il-Ħuttafa

Numru **163**

Marzu - April 2021

Demm il-Madonna

€2 għal min mhux membru

BirdLife MALTA

Il-magażin ta' Klabb Ħuttaf

Klabb Ħuttaf

Victor Falzon

Il-**lellux**, fjura tar-rebbiegħa. Kos, mhux ta' b'xejn bil-Malti ngħidu isfar lellux!

Għeżież Ħuttaf…

mill-editur

Meta nsemmu l-passa naħsbu fl-għasafar. Imma ħafna annimali oħrajn ipassu wkoll, mhux l-għasafar biss. Wara kollox mhux l-għasafar biss iħossu l-bidla fit-temp, u mhux huma biss iħossu l-ġuħ jekk jonqsilhom l-ikel.

Il-**balieni** li dehru dan l-aħħar (ara p.3) fl-ibħra Maltin kienu qed ipassu min-naħa ta' fuq tal-Mediterran għan-naħa t'isfel. It-temperatura tal-baħar tinbidel mal-istaġuni, u mal-bidla jżidu jew jonqsu l-gambli li huma l-ikel tal-balieni. Għalhekk ipassu, biex isibu x'jieklu.

Minbarra l-ġganti, ipassu wkoll in-nani: l-**insetti**! Insetti bħal **ġurati**, **friefet** u **mazzarelli** kultant jagħmlu vjaġġi twal biex jaħarbu mill-kesħa jew min-nixfa, u biex isibu l-ikel. Il-friefet għandhom bżonn il-fjuri, u l-fjuri ma jiftħux kullimkien fl-istess żmien. Pereżempju f'Malta l-fjuri jiftħu qabel ma jiftħu fi Franza, u fi Franza jiftħu qabel ma jiftħu fl-Iżvezja. Il-mazzarelli jfittxu postijiet fejn ix-xita tifforma l-għadajjar li tant iħobbu.

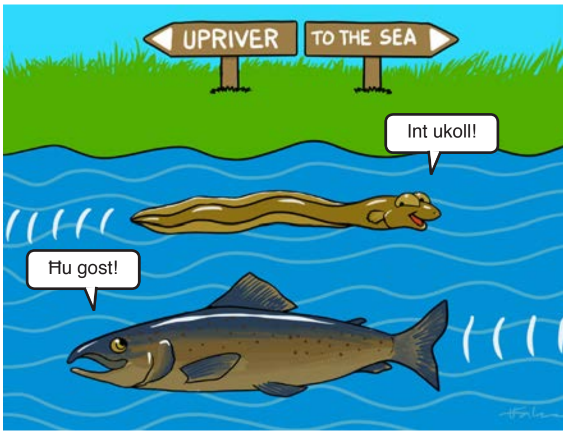
Anke xi **ħut** ipassi, bħat-**tonn** u l-**lampuki**. U warajhom naturalment imorru l-annimali li jieklu lilhom, bħad-**dniefel**. Kontu tafu li s-**sallur** ipassi mix-xmajjar għall-baħar? U s-**salamun** ipassi... mill-baħar għax-xmajjar!

Kultant fid-dokumentarji naraw xeni ta' eluf ta' **żebri** u **gnu** lkoll mixjin f'direzzjoni waħda. Dawn ukoll ikunu qed ipassu (bil-mixi) mill-inħawi fejn tkun ġejja n-nixfa, u jfittxu artijiet fejn il-ħaxix ikun aħdar. Xeni li jsaħħruk.

Aħna f'Malta b'xortina li nistgħu ngawdu waħda mill-pases spettakolari: il-passa tal-**għasafar**.

Victor

Victor Falzon L-Editur



Victor Falzon

FUQ QUDDIEM

Ritratt ta' Desirée Falzon

Demm il-Madonna
Blue Stonecrop *Sedum caeruleum*

Id-Demm il-Madonna hija pjanta li tikber qalb il-blat tax-xagħri, aktarx f'xi parti ċatta fejn jinġabar ftit tajn. F'ħafna pjanti l-fjuri jispikkaw iktar mill-weraq, imma f'Demm il-Madonna l-weraq jolqtok iktar mill-fjuri peress li huwa aħmar, u l-fjuri żgħar ħafna. Il-weraq stramb ta' din il-pjanta huwa minfuħ peress li jaħżen l-ilma fih, ħalli jżomm ħaj fi żmien in-nixfa.

Klabb Ħuttaf · Dinja Waħda · BirdLife MALTA

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Who wrote in this issue?

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

Klabb Ħuttaf

Klabb Ħuttaf is the junior section (-18yrs) of BirdLife Malta. Members can attend many activities, including walks, visits to nature reserves, boat trips and do work for nature. 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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Il-Magrebini

Żewġ sorpriżi sbieħ mill-Afrika ta' Fuq

Aron Tanti

Kuda Rasha Bajda

Aron Tanti

Alwetta tal-Qrun

Żewġ għasafar rarissmi li dehru Malta f'dawn l-aħħar ġimgħat kienu **alwetta tal-qrun** (Temminck's lark) u **kuda rasha bajda** (white-crowned wheatear). Dawn l-għasafar huma speċi mifruxin fil-wesgħat nixfin (kważi deżert) tal-Afrika ta' Fuq, bħat-Tuneżija, l-Alġerija u l-Marokk. Fl-Ewropa rari jidhru għax dawn l-ispeċi mhux soltu jpassu imma jgħixu s-sena kollha fl-istess inħawi. Imma f'ċerti kundizzjonijiet tat-temp kultant jitfaċċaw barra minn posthom. Meta dawn it-tnejn tfaċċaw f'pajjiżna, il-berdwoċers Maltin tahom ferħ ta' ġenn!

