

il-Huttafa

Numru 162

Jannar - Frar 2021



Rožinjol Ikhal

€2 for non-members



Għeżeż Huttaf ...

Il-berdwoċing jagħimlek specjali!

Il-berdwoċing jgħallmek tara rqaqt tan-natura li ħaddieħor ma jarax. Titgħallem tinnota d-daqs, il-forma, il-kulur u d-disinn ta' għasfur. Mhux biss, imma ħafna drabi dawn id-dettalji trid tilmaħhom malajr, għax l-għasfur ikun qed itir jew jistaħba qalb il-weraq. L-istess it-tifxur u l-għana tal-għasfar. Minn tpespisa nofs kilometru l-bogħod titgħallem tgħid x'għasfur kien.

Kważi supersense!

Sintendi, biex issir berdwoċer tajjeb trid toħroġ spiss, u jekk ikkollok miegħek berdwoċer tal-

esperjenza titgħallem ħafna iktar. Ngħid ghalija, jien mill-berdwoċers tal-BirdLife tgħallimt nagħraf xi għasfar. Waħdi kont indum ħafn'i ktar. U fil-kumpanija dejjem iktar gost.

Meta titgħallem tosserva l-irqaqt, dan is-'supersense' tibda tużah anke ma' affarijet oħra tan-natura, mhux għasfar biss. Tibda tinnota d-differenza bejn insetti li jixxiebhu, u bejn fjur li f'għajnejn ħaddieħor jidħru l-istess.

Imma issa rrīd nara kemm intom berdwoċers tajbin!

Fir-ritratt ta' fuq tidher geġġiġija għasfar.

Kważi lkoll gawwi, imma qalb dak il-gawwi hemm cırlewwa tax-xitwa. Iċ-ċırlewwa tax-xitwa (*Sandwich tern*) tkun iktar misluta mill-gawwi u jkollha munqarha skur bil-ponta safra ċar kważi abjad. Ara ssibuhiex!

Stay safe, guys!



Sibtha
ċ-ċırlewwa
jew?

U x-sibt sibt...

Victor

Victor Falzon
L-Editur



Rožinjol Ikħal
Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

Ir-rožinjol ikħal huwa għasfur żgħir daqs u forma ta' pitirross. Imma kif jidher mir-ritratt, dan l-għasfur mhux oranġjo biss għandu fuq sidru imma anke blu, iswed u abjad. Huwa għasfur skars tal-passa, għalkemm jidher kull sena. Ir-rožinjol ikħal iħobb imsaġar f'inħawi fejn hemm l-ilma, bħal xmajjar u ġnub ta' għad-dajjar.

Ritratt ta' Aron Tanti

Tiżwiqa gawwi – parti minn qatgħha kbira li kull sena tghaddi x-xitwa fir-riserva naturali tas-Salina.



F'din il-ħargħ...

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Writers in this issue

Thais Amaral (National Aquarium), Elena (Ecohive), Desirée Falzon, Victor Falzon, Marie Vella (BOV)

Klabb Huttaf

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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Kilowatts flok Kabocci

Li nagħmlu l-elettriċi mid-dawl tax-xemx hija ħaġa tajba hafna. Impjant tad-dawl li jagħmel l-enerġija mix-xemx jgħidlu *solar farm* u dan ma jħammiġx l-arja kif jagħmlu l-power stations li jaħdmu bil-faħam jew biziż-żejt.

Imma xorta rridu noqogħdu attenti hafna.

Għaliex? Għax dawn l-impjanti jieħdu hafna spazju. Biex tibni *solar farm* ta' xi 10,000 *solar panel* trid biċċa art ġmielha. Pajjiżna żgħir u rridu noqogħdu b'seba' għajnejn kif nużaw l-art.

Għalhekk tinkwietta tisma' li hafna qed jaapplikaw biex jibnu *solar farms*... fil-kampanja!

Pereżempju fl-Imġarr xi ħadd irid jibni *solar farm* fuq 43,000m² art, jiġifieri ikbar minn sitt grawnds tal-futbol! Bħalissa din l-art hija għelieqi, steppa u xaghri.



