

# il-Huttafa

Numru 172

Settembru – Ottubru 2022



Sparvier



# Hej Huttaf...

Meta nsemmu t-tniġġis naħsbu f'xi roqgħha plastik fil-baħar, jew dħaħen ħerġin minn ċumnija. Kontu tafu li anke d-dawl jista' jniġġes?

Id-dawl iniġġes mhux għax iħammeġ bħad-dħaħen u l-iskart, imma għax ifixkel ħaġa importanti fin-natura: id-dlam!

Huwa naturali li filgħaxja jaqa' d-dlam, u għan-natura d-dlam huwa meħtieg għax fid-dlam ħafna natura tistrieh u torqod. Anke l-pjanti jistriehu meta tinżel ix-xemx, u ħafna pjanti jagħlqu l-fjuri u anke jitwu l-weraq.

Il-lejl huwa parti miċ-ċiklu tal-ġurnata. Meta l-lejl nixegħlu bid-dwal esaġerati dan iċ-ċiklu nħarbtuh għax inħawdu l-arloġġ tan-natura.

Issa saret moda li nixegħlu anke s-siġar minn taħt, mingħalina biex jagħmlu sabiħ. Barra li hija ġela ta'

elettriku, ninsew li s-siġar huma l-kenn ta' ħafna annimali, fosthom għasafar, insetti u rettili. Jekk fis-siġra hemm bufula qed tiprova torqod, dawl qawwi f'wiċċha ma jħallihiex tistrieh. L-ġħada ma jkollhiex saħħa ssib bizzżejjed ikel għaliha jew għall-frieħ.

Dawn l-affarijiet ma naħsbux fihom meta nimlew kullimkien dawl. Mhux sew naħsbu li d-dinja tan-nies biss.

Tgħiduli: "Iss, allura ma nistgħux injeżju ftit is-siġar għall-Milied jew nhar il-festa?" Uuu mela le! Imma hemm għalfejn id-dawl jibqa' mixgħul il-lejl kollu? M'aħniex kapaċi nħallu l-lejl isaltan fid-dlam imqar għal sitt sīghat?

U issa ha nitfi u nħallikom għax qed jaqbadni n-nġħas!

**Victor**

Victor Falzon L-Editur



Victor Falzon

## Sparvier

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

L-isparvier huwa waħda mit-tajr tal-priza li jpassu minn fuq Malta fir-rebbieħha u fil-harifa. Għalkemm jidher kull sena, l-isparvier mhux speċi komuni. Huwa għasfur tal-foresti, u l-ispeċjalitā tiegħi huwa li jiżiġ b'heffa qalb is-siġar biex jaqbad il-priza, li s-soltu jkunu għasfar żgħar.



Ritratt ta' Aron Tanti



Qerd in-naħħal  
(*European bee-eater*)



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## Klabb Huttaf

Klabb Huttaf is the junior (under 16) section of BirdLife Malta. Members

- can attend club activities, like walks, birdwatching, visits to nature reserves, boat trips and also do environmental work
- receive *Il-Huttafa* every two months.

Your family too can become member, and you will then get *Bird's Eye View* magazine too. Annual subscription is €10 for Klabb Huttaf and €20 for Family.

It's even cheaper now!

## Kuntatti

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# 136 maqfulin... u meħlu sin.



F'Settembru l-pulizija għamlet rejd f'għalqa ta' wieħed nassab f'Hal Ghaxaq. Sabulu mhux inqas minn **136 għasfur** (lista hawn taħt) miżmumin f'kundizzjonijiet tal-biża'. Uħud lanqas setgħu jimxu bil-ħmieġ imwaħħal ma' saqajhom, oħrajn kellhom ir-rixx imqasqas. Ir-rejd sar bis-saħħha ta' tagħrif li

ġabru sħabna tal-għaqda CABS. Prosit CABS!

L-ghasafar iċċekkjahom vet u nhelsu mill-BirdLife fir-riserva naturali tal-Ġħadira. Oħrajn inżammu għal xi żmien għal iktar kura.

X'ħasra li l-vizzju tal-insib tal-ghasafar f'Malta għadu ma nqatax.