Żjara minn Ġgant!

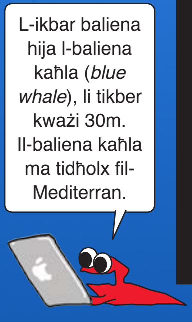
Ħafna nies jafu li fil-baħar madwar Malta jidhru d-dniefel. Li ħafna ma jafux hu li kultant jidhru wkoll il-kuġini l-kbar tagħhom: il-balieni!

Jidhru diversi speċi. Uħud ikunu qishom dniefel ftit kbar, imma jidhru wkoll il-ġganti. Fost dawn hemm il-baliena kbira, li tikber sa xi 20m (immaġinaw bini ta' sitt sulari!)

Matul April intlemħu mill-inqas żewġ balieni għaddejin fl-inħawi ta' Għawdex. Aktarx ma kinux l-istess annimal peress li waħda dehret kmieni fix-xahar u l-oħra tard fix-xahar.

Il-**baliena kbira** (fin whale *Balaenoptera physalus*) hija t-tieni l-ikbar speċi ta' baliena fid-dinja. Tiekol l-iktar *krill*, li huma gambli żgħar.

Il-balieni li jidhru Malta ma jgħixux fl-inħawi tagħna imma jkunu qegħdin ipassu lejn l-irqajja' baħar fejn l-iktar isibu x'jieklu.



Victor Falzon

Reġa' fetaħ

Minkejja l-Covid u minkejja s-sens komun, din ir-rebbiegħa reġa' nfetaħ l-istaġun tal-kaċċa. Il-kaċċaturi suppost setgħu jisparaw biss fuq is-summien (quail) imma mill-ħafna għasafar protetti li nstabu feruti u mejtin jidher li ħafna kaċċaturi sparaw fuq li riedu. Il-BirdLife ilha ħafna snin tiġġieled biex il-kaċċa fir-rebbiegħa tieqaf għal kollox. Xi darba naslu.

Ġnien għan-Natura

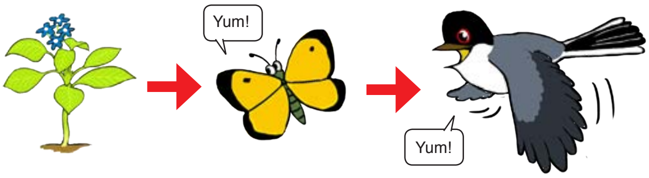
Kitba Desirée Falzon
Tpinġija Victor Falzon

Ħmm, naħseb intlift!

Kif tiġbed in-natura lejn il-ġnien tiegħek

Fjuri s-sena kollha

Min jagħmel ġnien għan-natura jkabbar pjanti apposta biex dawn jibdew il-ktajjen tal-ikel. Imma kif tagħżel meta hawn tant pjanti? Hawn xi suġġerimenti biex jgħinuk tagħżel...



L-ewwel ħolqa

Kif nitgħallmu fil-lezzjonijiet tax-xjenza, il-pjanti huma l-ewwel ħolqa fil-ktajjen tal-ikel (*food chains*). Fil-ġnien xejn inqas. Mingħajr pjanti ma tantx ħa jkollna ħajja.

Waħda mill-iktar partijiet importanti tal-pjanti hija l-fjura. In-nektar li jagħmlu l-fjuri huwa l-ikel ta' ħafna insetti. Għalhekk **jekk fil-ġnien trid l-insetti s-sena kollha, ara li jkollok fjuri s-sena kollha!**

Agħmel kalendarju

Agħmel kalendarju bl-ismijiet tal-pjanti li tixtieq u ż-żmien li jkunu bil-fjuri. Jekk tara li għandek xi xhur bla fjuri, ibqa' fittex sakemm issib pjanti adattati, u ftit ftit imla l-vojt.

Ħafna mill-pjanti [1]indiġeni Maltin jagħmlu l-fjuri fir-rebbiegħa, qisu minn Frar sa Mejju. Fix-xhur l-oħrajn l-għażla hija ħafna iżgħar. Allura biex ikollna l-fjuri s-sena kollha kultant ikollna nżewqu ftit b'xi pjanti eżotiċi. Pjanta **eżotika** (jew **aljena**) hija pjanta li ma tikbirx naturali f'Malta imma jkun ġabha l-bniedem minn artijiet oħrajn.

Ħafna pjanti eżotiċi jagħmlu fjuri sbieħ u jolqtu l-għajn imma b'daqshekk mhux bilfors ikunu tajbin għall-insetti. Imma hemm oħrajn li jiġbdu l-insetti u għandhom staġun twil bil-fjuri. F'paġna 5 ġibna xi eżempji. Ilkoll huma eżotiċi u lkoll tajbin għall-insetti. Barra dawn hemm oħrajn. Kif inkun naf liema pjanti huma tajbin għall-insetti? Ara l-kaxxa hawn taħt.

Noqogħdu attenti!

Qatt ma għandna nitilqu speċi aljeni fil-kampanja, għax dawn jistgħu jieħdu post l-annimali u l-pjanti indiġeni. Jekk se niżirgħu jew inħawlu pjanti eżotiċi d-dar tajjeb li ma nħalluhomx "jaħarbu" mill-ġnien tagħna. X'jiġifieri jaħarbu? Għax iż-żerriegħa ta' xi pjanti jafu jinxterdu u jispiċċaw jikbru fis-selvaġġ. Xi pjanti kapaċi jinfirxu malajr – ngħidulhom **speċi invażivi**. Għalhekk tajjeb nitgħallmu fuq il-pjanti li għandna u jekk naqraw li huma invażivi, ma nħalluhomx jagħmlu ż-żerriegħa wara li tinxef il-fjura.