Li kelli jsir, is-solar farm li holmu bih fl-Imġarr jgħatti medda art daqs sitt grawnds tal-futbol.

Imma ngħid jien farm postu fil-kampanja, hux?

Buff! Mela hsibti li f'*solar farm* irabbu t-tieġej jew?



Jekk titgħiġha bis-solar panels, fid-dell tagħhom mhux ħa jikbru pjanti.

U bla pjanti ma jkollokx natura.

Digà għandna terz minn pajjiżna mibni. Possibl s-solar farms ma jistgħux isiru fuq art digħiż żviluppata? Irridu bilfors inkomplu nisirqu l-ftit beraħ li baqgħalna?

U issa bl-iskuża li qed ngħinu l-ambient!

Is-solar farms għandhom isiru fuq parkeġġi, fuq ġibjuni, u fuq il-bjut ta' bini kbir bħal skejjel, fabriki u mħażen.

Fl-aħħar bdejna neħħilsu minnhom!

Malta waqqfet id-dħul ta' xi affarijiet tal-plastik *single-use*, jiġifieri dawk li tuża darba u tarmiħom. Fosthom hemm basktijiet, tazzi, platti, friket, skieken, mgħaref, kuċċarini, cotton buds, straws, trejs u reċipjenti tal-ġablu u stirrers.

Prosit! Pass tajjeb fil-gwerra kontra l-plastik. Il-plastik spissiż-żiġi fil-baħar u kif tafu joqtol hafna hut, fkieren, dniefel u għasafar. Mhx biss, imma l-plastik tista' tgħid ma jispicċċa qatt għax ma jitmermir. Għalhekk inqas ma nużaw plastik aħjar.

Sfortunatament l-liġi l-ġidha ma nkludietx plastik ieħor *single-use*

bħal boroż irraq u fliexken tax-xorb. Dawn ukoll naraw hafna minnhom fil-baħar. Għalhekk inheġġu l-gvern biex ma jdumx ma jaqta' l-użu ta' dawn ukoll. U magħhom jista' jidu ukoll wet wipes u bżieżaq.

Sadattant aħħar nistgħu nagħmlu l-parti tagħna. Meta mmorru nixtru haxix u frott, flok naqtgħu boroż minn dawk ir-rombli għandna nużaw boroż reusable. Dawn ikunu qishom xibka fina, ta' daqsijiet differenti u jingħalqu bl-ispaga. Komdi immens u l-hwienet kollha jaċċettawhom, anzi xi supermarkets iqassmuhom b'xejn ma' xi prodotti.



Nagħmlu l-parti tagħna!



Gnien għan-Natura

Kitba Desirée Falzon
Tpingija Victor Falzon

Kif tiġbed in-natura lejn il-ġnien tiegħek

il-Kompost

Uža n-natura biex tressaq iktar natura! Il-kompost huwa trikk sempliċi biex iżżejjid in-natura fil-ġnien waqt li fl-istess ħin tghin il-pjanti. Għax il-kompost mimli sustanzi.

X'inhu kompost?

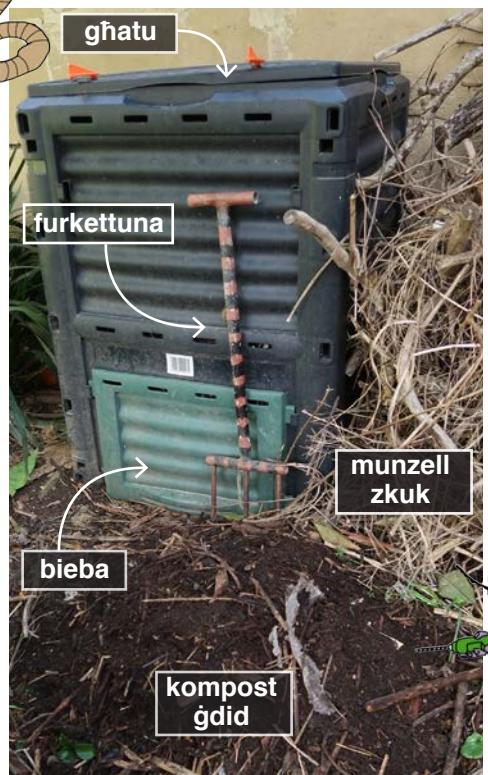
Kull annimal jew pjanta huma magħmulin mill-ilma u taħlita ta' minerali u sustanzi, li ħafna minnhom gew mill-ħamrija. Il-kompost huwa dak li jibqa' meta l-pjanti u l-annimali jmutu u jgħaddi ż-żmien minn fuqhom.