L-ghasafar kienu ta' 18-il speċi u lkoll imħarsin bil-liġi:

- 16-il svejda** (*green sandpiper*)
- 16-il svejda čara** (*wood sandpiper*)
- 16-il pispisella** (*common sandpiper*)
- 16-il verdun** (*greenfinch*)
- 13-il monakella** (*little ringed plover*)
- 12-il sponsun** (*chaffinch*)

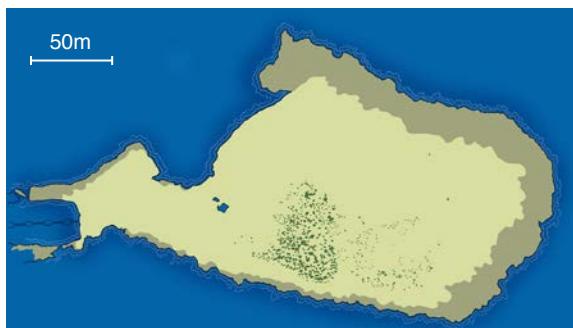
- 9 tertuxiet** (*little stint*)
- 9 ekri** (*siskin*)
- 8 sponsuni** (*chaffinch*)
- 5 monakelli primi** (*ringed plover*)
- 5 apparelli** (*serin*)
- 3 fras-servjenti** (*black-winged stilt*)

- 2 ġaħġaħ** (*tree sparrow*)
- 2 tertuxiet grizi** (*Temminck's stint*)
- 1 gardell** (*goldfinch*)
- 1 isfar** (*yellow wagtail*)
- 1 diżżejjha aħmar** (*red-throated pipit*)
- 1 ċewċewwa** (*greenshank*)

Għamilhom plus u l-answer  
għieni 71,322.



Taf tħodd ukoll!



## Żgħira imma importanti

Hejdni il-Qawra hemm għażira żgħira jisimha l-Ponta tal-Qawra. Ftit ġimħat ilu dil-ġżira qiet imħarsa bil-liġi, jiġifieri kaċċa ma tistax issir iktar minn fuqha. Għalkemm żgħira hija importanti. Għaliex? Għax il-Ponta tal-Qawra qiegħda fid-dahla tal-bajja tas-Salina, u minn fuqha jgħaddu ħafna għasafar li jkunu sejrin jistrieħu fir-riserva naturali tas-Salina. Xieraq li ħadd ma jkun qed jistenniehom fid-dahla bil-moħbi biex jisparalhom hux!

## X'għandna mid-dinja?

### Inqas moħqrija...



 Fi Spanja l-ġlied bil-barri qiegħed dejjem jonqos. Minn 648 *bullfights* organizzati fl-2009, innumru niżel għal 349 fl-2019. Hafna nies m'għadhomx jieħdu gost jaraw animali jinħaqru. Fejn dari *la corrida* kienet meqjusa l-isport nazzjonali ta' Spanja, illum ħafna jsejhulha l-mistħiha nazzjonali!



### Lura d-dar...



 Dari ċ-ċita kienet mifruxa mal-Indja kollha. Imma bil-kaċċa u l-qedda tal-ħabitat, sal-1952 kienet estinta. Issa, wara li saru l-istudji, tmien ċita min-Namibja ttieħdu l-Indja u ntelqu f'park nazzjonali kbir. Ilkoll għandhom *radio collar* m'għonqhom biex ix-xjenzati jibqgħu jsegwuhom u jistudjawhom.

### Baħar kwiet...



 Qorti fl-Afrika t'Isfel ma tatx permess lill-kumpanija Shell biex tfittex iż-żejt f'qiegħ l-Océan Indjan. It-tfittix jinvolvi ħsejjes qawwijin fil-baħar, wieħed kull 10 sekondi *bla waqfien għal-hames xħur sħaħ*. Il-fawna tal-baħar tbat ħafna b'dan l-istorju speċjalment animali sensittivi għall-ħoss bħal balieni u dniefel.

