

Nature's Gems



ballottra
weasel



The weasel is called a carnivore because it eats other animals. Its favourite prey is mice.

It's not easy to see a weasel because it's small and very shy of people.



qabru
freshwater crab

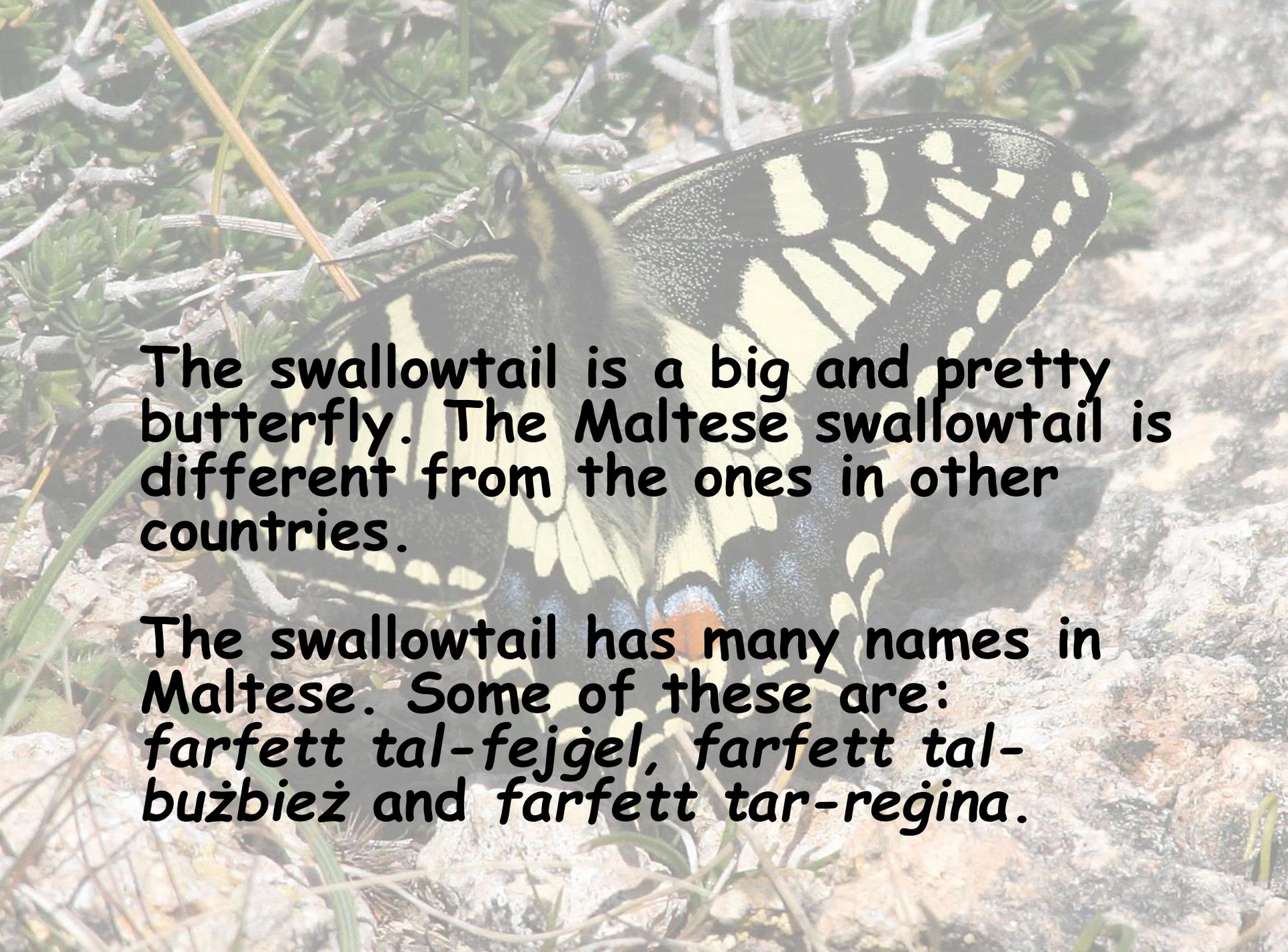


The freshwater crab lives in valleys where there are streams. We don't have many streams in Malta so this crab is very rare in our country.

The Maltese freshwater crab is different from the ones in other countries.



farfett tal-fejgel
swallowtail

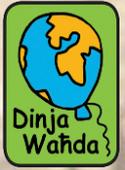
A large swallowtail butterfly with black and yellow wings, resting on a rock. The butterfly's wings are spread, showing a pattern of yellow and black stripes and spots. The background is a rocky, natural environment with some green plants.

The swallowtail is a big and pretty butterfly. The Maltese swallowtail is different from the ones in other countries.

The swallowtail has many names in Maltese. Some of these are: *farfett tal-fejgel*, *farfett tal-bużbież* and *farfett tar-regina*.



gremxula
Maltese wall lizard

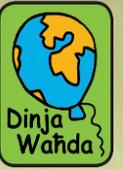


The Maltese wall lizard lives in the countryside. It's also very common in our gardens. It eats insects.