Allura, kif jerġgħu jsiru minerali u sustanzi fil-ħamrija? Fil-ħamrija

jgħixu annimali li jnaqqru u jieklu fdalijiet ta' pjanti jew annimali. Wara li dan il-materjal jgħaddi minn ġo fihom, ikomplu jmermrū batterji u fungi,

sa ma fl-ahħar jispiċċa kompost – sustanzi tajbin għall-ħamrija.

Fost dawn l-annimali hemm il-ħanżir l-art, il-bugħarwien, il-bebbux u l-ħanex tal-indewwa. Dawn l-annimali tista' tgħid kollha għandhom fama ħażina man-nies! Hlief min joqtolhom jew isajjarhom ma nismax. Imma kif naħseb qed tindunaw, dawn l-annimali huma importanti ħafna fin-nisġa tal-ħajja. Jagħmlu servizz KBIR lin-natura għax jirriċiklaw il-minerali u s-sustanzi tal-affarijiet li jkunu għexu, u jerġgħu jpoġġuhom lura fil-ħamrija. Minn hemm imbagħad il-pjanti jerġgħu jtellgħuhom mill-għeruq.



Tista' tixtri *compost bin* lest. Dan wieħed li għandu għatu, tajjeb biex iżomm is-sħana u jgħaġġel il-process. Dan it-tip ta' *bin* qiegħed apposta biex joqgħod fuq il-ħamrija u għalhekk m'għandux qiegħ. B'hekk l-annimali li jgħixu fil-ħamrija, bħall-ħniex, ikunu jistgħu jgħaddu għal-ġo fi u jibdew jagħmlu il-kompost.



ħanex tal-indewwa
millipede

kapinera
blackcap

Victor Falzon

vjolin tax-xitwa
common chiffchaff

Victor Falzon

Ojj, fejn
sejra b'dak
in-numru?

Kif nagħmlu?

Biex tagħmel kompost tajjeb importanti li l-materjal ikun organiku. L-aħjar huma fdalijiet tal-pjanti, jew mill-kċina jew mill-ġnien. Ma' materjal niexef (zkuk, weraq niexef, eċċ) dejjem ħallat materjal frisk (bħal haxix). Jekk ikun kollu frisk irabbi riħa, li turik li għandek taħlita ħażina. Jekk iż-żomm munzell weraq niexef, jew zkuk ta' wara xi żabru, hu minnhom ftit ffit u ħallathom mal-fdalijiet tal-ħaxix frisk. Importanti li thallat l-imxarrab man-niexef. Jekk ikun kollu niexef, ma jsirx kompost.

Qatta' l-biċċiet żgħar kemm tista' halli jitmermu malajr, u uža xi tip ta' furkettuna biex kultant thallat il-materjal u ddaħħallu l-arja. Dejjem ara li jkun umdu – jista' jkun li fis-sajf ikollok bżonn tbexxu ftit bl-ilma.

Fejn nagħmlu?

Ma tantx tagħmel differenza fen tqiegħed il-compost bin. L-importanti li jekk ikun fix-xemx, ma thallihx jinxef. Jekk għandek x'imkien fejn qed tkabbar pjanti, żomm il-kompost il-bogħod kemm tista' halli ma jdurx għalihom il-bebbux.

**Fi ġnien
għan-natura
tużax bexx.
Dejjem fitteż^x
soluzzjoni
naturali.**



Meta l-kompost tagħħmlu inti stess, tiffranks li tixtri, u jkollok prodott ġenwin għax taf-ezzatt minn xhiex inhu magħmul.