Il-*fountain grass* invażiv ħafna. Daħħluh Malta xi *garden centres* u llum qed jifga ħafna nħawi fil-kampanja.

Kif nagħżel?

- Ara għandhiex xi naħal mal-fjuri.
- Ara x'jisimha u aqra dwarha fuq l-Internet u jekk hiex tajba għad-dakkara.
- Staqsi lil tal-ħanut kemm iddum ħajja u jekk hijiex tajba għad-dakkara.
- Iċċekkja f'liema żmien tagħmel il-fjuri ħalli tidħol fil-kalendarju tal-ġnien.

Jekk tixtri l-pjanti minn *garden centre* miftuħ, ara tarax naħal idur ma' xi fjuri partikolari. Dan aktarx ikun ifisser li dik il-pjanta tagħmel iktar nektar mill-pjanti l-oħrajn, u sinjal li l-pjanta tajba għall-insetti. L-insetti stess juruk!

[1]**indiġeni**. Speċi li jinstabu f'post b'mod naturali, li ma nġabux hemm mill-bniedem.
[2]**dakkara**. Insetti li jżuru l-fjuri u jġorru l-polin minn pjanta għal oħra u b'hekk idakkruhom (*pollinators*).

il-honeysuckle

Din hija kuġina tal-qarn il-mogħża li tikber fil-makkja tagħna. Timtela fjuri u twarrad minn Mejju sa Ottubru. Arbuxell li tista' xxebilku ma' ħajt u tista' titlagħlek fl-għoli jekk tgħinha b'kannizzata. Mhix invażiva.

il-lantana

Hawn diversi tipi ta' lantana imma mhux kollha jiġbdu l-insetti. L-aħjar għall-friefet, naħal u baħrijiet hija r-razza tal-bukketti roża bi ftit isfar. Tagħmel fjuri s-sena kollha u tikber forma ta' arbuxell kbir li faċli tagħmlu ħeġġ. Iż-żerriegħa jistgħu jġorruha l-annimali imma fil-klima tagħna mhix invażiva.

il-pjombina

Il-pjombina tajba ħafna għall-friefet il-blu u għandha staġun twil bil-fjuri. Jibdew minn April u l-pjanta tibqa' twarrad sakemm it-temp jaqleb f'Novembru. Tista' tikber bħala arbuxell jew ixxeblikha ma' ħajt b'kannizzata, jew isserraħha fuq ċint. Mhix invażiva.

il-każmante

Il-każmanti hija waħda mill-ftit pjanti li jkollha l-fjura fix-xitwa li jibqgħu jiftħu sar-rebbiegħa. Dawn il-pjanti tal-basla joħorġu fil-ħarifa u sa Jannar ikunu bil-fjuri. Il-fjuri jkollhom ħafna nektar fi żmien meta l-ġnien ftit li xejn ikollu fjuri. Anke għasafar żgħar bħall-vjolin tax-xitwa jixrob mill-fjuri. Taf tkun invażiva imma ż-żerriegħa faċli tneħħihielha qabel ma ssir.

il-pittosporum

Arbuxell kbir u folt li jsebbaħ bid-dehra tal-weraq skur ileqq. Kmieni fir-rebbiegħa timtela fjuri f'bukketti bojod jew safranin ifuħu, u jżuruha naħal u baħrijiet, ilkoll jixorbu mill-ħafna nektar li jagħmlu l-fjuri. Il-pittosporum tintuża ħafna bħala ħeġġ. Mhux invażiv.

it-tekoma

Arbuxell mir-razza tal-*honeysuckle* imma iktar goffa. Tikber ġmielha u tiffolta, imma tista' żżommha wkoll bħala ħeġġ. Tagħmel fjuri mir-rebbiegħa tul is-sajf kollu sakemm jiffriska t-temp. Iħobbuha diversi naħal u bombli għax tagħmel ħafna nektar. Mhix invażiva.

Wazzuuup!

RIĦA tfuħ, TOGĦMA tajba u INSETTI kemm trid!

Victor Falzon

Naħla fuq fjuri tas-salvja

Hemm grupp pjanti li nsejħulhom **aromatiċi** għax il-weraq tagħhom ifuħ. Peress li anke t-togħma tal-weraq tagħhom togħġobna, ħafna minn dawn il-pjanti jitkabbru fil-ġonna. B'xorti tajba ħafna minnhom tajbin ukoll għall-insetti. Fost il-ħxejjex aromatiċi nsibu n-**nagħniegħ** (*spearmint*), il-**ħabaq** (*basil*), ir-**riegnu selvaġġ** (*oregano*), il-**merqtux** (*marjoram*), it-**tursin** (*parsley*), il-**karfus** (*celery*) u s-**salvja** (*sage*). Ħafna minn dawn l-ispeċi m'humiex indiġeni imma ilhom jitkabbru Malta mijiet tas-snin, u mhumiex invażivi. Jibdew bil-fjuri minn April u wħud jibqgħu bil-fjuri sa tard fil-ħarifa. Ftit hawn pjanti Maltin li fis-sajf ikunu bil-fjuri, għalhekk b'taħlita ta' ħxejjex aromatiċi se jkollok ġnien ħaj anke fix-xhur sħan.