# X'rajt fil-ġnien<sup>9</sup>

Desirée Falzon  
Detektiv

Desirée Falzon



Fil-ġnien għandi pjanta tax-xorbett li kibret u nfirxet mhux ħażin. Ix-xorbett inħobbha għax twarrad fil-ħarifa fi żmien meta ħafna pjanti oħra jkunu ghajjen wara sajf nixfa. In-naħal u l-frietet iħobbuha ħafna. Minbarra l-fjuri, il-friegħi folti tax-xorbett jiffurmaw ġungla żgħira li tagħti kenn lil ħafna annimali żgħar. Meta nkun fil-ġnien dejjem nittawwal qalb il-friegħi biex nara x'insib.

## Pakkett stramb!

Is-sena l-oħra jiena u nfitteq qalb il-friegħi tax-xorbett, rajt qisu ballun żgħir griz. Kien imdendel b'ħafna ħjut irqaq bejn il-friegħi. Hmm, dan poġġieh xi hadd! Meta ħarist iktar mill-qrib indunajt li ma kienx eż-żarru ballun għax il-parti ta' fuq kienet čatta, qisha borża bl-ġħatu. Xi stramberija!

Misnejha bil-mod. Ma cċaqaqlitx. Ma ppruvajtx nifta l-għātu għax jekk kien hemm annimal moħbi fiha għax-xitwa kont infixku jew inweġġgħu.



Victor Falzon

Allura bdejt naħseb: Dawk il-ħjut min seta' għamilhom? Tgħid brimba? Imma brimba mhux għanqbuta tagħmel? Imbagħad ftakart li ftit ġranet qabel kont rajt **brimba kbira tal-widien** mdendla f'għanqbuta fl-istess post. Hmm, tgħid dik il-ħaġa hi għamlitha?

## Mijiet ta' tikek!

U hekk kien! Għamilt xitwa shiħa noħroġ nosserva dak il-pakkett stramb, u kważi qtajt qalbi li niskopri x'kienet. Imma ġurnata minnhom mort niċċekja u sibt il-pakkett miftuħ u madwaru mijiet

ta' tikek ileqqu. ġibt il-lenti u bdejt nidħaq bil-pjaċir meta ndunajt li dawk it-tikek kienu brimb żgħar!

Sewwa kont ħsibt. L-omm kienet forsi waslet biex tmut, għalhekk nisġet dak il-pokit tal-ħarir, biedet il-bajd fih, għalqitu u dendlitu ġo xibka ħarir. Meta waslet ir-rebbiegħha u t-temp ibbnazza, iż-żgħar faqqas, gerrmu toqba fl-ġħatu u ħarġu biex jibdew ħajjithom!

Xi ġmiel, hux!



Desirée Falzon

Ballun brimb għadu kemm faqqas mill-pakkett!

Xi hlew!

# L-Ghasafar KOLLHA ta' Malta

F'Malta s'issa dehru ftit **iktar minn 400 speci** ta' ghasafar. Xi speċi huma komuni, oħrajn rari, uhud iżuruna ftit ġranet fis-sena, oħrajn jgħixu magħna s-sena kollha. F'dis-sensiela qed ingi lu l-lista kollha! Dawn huma **Numri 31 sa 40...**



31 Isem Malti  
**Blongun Prim**  
Isem Ingliz  
**Great Crested Grebe**  
Isem xjentifiku  
*Podiceps cristatus*



Isem Malti  
**Tudun**  
Isem Ingliz  
**Common Woodpigeon**  
Isem xjentifiku  
*Columba palumbus*



32 Isem Malti  
**Blongun Sekond**  
Isem Ingliz  
**Black-necked Grebe**  
Isem xjentifiku  
*Podiceps nigricollis*



Isem Malti  
**Gamiema**  
Isem Ingliz  
**European Turtle-dove**  
Isem xjentifiku  
*Streptopelia turtur*



33 Isem Malti  
**Fjamingu**  
Isem Ingliz  
**Greater Flamingo**  
Isem xjentifiku  
*Phoenicopterus roseus*



Isem Malti  
**Gamiema tal-Kullar**  
Isem Ingliz  
**Eurasian Collared Dove**  
Isem xjentifiku  
*Streptopelia decaocto*



34 Isem Malti  
**Tudun tal-Ğebel**  
Isem Ingliz  
**Rock Dove**  
Isem xjentifiku  
*Columba livia*



Isem Malti  
**Gamiema tal-Ilwien**  
Isem Ingliz  
**Laughing Dove**  
Isem xjentifiku  
*Spilopelia senegalensis*