Reċipient miftuħ, bħal barmil kbir jew tank wiesa', jista' jservi ta' compost bin u fl-istess hin jiġbed armata shiha ta' animali rqaq lesti biex jibdew jagħmlu l-kompost.



dubbienna dakkar
drone fly



Biex tiproteġi pjanti mill-bebbux, dawwarhom bil-qxur tal-bajd imfarrak irriq. Il-bebbux ma jħobbx jaqsam minn fuq dik il-linja qxur. Jien nagħmilha spiss u tista' tghid dejjem taħdem.

Fost l-insejti li jżurulek il-kompost insibu l-hover flies. Dan id-dubbien idakkar hafna pjanti u għalhekk bżonnjuż hafna fil-ġnien. Hafna hover flies ibidu fil-kompost stess jew fl-ilma li jingabar f'qiegħ il-kompost, specjalment jekk ir-reċipient ikun mikxuf u jkollu qiegħi.



pitirross
robin



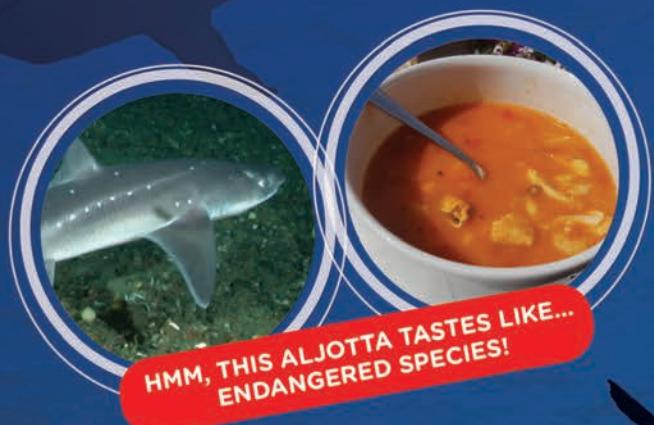
bufula sewda
Sardinian warbler

Waqt li l-kompost qed isir, diversi għasafar jiġu jagħmlu festa mil-insejti u l-hniex li jsibu. Fil-ħarifa u x-xitwa jitfaċċaw il-pitirross, il-kapinera u l-vjolin tax-xitwa. U matul is-sena kollha taf tiġi l-bufula sewda, li fi żmien il-bejta taqbad dawn l-animali żgħar anke biex titma' l-frieħ. Jekk jiġu jżuruk spiss dawn l-ħasafar, tista' sserraħ rasek li l-ġnien naturali tiegħek huwa succcess!

THERE ARE SHARKS IN MALTA - AND YOU MIGHT BE EATING THEM!



Have you ever been swimming in Malta and then saw a shark lurking around? Probably not, right? But... does this mean that we don't even have sharks here!? NO!!! We have 35 species of sharks known to have travelled through Maltese waters! And this includes even famous species like great whites, thresher sharks and the smooth hammerhead shark!



But why are sharks important?

Remember the food chain? Sharks are essential to keep the other fish populations in balance as most are top predators!

Also, sharks love eating sick and weak fish. Now imagine an ocean without sharks: lots of diseases would spread and sick fish would reproduce. An ocean without sharks becomes, literally, sick.

We need to do something about it!

- Tell others: mazzola means shark and their populations are endangered!
- Fight against climate change, pollution and overfishing. These are killing sharks!
- Urge governments to take action!
- Let's together raise our voices for the ones who can't do it!

But they are restricted to Filfla, right?

There is a common myth that Filfla is surrounded by sharks, which is not true anymore nowadays. Sharks are found all over the Maltese islands, but usually in areas deeper than the bathing zones - so you probably won't see one when swimming. But if you go to a fishmarket... then you may see one!

Wait, what? In Malta we EAT sharks!?