Aħħ! Nagħniegħ, ħabaq, tursin... Qed iqabbduni aptit għal ħobża biż-żejt!

BEHIND THE SCENES
AT THE MALTA NATIONAL AQUARIUM

MALTA NATIONAL AQUARIUM

Even when the Malta National Aquarium is closed to the public, the Back of House team (our aquarists) keep working as hard as ever to keep the animals safe and happy! They usually study marine biology or related areas, and are very passionate about our ocean. Maybe you might get inspired to follow a career in the field too! Find out a bit of what happens behind the scenes here, not only during shutdown but every single day since we opened:

Quarantine

This is where the new fish that arrive at the Aquarium go to! We can't put them directly in the tanks because they have to be monitored just in case they have any disease or parasites. During this time, the new fish will also get adjusted to the new type of water and food they will receive from us. Oh, and the quarantine also acts like a "spa" for the new fish, which are stressed from transport and relocation!

New fish relaxing in their quarantine!

Food preparation room

This place is where the aquarists stock and prepare the food for the animals. Most of the food that we use is frozen since it's easier to maintain and it doesn't contain blood or parasites. Then we defrost it, clean it, and chop it in different sizes. There is a weekly schedule for all the different animals - some of them are fed everyday, others every other day, etc... it all depends on their nutritional and individual needs.

Waiting for the sharks to grab their lunch!

FUN FACT: All the food we give to the fish is marinated in GARLIC to boost their immune system! Yummy!

Laboratory and filtering system

Every tank has its own water conditions and the water parameters need to be the same all the time. The aquarists keep a long-term record on things like temperature, salinity, oxygen concentration, ammonia, nitrite, nitrate and pH. They also look like scientists when they are checking tiny critters under the microscope!

Filters are also essential to the health of the tanks. They keep the water in good quality and the tank's inhabitants healthy. In fact, every single tank in the Aquarium has its own filtration system!

Deep cleaning is also done by diving in the larger tanks... including the ones with sharks!

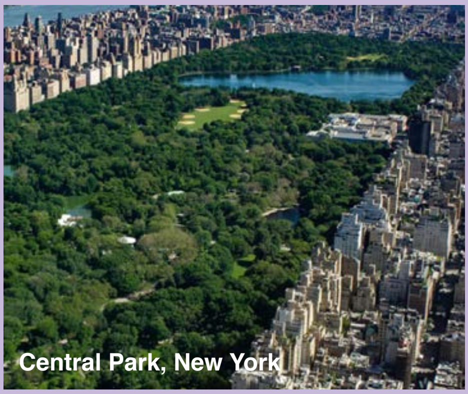
And the aquarists have fun too!

WWW.AQUARIUM.COM.MT

Kieku jien... kont nagħmlu hekk!

Sentejn ilu smajna li roqgħa art kbira mitluqa f'Ta' Qali se titnaddaf biex jitkabbar il-park u jitħawlu 80,000 siġra. Għedna prosit, in-natura se jkollha iktar fejn tinfirex.

Barra minn Malta, park ikun post fejn titbiegħed mill-bini, timxi fin-natura u tistrieħ ftit mill-istrutturi u l-istorbju tal-bniedem. Mogħdijiet qalb is-siġar, ħaxix, fjuri, u xi bank jew mejda fejn tistrieħ u forsi tagħmel piknik mal-familja. Fil-qalba ta' bliet kbar bħal Londra, New York u Pariġi nsibu diversi parks mimlijin siġar u natura. Meta timxi fihom tinsa li qiegħed f'belt fejn jgħixu miljuni ta' nies.



Central Park, New York

Imma f'Malta għadna naħsbu li park huwa post fejn madwarek mhux natura tara imma iktar bini, konkos u tarmak. Għal Ta' Qali dak li hemm maħsub!

Il-"park"!

Ħafna mill-art ħa tkun ċatta miksija terf, qisha grawnd tal-futbol. Għaliex? Biex fiha jsiru kunċerti għal 17,000 ruħ. F'dil-parti żgur mhux ħa jħawlu siġar għax min irid jara kunċert ma jridx siġar quddiemu. Il-bqija passaġġi wesgħin daqs ranwej li fihom jista' veru jillandja ajruplan. Dan kollu f'post fejn mhux suppost isir żvilupp.

Jaħasra kellna ċans nagħtu biċċa art lura lin-natura u lin-nies biex igawduha u jirrilassaw. U minflok, se nibdluha f'post ieħor għall-istorbju, dwal qawwija u rassa.

Mhux sew! Intom x'taħsbu?

Bufula Ħamra

Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata*

Ritratt ta' Aron Tanti

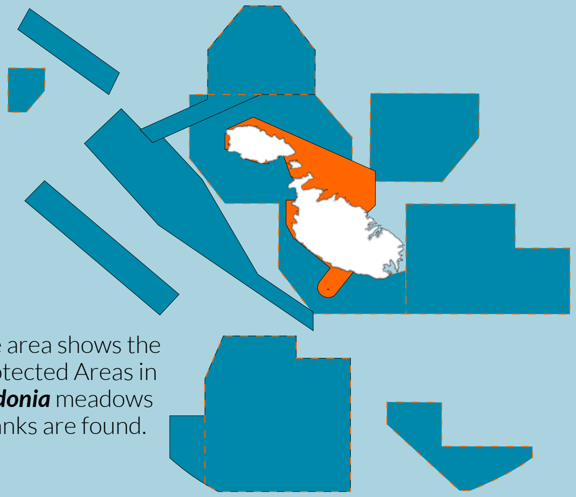
BirdLife
MALTA

Posidonia & Sandbanks

Seagrasses grow and form habitats in seawater but are still closely related to plants on land. They are known as the 'lungs of the sea' because they release oxygen that is used by other organisms.