35 Isem Malti  
**Tudun tas-Siġar**  
Isem Ingliz  
**Stock Dove**  
Isem xjentifiku  
*Columba oenas*



Isem Malti  
**Ganga ta' Spanja**  
Isem Ingliz  
**Black-bellied Sandgrouse**  
Isem xjentifiku  
*Pterocles orientalis*

Lista approvata minn BirdLife Malta. Għalkemm xi speċi magħrufin b'iktar minn isem wieħed, dawn huma l-ismijiet uffiċjali bil-Malti li tuża BirdLife Malta. L-ismijiet bl-Ingliz u xjentifiki huma dawk li tuża BirdLife International ([www.birdlife.org](http://www.birdlife.org))

## NATURALment

**Titilfuhx!**

Programm imtella' minn BirdLife Malta  
fl-okkażjoni tas-60 sena mit-twaqqif tagħha

Fuq NET TV  
Kull nhar ta' Hamis  
Fid-9.35pm



# Rockpools

**Rockpools** are formed when rainwater fills hollows in rocks formed through many years of erosion.

These rockpool habitats have **two stages in a year**, the first stage occurs when the pools fill with rainwater and the second occurs in summer when they dry up due to evaporation.

Rockpools are referred to as being **ephemeral** meaning that they last for a short time.

Various **plants and algae** inhabit these freshwater rock pools, these include the Maltese Waterwort (*l-elatine*) and the Maltese Horned - pondweed (*il-harira tal-ilma*).

There are also many **aquatic insects** which call this habitat home. These include microcrustaceans, such as the Common Copepod (*il-kopepodu tal-ghadajjar*), Freshwater shrimps such as the Fairy Shrimp (*il-gamblu tal-ghadajjar*) and the Water Flea (*iż-żagħrun tal-ġwiebi*). Other organisms like the Tadpole Shrimp (*il-gamblu tal-elmu*), are also found in this habitat however, they are extremely rare.

During the **dry season**, some species move out of the rock pool and return when conditions become favourable, while some species have specially adapted to the habitat and remain dormant in the soil during the dry stage only to remerge during the wet stage.

Photos (Shrimp & Tal-Wej) by Lara Galea



# Il-Qabbeżin

Fil-ħarifa tagħmel ix-xita u jibdew jikbru ħafna pjanti ġodda. Fl-istess hin it-temp ikun għadu sħun. Mhx ta' b'xejn fil-ħarifa jitfaċċaw ħafna ġurati, għax il-ġurati jħobbu s-shana u jħobbu l-weraq! Dawn ftit minnhom...

Desirée Falzon

ferħ

Aron Tanti

Desirée Falzon

Ġurat tar-Raba'  
Egyptian Grasshopper



Ġurat tal-Furketta  
Pink-winged Grasshopper



Kaħlani tax-Xagħri  
Blue-winged Grasshopper

Ġurat Rasu Twila  
Slant-faced Grasshopper



Buqrun Aħdar  
Common Green Bush-cricket

Victor Falzon

Victor Falzon&lt;/div



## Paletta u Agrett Abjad

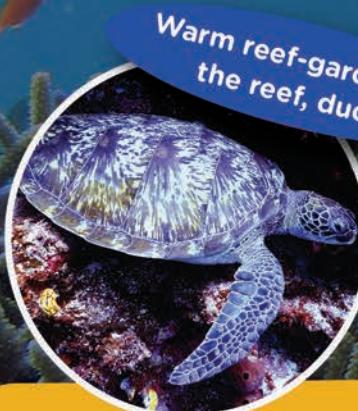
Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*  
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*



# THE BEAUTY AND DANGER IN THE FASCINATING WORLD OF CORAL REEFS

## What is a coral?

Corals are not plants or rocks... they are actually animals! They are the cousins of sea anemones and jellyfish. The hard structure we see is actually the skeleton of the animal, who hides inside it as a little 'worm' called polyp! They can also have tiny algae living inside their cells. These algae produce lots of food for the coral to survive and, in exchange, get free rent and can live nice and cosy inside the coral!