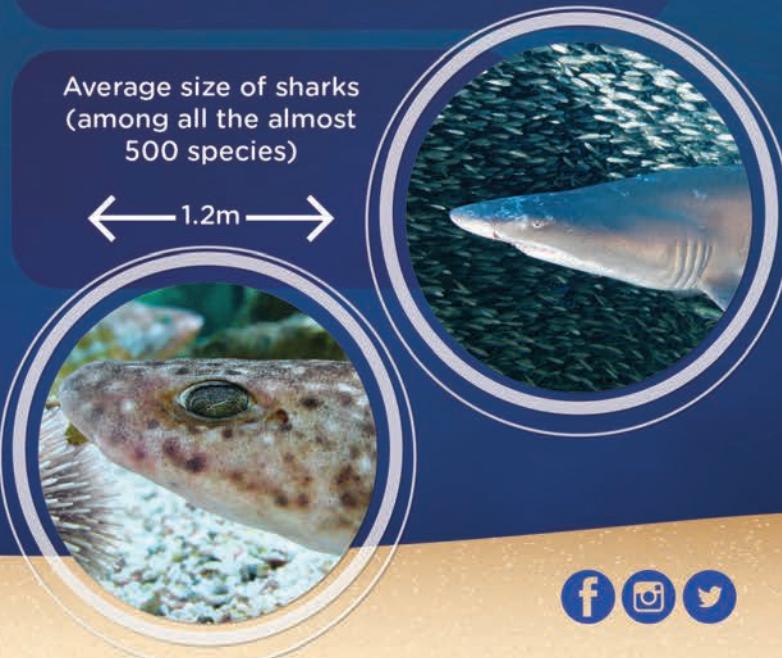
Most Maltese don't know it but the island's traditional fish soup, aljotta, often has several different species of shark in it - including the endangered spiny dogfish! And have you ever eaten mazzola? Well, then you ate sharks - most likely a blue shark or the spiny dogfish itself.

This is a huge problem because sharks are overfished in the Mediterranean. In fact, even globally around 100 million sharks are killed per year...

And eating sharks isn't even healthy for us as they accumulate pollutants in their bodies, such as mercury.

Average size of sharks (among all the almost 500 species)

← 1.2m →



Xi piacir! Banju frisk

Ritratti ta' Victor Falzon

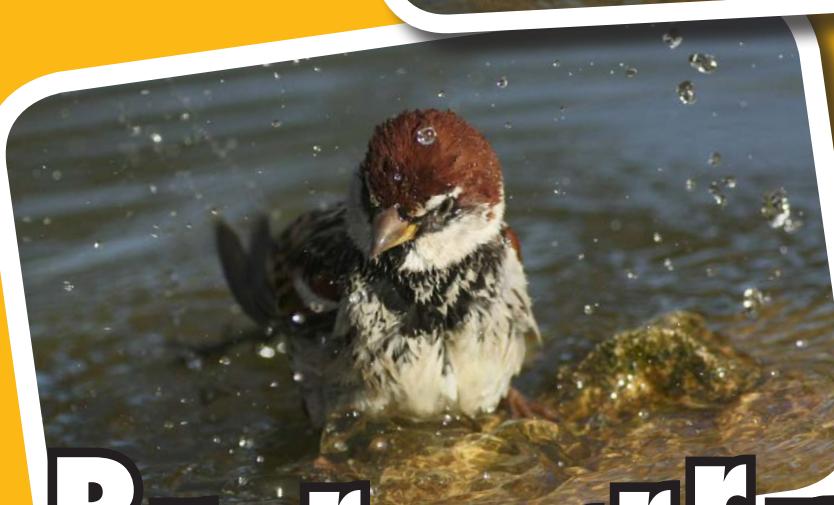


U l-għasafar ma
joqogħidux isahħħnu
l-ilma fix-xitwa!

Mela le, ma
ninħasillekx bl-ilma
kiesah fix-xitwa.
Ara xbin l-ġħasafar
crazy, ta!



U fis-sajf meta
ma jsibux irqajja'
tal-ilma, xorta
waħda jieħdu
banju... tat-trab!



Mhux aħna biss ninħaslu!

**Hafna għasafar jieħdu gost jieħdu bajnu.
Dan jagħmluh biex jitnaddfu mit-trab,
ħamrija u tajn niexef. Jinħaslu wkoll
biex jeħilsu minn xi 1parassiti rqaq li
jidħlulhom taħt ir-rixx.**

Parassiti x'inha?

Hares
f'mera, ruhi!



parassiti. Parassiti huwa speci li tiehu xi haǵa minn speci oħra bla ma tagħti xejn lura. Mhux biss ma tagħti xejn lura, imma spiess tmarrad u anke toqtol lill-vittma. Parassit jiġi jkun animal, pjanta, fungu jew mikrobu.