In addition, they stabilise the sediment preventing loss of our coastlines and beaches through erosion and combat climate change by acting as 'carbon sinks', meaning that they take up carbon dioxide thus reducing it from the atmosphere.

We have **two types** of seagrasses in Malta's coastal waters: the **Neptune grass** (***Posidonia oceanica***) and the **little Neptune grass** (***Cymodocea nodosa***). Both species are legally protected also through the designation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).



The orange area shows the Marine Protected Areas in which ***Posidonia*** meadows and sandbanks are found.

The Neptune grass is endemic to the Mediterranean Sea. It can form dense meadows on the seabed at depths up to 50m. These meadows provide shelter and food to many animals, thus acting as an important nursery, even for fish that are eventually caught by fishermen. Its dead leaves are also important as they form deep layers called 'banquettes' along the coastline which protect against erosion and are in themselves also a habitat.

Little Neptune Grass is very similar to ***Posidonia*** however it has thinner leaves and does not form dense meadows. This species is found on expanses of sandy sediment on the seabed and is thus associated with sandbanks within our MPAs. This species acts as a **pioneering species**, stabilising the sediment and attracting other plants and animals forming complex ecosystems in the marine environment.

Little Neptune grass

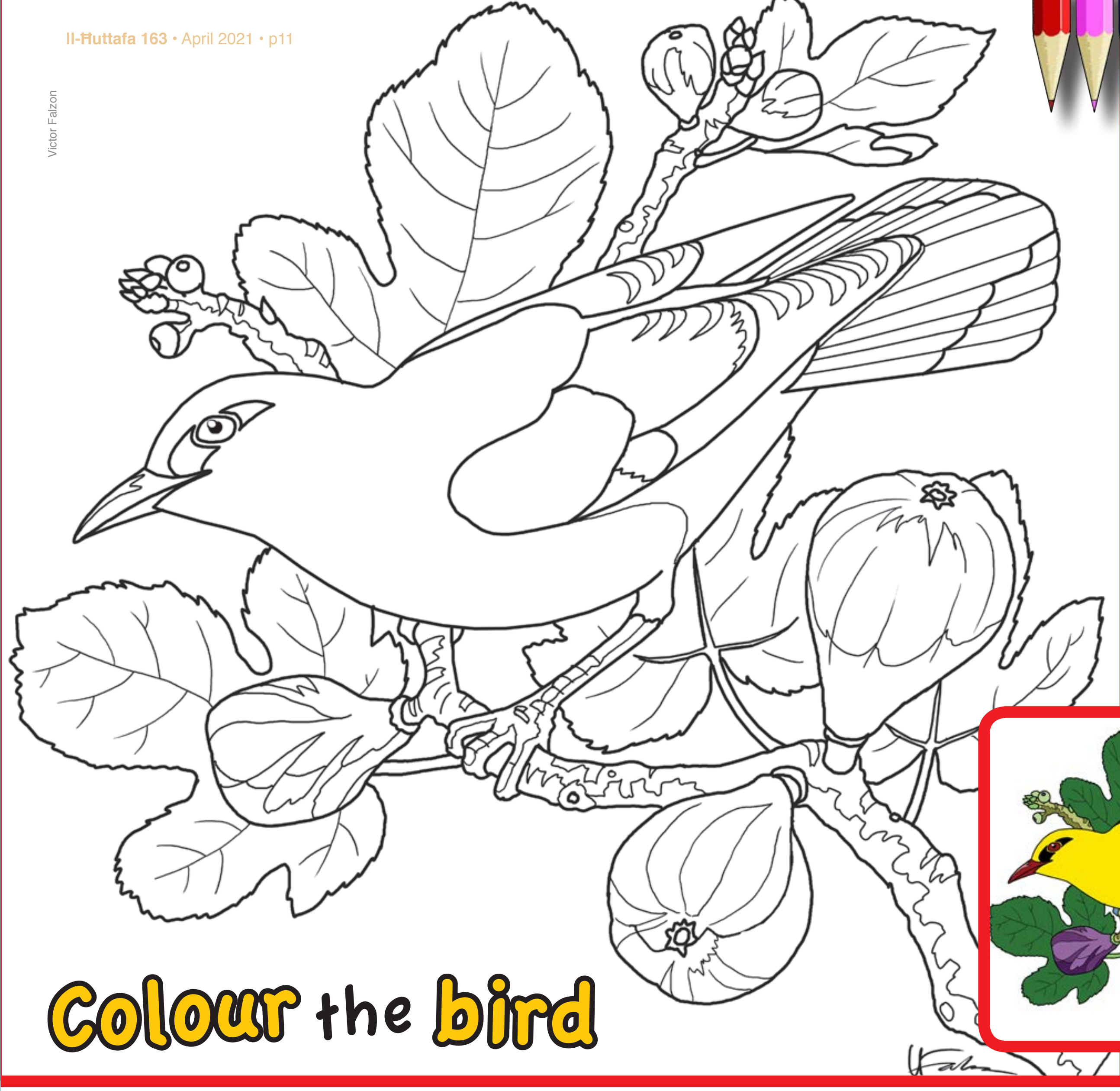
Both habitats formed by the two seagrass species are considered to be important for maintaining a healthy marine environment and are generally used as indicators of the health status of our marine ecosystems.

