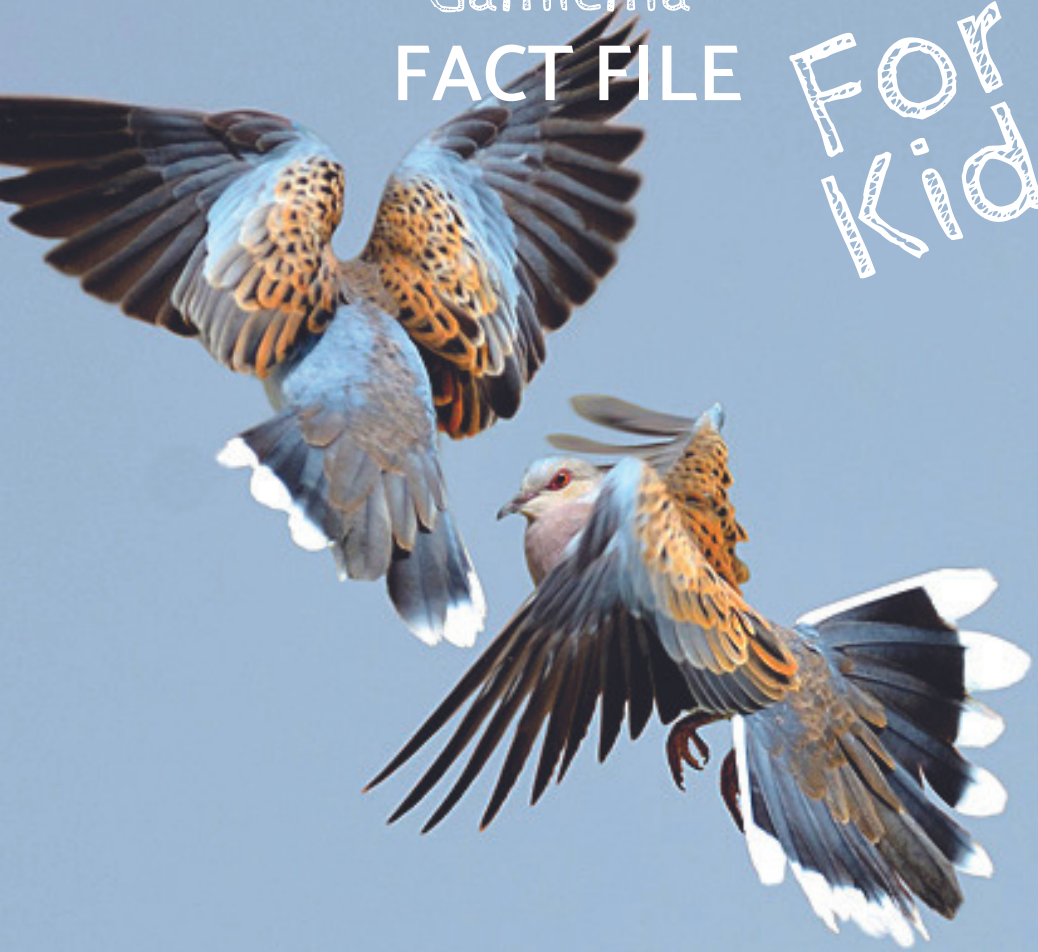


Turtle-Doves

Gamiema

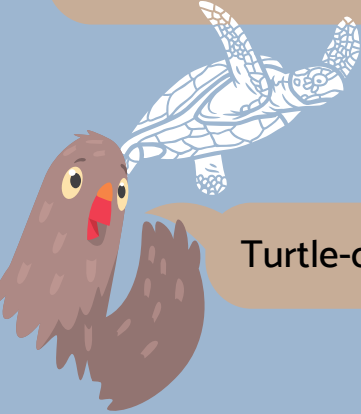
FACT FILE

For
Kids



FUN FACTS

The name 'Turtle' comes from the 'turr turr' noise that the bird makes. It could also be because the pattern of the feathers is similar to a turtle's shell.



Turtle-doves symbolise love and friendship.



Turtle-doves weigh between 100-156 grams, roughly 21x lighter than a Flamingo!



The diet of a Turtle-dove consists of grass, grains, seeds, fruit and sometimes insects.



MIGRATION PATTERNS

Turtle-doves usually migrate at night and can cover 700km in a single flight!

In spring they travel from Africa to Europe and in autumn they travel back to Africa to avoid the cold



The diagram shows a stylized map of Africa and Europe. A yellow arrow labeled 'Spring Migration' points from Africa to Europe. An orange arrow labeled 'Autumn Migration' points from Europe back to Africa. The top of the map is labeled 'Summer breeding grounds' and the bottom is labeled 'Wintering grounds'. A small turtle-dove is shown in the bottom right corner of the map.

Summer breeding grounds

Spring Migration

Autumn Migration

Wintering grounds

! Don't confuse a Collared Dove with a Turtle-dove whilst out exploring nature and birdwatching !

Turtle-dove

Collared Dove

Brown colour with a black and white patch on their neck

Appearance

Grey colour with a black collar-like patch on their neck



turr, turr



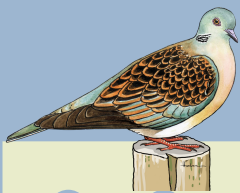
koo-KOO-kook

Song

Most of Europe, Middle East and North Africa

Distribution

Europe, Asia, North Africa and North America



Turtle-dove

Collared Dove

They migrate between
Europe and Africa

Migration

They do not
migrate

49-55cm

Wingspan

51cm

26-28cm

Length

32cm

They fly very fast

In flight

They fly very graceful



WHEN AND WHERE WE CAN SEE TURTLE-DOVES

The best time to spot Turtle-doves is either in April or September.