Gawwija Munqarha Rqiq

Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei*



Ritratt fenomenali ta' Aron Tanti, meħud fir-riserva naturali tas-Salina



BirdLife
MALTA

AMY'S DIARY

Heyyy Huttafers!

Amy Here!

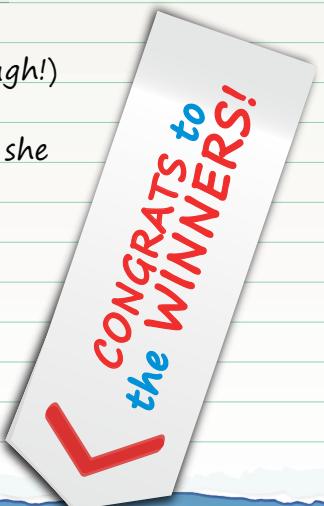
Still keeping our distance, washing our hands and refilling sanitizer bottles (we go through those so fast, Mum said it's a pity to throw so much plastic away when we can just buy better priced larger bottles and re-use the pocket ones...)



Still keeping busy in our garden and trying not to be disappointed because my painted frog isn't a BOV Drawing Competition Winner. (I did get a **BAG** full of **GOODIES** for participating though!)

I know I'm no Beatrix Potter, but I really like drawing... I wonder if (like me) she painted nature because copying things helps you notice things you might otherwise miss... Of course back then, you couldn't take pictures... So yeah, I'm gonna keep at it and hope for better luck next time!

Toodles!
Amy

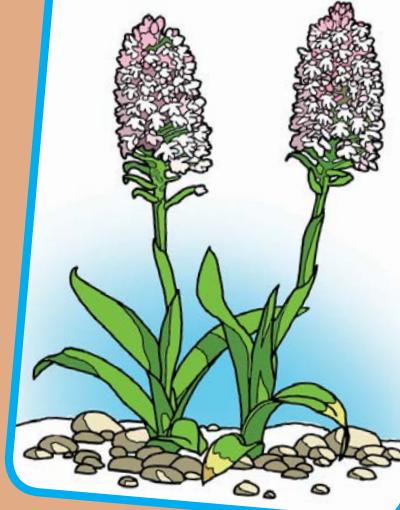
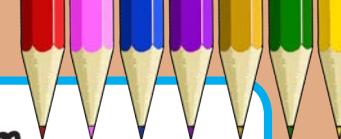


WINNERS!! WILDLIFE DRAWING COMPETITION



A mega
WELL DONE to all participants!
We really **ENJOYED**
all your drawings!

Aghtiha l-Kultur...



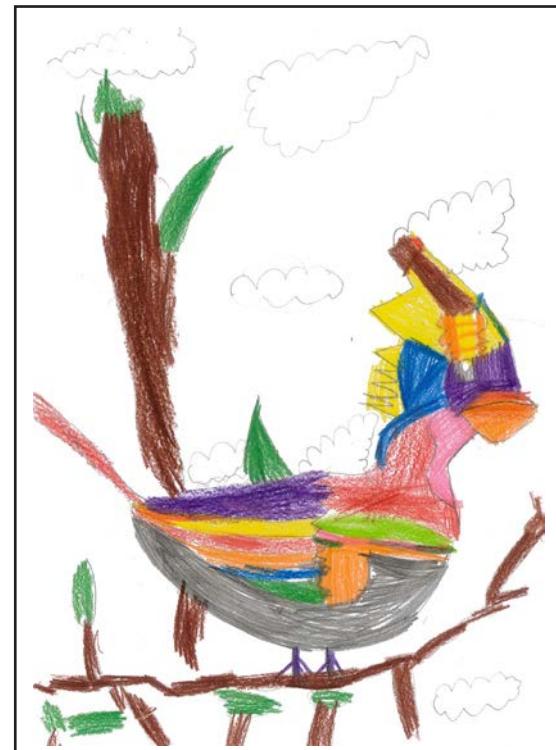
Colour the orchid

The **Maltese pyramidal orchid** is a small plant but it's very special. It's endemic! That means you only find it in Malta. It grows in rocky places and makes lovely pale pink flowers in March and April.