For more information visit **era.org.mt**

Photos: OCEANA / Carlos Minguell © LIFE BaĦAR for N2K

Neptune grass

Victor Falzon

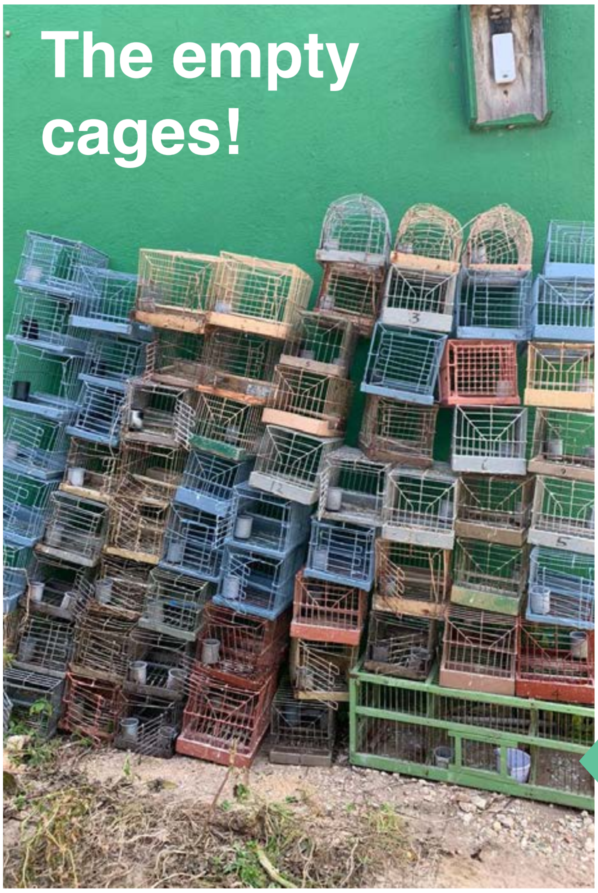


Colour the bird

The golden oriole is a fantasic yellow-and-black bird. It lives in woodland but it doesn's mind visiting gardens with fruit trees, such as figs (*tin*), mulberries (*tut u ċawsli*) and loquats (*naspli*).

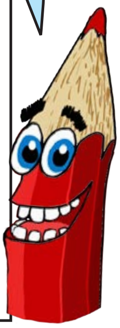
BirdLife Malta

The empty cages!



Starling by **Francesco Catania (7)**

Send us your nature drawings!



Some weeks ago these cages were full of wild birds that had been caught by trappers (*nassaba*). Greenfinches, chaffinches, linnets, ortolan buntings... a total of about 140 sad and frightened birds. But thanks to work by BirdLife, the police and our friends from CABS, the trappers were caught and we set all the birds free. Now the cages are empty! Good work everyone!

Why are some people so nasty to birds?

Ġonna Dinja Waħda

Ġnien Dinja Waħda huwa ġnien speċjali maħsub biex jiġbed in-natura lejh. Il-BirdLife ilha ħafna snin tgħin lil xi skejjel biex joħolqu dawn il-ġonna, fejn in-natura tinfirex u l-istudenti jgawdu u jitgħallmu. Nittawlu lejn uħud minnhom...

Skola: St Michael School (Pembroke)

Victor Falzon

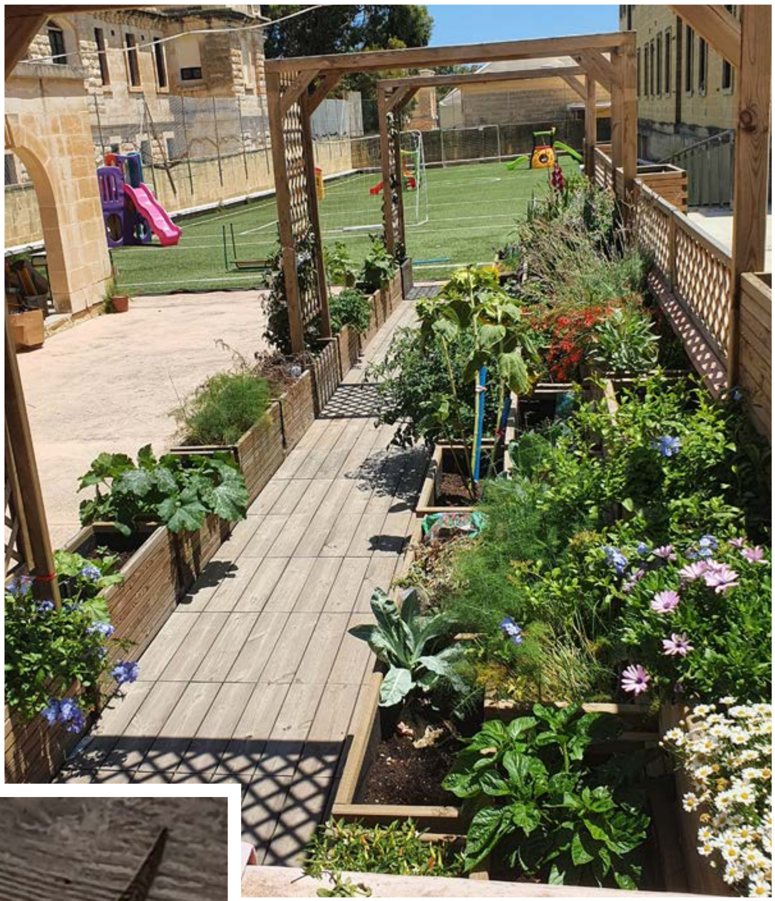
L-isem tal-ġnien: Our Garden

Area tal-ġnien: $34m^2$

Ġnien daqs nitfa, imma juri x'tista' tagħmel anke f'post fejn m'hemmx farka ħamrija.