The Maltese wall lizard is endemic. This means that you only find it in our country and nowhere else in the world.



zring
painted frog



**The frog is an amphibian.
Amphibians can breathe in water and
also out of water.**

**The frog lives in places where there
is water like valleys and reservoirs.**



sempreviva ta' Ghawdex
Maltese everlasting



The Maltese everlasting grows in our country and nowhere else in the world. It's rare and you find it only in Gozo.

This plant grows in rocky places near the sea and flowers in spring.

widnet il-baħar
Maltese rock-centaury



The Maltese rock centaury grows only in Malta and nowhere else in the world. It is our national flower.

It grows on cliffs and makes pink flowers in spring and summer.



orkida piramidali ta' Malta
Maltese pyramidal orchid



The Maltese pyramidal orchid grows only in our country and nowhere else in the world.

It grows in rocky places and flowers in February and March.



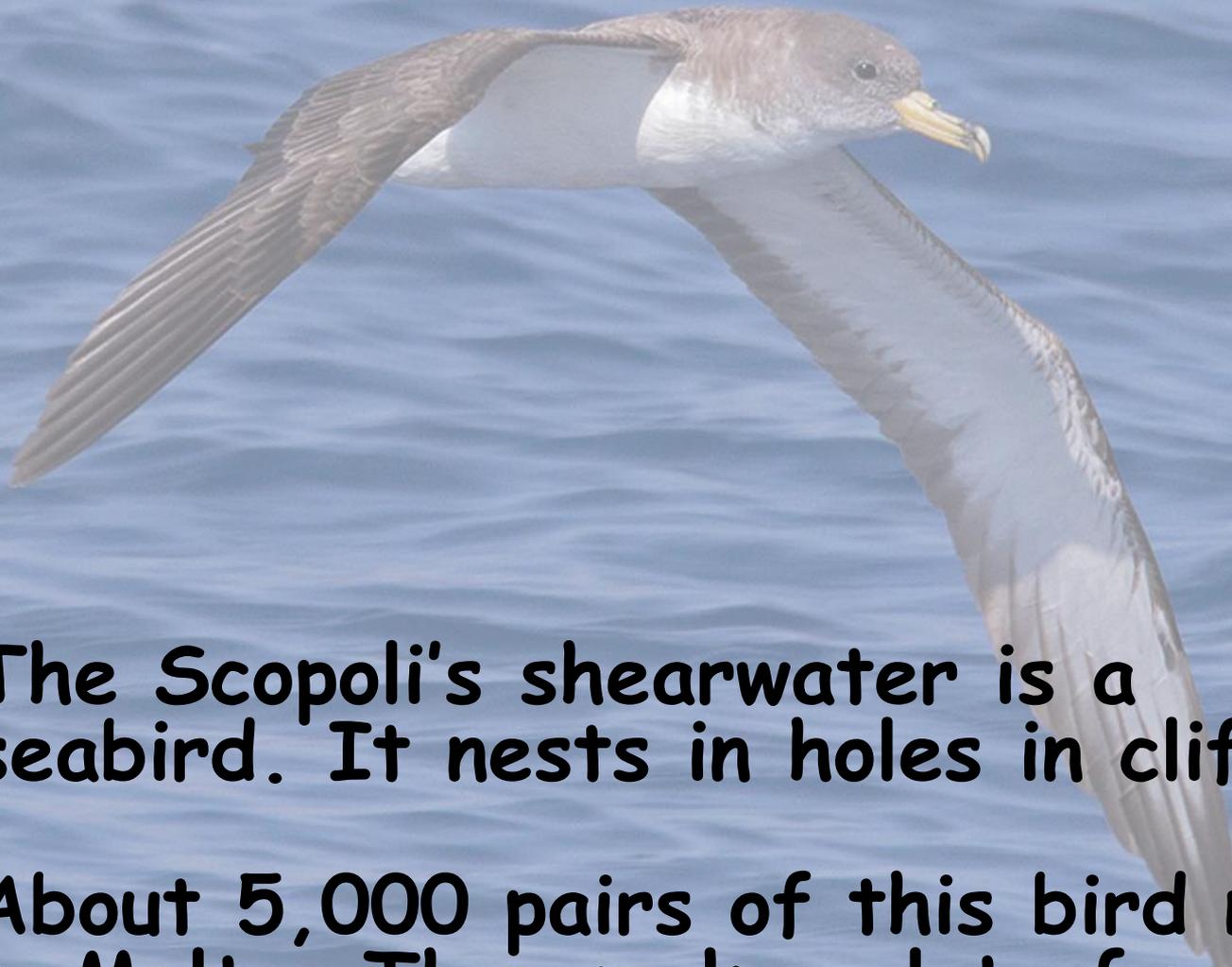
merill
blue rock thrush



The blue rock thrush is the national bird of Malta. It nests in holes in cliffs and the male is blue and black.



Ċiefa
Scopoli's Shearwater



The Scopoli's shearwater is a seabird. It nests in holes in cliffs.

About 5,000 pairs of this bird nest in Malta. They make a lot of noise while flying at night towards their nests.



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