These are the migrating periods of Turtle-doves, travelling northward in spring and southward in autumn.

Highlighted on the map below are locations where spotting a Turtle-dove is most likely!



THREATS

The European Turtle-dove, which is classified as vulnerable, has a decreasing population trend. This means more are dying each year than are surviving into adulthood.

Hunting



Along their migration, they encounter many countries where hunting is common. This is especially frequent around the Mediterranean.

Climate change

Extreme temperatures, wild fires, and less food are just some of the effects of climate change that affect Turtle-dove populations.



Habitat Loss



Human activity such as intensive farming, and urbanisation are major causes of habitat loss. Urban areas are not safe nesting areas for Turtle-doves who like hedgerows and shrubland.

HOW YOU CAN HELP!



You can help make Malta a better place for our visiting Turtle-doves! Here is how:

Raise awareness about Turtle-doves

By taking part in this project you are showing an interest in Turtle-dove conservation. This will help educate people and show the policy-makers that these birds are worth protecting! Share this with your friends!



Contact politicians

Here are some powerful people whom you could contact on Facebook about Turtle-dove protection:

- Prime Minister Robert Abela - [@robertabelamt](https://www.facebook.com/robertabelamt)
- Minister for the Environment, Energy & Enterprise Miriam Dalli - [@drmiriamdalli](https://www.facebook.com/drmiriamdalli)

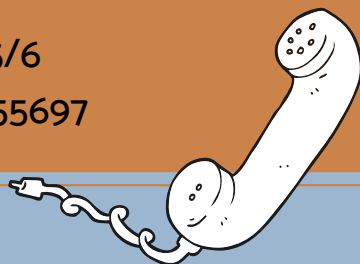


Found an injured Turtle-dove?

Contact BirdLife Malta

Working hours: (+356) 2134764 5/6

Evenings/weekends: (+356) 79255697

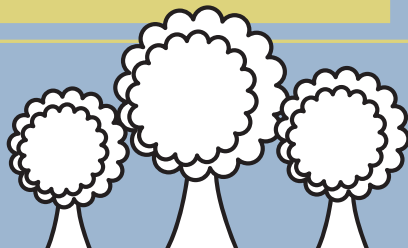


Plant a native tree!

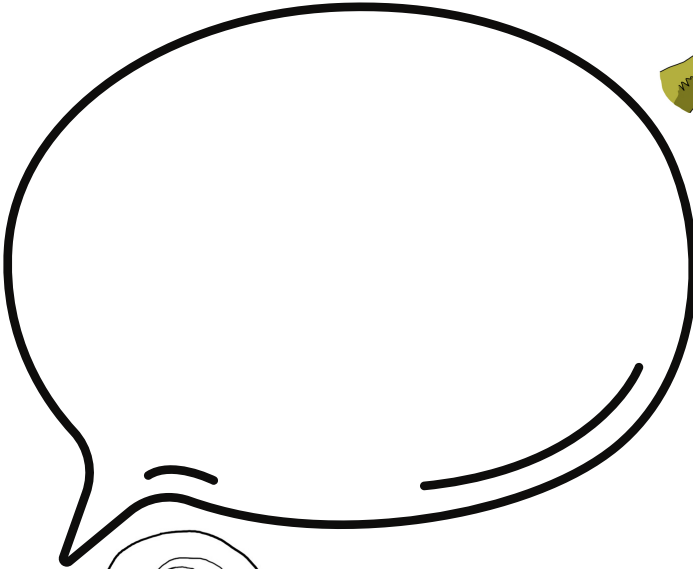
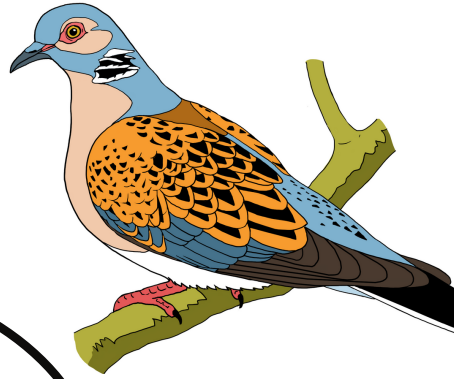
By planting and growing native trees in your outdoor space you are providing a safe location for Turtle-doves to rest during their migration journey. These can be homes for other wildlife too!

Support BirdLife Malta's nature reserves

Visiting and donating to our nature reserves will ensure these nature spaces are maintained, protected and can continue to be a safe haven for all wildlife, including the migratory ones.



European Turtle-dove (Gamiema)



Instructions

1

Colour-in the blank outline of the European Turtle-dove (Gamiema) using the filled-in example in the top left as a guide.

2

Using what you have learnt, within the speech bubble, write what you think a Turtle-dove would ask us humans to do to help protect their species.

3

As an extra optional task, we would like for you to send us a video of yourselves holding your artwork whilst speaking to the camera saying why Turtle-doves are important to you and why it is essential that we protect them.



You can send us your art works via email to:
events@birdlifemalta.org



This Journal and event
are part of the celebrations for the
Champions of the Flyway's Year of the
Dove & World European Turtle-dove
Day 2021. We want to promote and
raise awareness of the threats they
are facing and their
Vulnerable status.



Turtle-dove Artwork by Victor Falzon

Written and Designed by Lewis Collins, Giada Lampitell and Abbie Ferrar