Kif kien qabel

Sentejn ilu l-post kien rokna vojta bis-siment.



Il-ġnien illum! Sa ftit snin oħra l-kannizzati jixxebilku magħhom il-pjanti li tħawlu fil-konok, u jkun hemm ftit irqajja' dell ukoll.

Peprin Aħmar

Nasturtium

Il-fjuri qed jikbru u qed jiġbdu friefet, baħrijiet u ħanfus. U issa hemm residenti ġodda...

Xaħmet l-Art!

Il-pjan tal-ġnien

Studenti qed jimlew il-konok bil-ħamrija.

Neil Felice

Ritratti Maxine Peregin

Smiley and Grumpy

Good news and bad news from around the world

Lost and found!

Black-browed Babbler

It's always nice when everyone thinks an animal is extinct... and then someone spots it again!

That's what happened some months ago in the forests of Borneo, a huge island in South-east Asia. Two men saw a strange bird but they didn't know what is was. They managed to catch the bird, took some pictures and set the bird free again. Nice men! They sent the photos to bird experts, and the experts could believe their eyes. The bird was a **black-browed babbler**, and nobody had seen one since 1840!

The black-browed babbler is still in danger of going extinct because the huge forests of Borneo are being chopped down.

Uh-oh! It's see-oh-two!

A forest burning

We always say that the Amazon rainforest gives us oxygen and takes away the dangerous CO_2 gas from the air.

Well, in the rainforests of Brazil, **more CO_2 is now coming out than CO_2 going in**.

What! Have the trees gone crazy? No, it's not the trees' fault. It's the people who are burning millions of trees in the Amazon. When you burn wood, the carbon in the wood comes back out with the smoke.

In Brazil, people are now chopping and burning the forest **four times faster** than before. It's the people who are crazy, not the trees.

Chick Number 40!

Wisdom

Wisdom is a very special albatross. She is special because **she is 70 years old**! Wisdom is the oldest wild bird we know about. And we know she is so old because she was ringed waaay back... in 1956!

There are 22 species of albatrosses in the world – Wisdom is a **Laysan albatross**. She nests with other albatrosses on a tiny island called Midway, in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. In February she laid an egg and now the egg has hatched. Wisdom the proud mum is now looking after the new chick with proud dad

People who study Wisdom's life say this is maybe her chick number 40.

Keep these Saturdays free!

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

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

AMY'S DIARY

Daqquqa tat-Toppu
HOOPOE

Heyyy Ħuttafers!

Amy here!

YAY for online classes and staying in PJ's all day!
NO?! YEAH... I hear you! ☹

I really thought I would get to meet Nannu Joe and build a bird house, instead of having to video call or shout from the balcony.

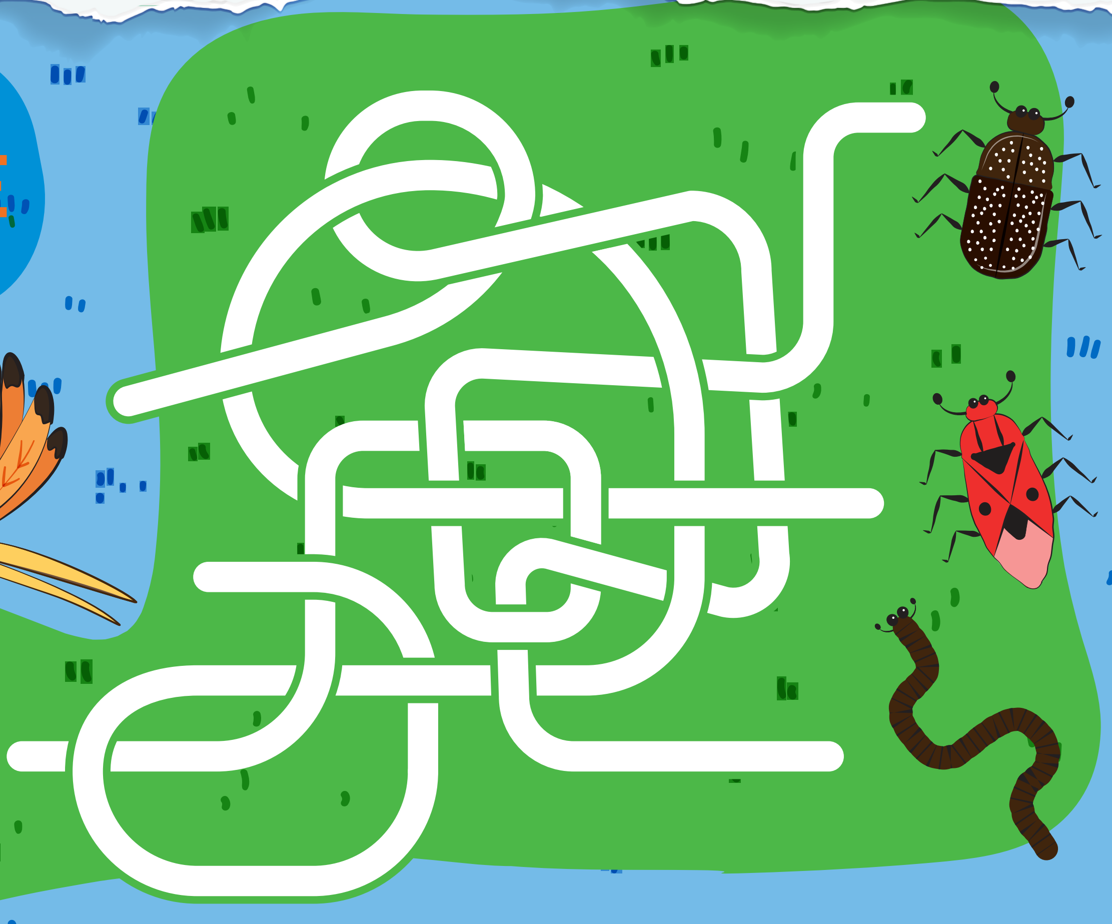
Spring started off quite cold and wet didn't it?
But the rain makes everything so much more **LUSH**!