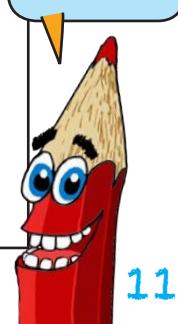
And never
EVER pick wild
flowers!



Żewġ agretti tal-bhejjem (*cattle egret*) u agrett abjad (*little egret*) fir-riserva naturali tas-Salina



Bird by Ben Theuma (5)



Send us
your nature
drawings!



ĠONNA DINJA WAHDA

Victor
Falzon

Skola: Skola Medja Blata I-Bajda, Kulleġġ San ġorġ Preca

L-isem tal-ġnien: Wildlife Garden

Area tal-ġnien: 380m²



Kif kien qabel



Dehra tal-ġnien wara sentejn xogħol



Studenti qed jibnu l-mogħdija

Fil-bidu kien strippa tawwalija b'hamrija mikxufa u ringiela čipress ma' naħha.



F'Mejju l-kromb il-baħar isfar jimla l-ġnien bil-kulur u bl-insetti.



Il-pjan li għamilna kien fih mogħdija, wesgħha b'xi bankijiet, u taħwil ta' diversi pjanti, l-iktar arbuxxelli u pjanti tal-basla.



Studenti jagħrfu weraq differenti

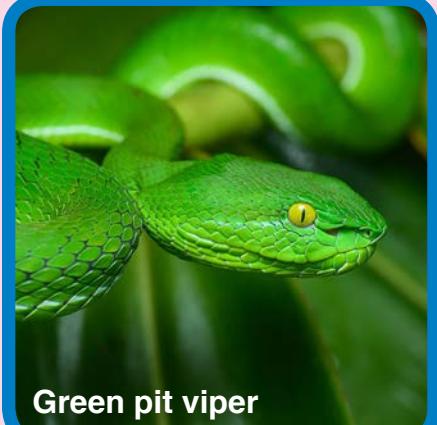


Smiley and Grumpy

Good news and bad news from around the world



503 new species



Green pit viper

Every year scientists find new plants and animals. In 2020 the scientists of the British Natural History Museum discovered 503 new species! There were beetles, seaweeds, moths, toads, snakes, and even a monkey!

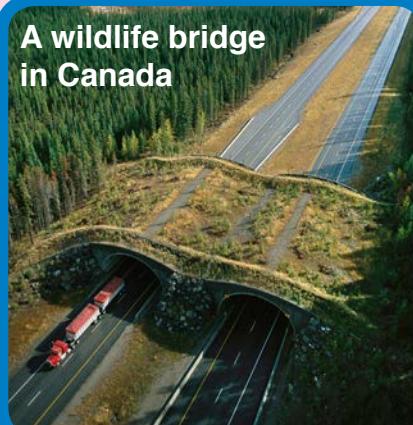
The museum sends scientists to collect species from all over the world. Then they spend many years studying them to check if they are new species.

So far, scientists have found and named nearly 2 million species. That's a lot, but there are many more still to discover. Scientists think there are about 9 million species in the world!

A safe crossing



A wildlife bridge in Canada



Many wild animals cross busy roads and get run over. Kind people around the world find ways to stop this danger. They do it by building wildlife crossings.

There are many kinds of wildlife crossings. The biggest are special bridges planted with trees and shrubs. In this way big animals like deer and bears can cross over highways with no danger at all. Tunnels under the roads are also made for smaller animals, like badgers and hedgehogs.

The good news is that more and more countries are building these things to save their wildlife.

When will Malta join?

Many in danger



Splendid poison frog

The IUCN is a group of experts from all over the world. They study if plants and animals are common or not.

The IUCN have a book called the Red Data Book. It is a list of many plants, animals and fungi. The list tells which species are common, which species are rare, and which species are in danger of going extinct. There are **35,500 species** on the danger list.

The book also has an Extinct Species List. In 2020 the IUCN added 22 more species of frogs to the Extinct Species List. One of them was the **splendid poison frog**, a tiny red animal.



Keep these Saturdays free!

