowhere else in the world.

*SL 549.120 of 2018

LOOK OUT FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN KILLIFISH IN THE NEXT ISSUE!

ERA

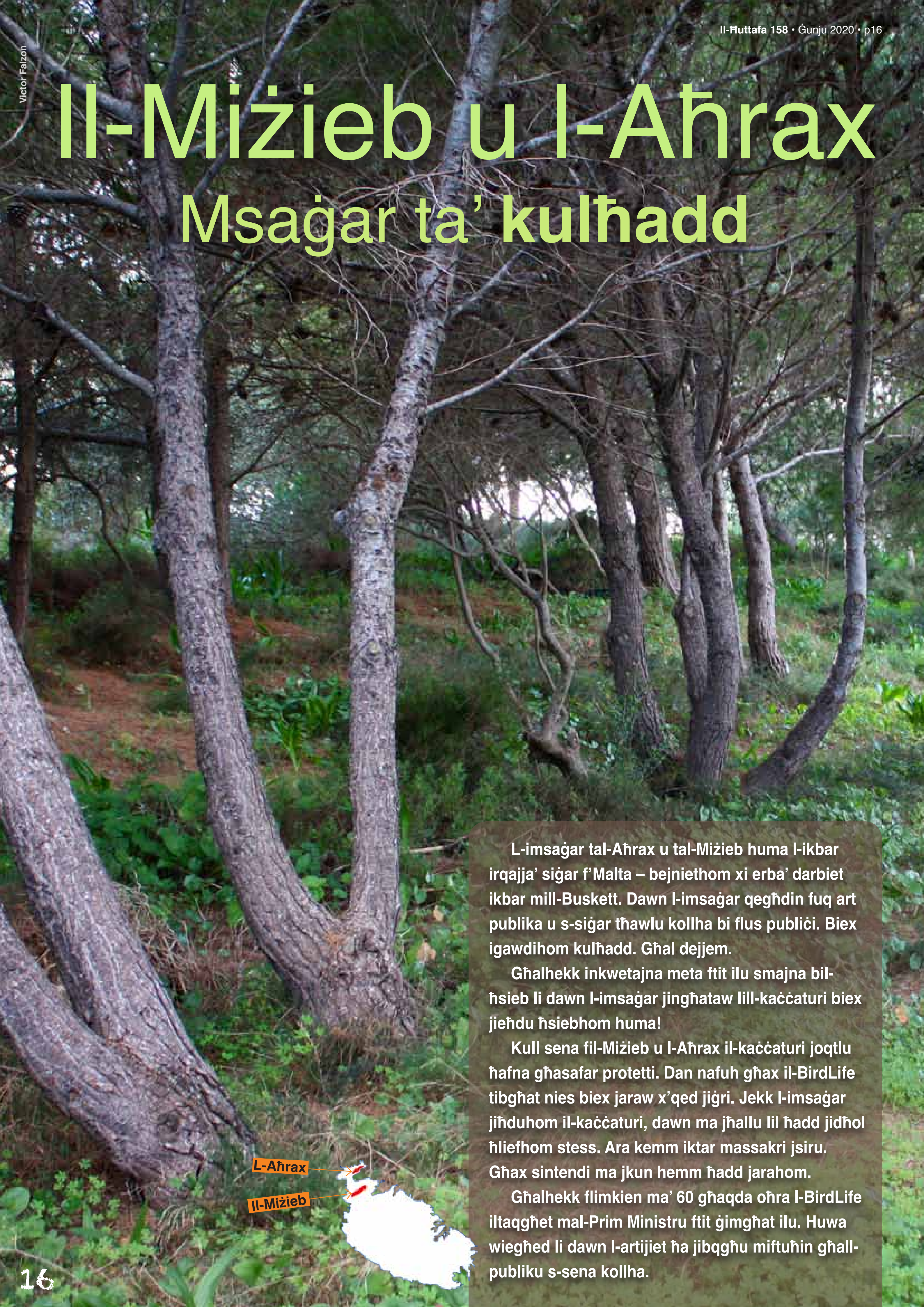
Il-baħar tagħhom

Ritratti ta' Desirée Falzon u Victor Falzon

iktar milli tagħna!

Qed nagħtukom ukoll l-isem xjentifiku ta' dawn l-annimali biex jekk tridu tfittxu fuqhom onlajn.

Meta tiġu tgħumu ftakru li l-baħar huwa d-dar tagħna. Merħba bikom biex tgawduh imma jekk jogħġobkom iġġibuhx miżbla. Grazzi.



Victor Falzon

Il-Miżieb u l-Aħrax

Msaġar ta' **kulħadd**

L-imsaġar tal-Aħrax u tal-Miżieb huma l-ikbar irqajja' siġar f'Malta – bejniethom xi erba' darbiet ikbar mill-Buskett. Dawn l-imsaġar qegħdin fuq art publika u s-siġar tħawlu kollha bi flus publiċi. Biex igawdihom kulħadd. Għal dejjem.

Għalhekk inkwetajna meta ftit ilu smajna bil-ħsieb li dawn l-imsaġar jingħataw lill-kaċċaturi biex jieħdu ħsiebhom huma!

Kull sena fil-Miżieb u l-Aħrax il-kaċċaturi joqtlu ħafna għasafar protetti. Dan nafuh għax il-BirdLife tibgħat nies biex jaraw x'qed jiġri. Jekk l-imsaġar jiħduhom il-kaċċaturi, dawn ma jħallu lil ħadd jidħol ħliefhom stess. Ara kemm iktar massakri jsiru. Għax sintendi ma jkun hemm ħadd jarahom.

Għalhekk flimkien ma' 60 għaqda oħra l-BirdLife iltaqgħet mal-Prim Ministru ftit ġimgħat ilu. Huwa wiegħed li dawn l-artijiet ħa jibqgħu miftuħin għall-publiku s-sena kollha.