More greens for bugs to feed on, fatter insects for migrating birds to enjoy!

This year I'm on the look out for a **HOOPOE**! Aren't they gorgeous?! They take a break from flying and stop in Malta on their way from Africa to Europe. The trick is, you don't have to look up to find one. It likes to lay low on the ground, searching for creepy crawlers to eat.

Toodles!
Amy

HELP the HOOPOE find food!



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BOV
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F A T T I F A W N A

Desirée Falzon

il-Gamblu tal-Elmu

- Il-gamblu tal-elmu jismu hekk għax donnu liebes elmu (*helmet*) fil-parti ta' fuq ta' ġismu.

- Bl-Ingliż jgħidulu *tadpole shrimp* għax jagħti lemħa lill-imrieżeb (*tadpoles*) taż-żrinġijiet. Fil-fatt m'għandu x'jaqsam xejn maż-żrinġijiet.

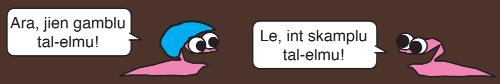
- L-isem xjentifiku huwa *Triops cancriformis.* Il-kelma *triops* tfisser 'tliet għajnejn', u dan l-annimal għandu fil-fatt tliet għajnejn!

- Bħall-gambli l-oħrajn, il-gamblu tal-elmu huwa fil-familja tal-annimali li fiha l-granċijiet u l-ħnieżer l-art. Dan il-grupp jismu Crustacea.

- Fid-dinja jeżistu xi 10 speċi ta' gambli tal-elmu. F'Malta għandna biss speċi waħda.

- Il-gambli tal-elmu ilhom jeżistu 300 miljun sena u dan nafuh mill-fossili li nstabu fi blat antik. Ilhom jeżistu minn qabel id-dinożawri, u qabel ifforma l-blat tal-Gżejjer Maltin!

- Minħabba li l-gambli tal-elmu ftit inbidlu matul il-miljuni tas-snin, spiss jissejħu *living fossils.*



- Il-gamblu tal-elmu jgħix f'għadajjar tax-xita, jiġifieri għadajjar li jinxfu fis-sajf. Dan l-annimal qed isir rari għax il-ħabitati tiegħu qegħdin jinqerdu.

- F'Malta wkoll il-gamblu tal-elmu huwa rari ħafna u jinsab biss f'xi żewġ inħawi. Qiegħed f'periklu serju li jsir estint.

- Il-gamblu tal-elmu jiekol annimali żgħar tal-ilma bħal frieħ tan-nemus u briegħed tal-ilma, u anke xi algi.

- Qabel ma l-għadajjar jinxfu, il-gambli jħaffru fit-tajn u jbidu l-bajd fih. L-għadajjar jinxfu u l-gambli jmutu, imma fit-tajn niexef jibqa' l-bajd, li jfaqqas meta terġa' tagħmel ix-xita.

- F'Malta l-gamblu tal-elmu huwa mħares bil-liġi. Sfortunatament il-postijiet fejn jgħix għadhom mhumiex imħarsin sew.

briegħed tal-ilma (water fleas, *Daphnia*)

ECOHIVE MISSIONS
SAVING THE PLANTS
WRITTEN BY ELENA
THIS IS THE PROCESS
ORGANIC WASTE = COMPOST = HAPPY PLANTS :)
SO YOU CAN UNDERSTAND BETTER WHAT WE DO AT ECOHIVE
IN THE MEANTIME, GARBAGE MONSTER WAS TO NO GOOD....
THEY WILL EAT MORE PROCESSED FOOD! NO ONE EATS HEALTHY ON MY WATCH!
THE COMPOST'S ALL GONE! NO MORE FRESH PRODUCE!
ECOHIVE FARMS
BEEP!
EMERGENCY
CLASS, WE HAVE TO GO!
BEEP!
BEEP!
IT'S THAT GARBAGE MENACE AGAIN! ALL OUR COMPOST IS DESTROYED!
LET'S CALL IN REINFORCEMENTS!
COULD YOU DIG AROUND AND SEE IF ALL THE TREES ARE OK?
YES, RIGHT AWAY!
AGENT MYLINA
OH NO... THE POOR TREES ARE STARVING!
REPORTING FROM ORCHARDS FARM. THREE TREES DIED ALREADY AND ANOTHER SIX ARE DYING...
AGENT MYLINA
AGENT MINDY, WE RECOVERED QUITE A BIT OF COMPOST. HELP US DELIVER IT TO THE FARMS!
YES, SIR. I'LL MEET YOU THERE!
AGENT MINDY
THAT WAS CLOSE...
WE CAN ONLY BEAT THAT MONSTER BY WORKING AS A TEAM
COMPOST
COMPOST
NEXT TIME I'LL WIN AND THE PLANET WILL BE MINE SOON!
VISIT ECOHIVE.COM.MT/KIDS