On all these dates we'll be having Klabb Huttaf activities. We still don't know what all the activities are but we're working on it. We will tell you about them in other issues of the magazine. And you can always check our website www.birdlifemalta.org for the latest news.

Saturday 3 April 2021 Easter Egg-citement at Foresta 2000

Saturday 24 April 2021

Details later

Saturday 19 June 2021

Details later

Saturday 14 August 2021

Details later

Saturday 18 September 2021

Details later

Saturday 11 December 2021

Details later

Learn more at
www.birdlifemalta.org



Marine Protected Areas

What are MPAs ?

A Marine Protected Area, or MPA for short, is an area of sea which has been dedicated to protecting the habitats and species within it!



These areas are important
as they help to
safeguard the future of our
marine ecosystems.

The ecosystems are made up of many habitats and species which all work together to maintain a balance in the marine environment

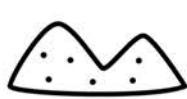
Habitats and Species in Maltese waters



Sea Caves



Reefs &
Coral



Sand Banks



Posidonia
Meadow



Loggerhead
Turtle



Maltese
Top-Shell



Birds



Bottlenose
dolphin

iż-Żrinġ



Victor Fraizan

- Iż-żrinġ huwa amfibju, jiġifieri kapaċi jgħix fl-ilma kif ukoll fuq l-art.
- Fid-dinja hawn xi 8000 speċi ta' amfibji. Hafna minnhom huma żrinġijiet imma hemm ukoll salamandri u newts.
- F'Malta għandna speċi waħda 'indiġena ta' amfibju: dan huwa ż-żrinġ, bl-Ingliz *painted frog* u bl-isem xjentifiku *Discoglossus pictus*.
- Bħal amfibji oħrajin, iż-żrinġ jieħu ħafna min-nifs mill-ġilda, basta din tkun niedja. Għalhekk jgħix f'postijiet fejn jingabar l-ilma tax-xita, bħal widien, għadajjar u ġibjuni.
- Fin-nixfa tas-sajf, iż-żrinġ ta' Malta jżomm ħaj billi jorqod midfun f'ħofra niedja fit-tajn.
- Iż-żrinġ jiekol insetti żgħar bħal nemus, dubbiex u xi ħanfus.
- Iż-żrinġ ibid il-bajd fl-ilma. Il-bajd ikun magħluq fi speċi ta' ġeli jwaħħal. Dan aktarx jeħel ma' pjanti jew zkuk fl-ilma.
- Il-bajd ifaqqas wara xi ġranet u minnhom joħorġu l-imrieżeb (*tadpoles*), li għall-ewwel ma jkollhomx saqajn.

- Ghall-ewwel ġimġħat l-imrieżeb jieklu ħaxix tal-ilma u jieħdu n-nifs mill-garġi.
- L-imrieżeb itellgħu s-saqajn filwaqt li denbhom jinxtorob fil-ġisem. Flok garġi irabbu pulmun. Jibdlu wkoll id-dieta u flok ħaxix jibdew jieklu insetti, bħall-kbar.
- Iż-żrinġ huwa mħares bil-liġi. Ma jistax jinqabad, jitrabba, jitfixkel, jinħaqqar jew jinqatel. L-istess jgħodd ukoll għall-bajd u l-imrieżeb tiegħu.
- Iż-żrinġ qed jiskarsa f'Malta għax il-widien fejn jgħix qeqħdin dejjem jinxfu iktar kmieni fis-sena. Dan qed jiġri mhux biss għax il-klima qed tishħon, imma wkoll minħabba ppumpjar zejjed ta' ilma mill-widien.
- Xi annimali 2aljeni, bħall-awwista tax-xmajjar, qed jieklu l-bajd u l-imrieżeb taż-żrinġijiet.

¹Indiġenu. Annimal jew pjanta li minn dejjem ghexu f'dak il-post, u mhux iddahħlu mill-bniedem (bl-Ingliz *native* jew *indigenous*)

²Aljen. Annimal jew pjanta li mhumiex naturali f'post imma jkunu ddahħlu mill-bniedem (bl-Ingliz *alien* jew *exotic*) – il-maqlub ta' indiġenu.



awwista tax-xmajjar



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