*Warm reef-gards from the reef, dude!*

## The problem of coral bleaching...

When the temperature gets too hot, the algae are expelled from inside the coral, making them become white and can end up even dying in the long term.

To save coral reefs, we need to fight threats like climate change, plastic pollution and overfishing. Will you join the fight?



MALTA NATIONAL  
AQUARIUM



## Why are corals important?

1. Many sea creatures live there! Coral reefs occupy only 0.1% of all the ocean surface, but yet host 25% of all marine species!
2. Scientists have found that many of the substances produced by corals can also be used as human medicine. Now that's cool!
3. The reef acts like a big wall that protects the houses of the people by the shore from waves, storms and even tsunamis.

Among so many other things... not to mention, they are beautiful and have been on the planet for over 500 million years, and that's enough reason to protect them!

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE IN OUR CORAL QUIZ!

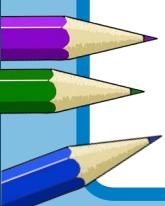
1. Corals are:
  - a) Rocks
  - b) Plants
  - c) Animals related to jellyfish and anemones
2. What lives inside the cells of some tropical corals?
  - a) Algae
  - b) Trees
  - c) Worms
3. What is the main cause of coral bleaching?
  - a) Cold water
  - b) Hot water
  - c) Plastic pollution

Answers: 1.C, 2.A, 3.B

# Colour the bird



Victor Falzon



Victor Falzon



## Be Nice to Nature

Birds get hungry in winter because all the juicy insects hide away in their nests and shelters. So set up a bird table and put out nice things for them to eat. It's easy to make a bird table. Just a piece of wood stuck to a broomstick, like in the picture (get a grown-up to help you with sharp tools). Stick the thing in the soil in your garden, or in a flower pot filled with sand. Put out food like cake crumbs, crushed biscuits and seeds and watch the hungry sparrows nibble that delicious snack. Be nice to nature! Thank you.

A large group of people, including children and adults, are gathered outdoors, waving and smiling. They are holding a white banner with a blue bird logo and the text "BirdLife". In the bottom right corner, there is a large, detailed illustration of a Goldfinch bird.

We at Klabb Huttaf do lots of fun activities and adventures for you and your family. To learn about our next awesome activity check out our website!

[www.birdlifemalta.org/events](http://www.birdlifemalta.org/events)

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# Young Birders Club



Hi everyone, I'm Myles McClean, I am 13 years old and I have been birding for the past 3 years. Not long ago, BirdLife Malta started a birding club for fellow birders my age and younger. This summer I joined the club and here are some of my best birding trips.



## Ta' Ćenc boat trip July 2022

In July we met other birdwatchers at Ċirkewwa for a boat trip around Ta' Ćenc cliffs looking for Scopoli's shearwaters. Only 20 minutes in we saw our first **raft**. Soon after, we saw many **Scopoli's shearwaters** flying and rafting on the surface right next to the boat – some people spotted a distant **Yelkouan Shearwater** too. It was great to see the huge Ta' Ćenc cliffs so close and to enjoy the wonderful sunset. On checking his photos after the trip, one member found he had photographed a very rare **Cory's shearwater**, which is very hard to tell from the much more common Scopoli's.



**Scopoli's shearwater**



**Swinhoe's petrel**



**loggerhead turtle**



**black tern**

## Marsaskala boat trip August 2022

Another boat trip, but this one was to go looking for the amazing black terns. We had also heard from fellow birdwatchers that there was an extremely rare Swinhoe's storm-petrel about, which raised many hopes! We headed out at sea, passing by the fish farms where hundreds of **black terns** were doing acrobatics in the air. We enjoyed watching and taking pictures of them. At this time of year the terns are not all-black but changing into their winter plumage. We also observed many **European storm-petrels** sitting and flying on the water – at one point we also saw a **loggerhead turtle** relaxing at the surface! Finally, we were lucky to spot the **Swinhoe's storm-petrel** and get good record shots. I was impressed how much bigger it was than the European storm-petrels.



**European storm-petrel**



**European bee-eater**

## Buskett September 2022

We visited Buskett a number of times to do some raptor watching. From around 4pm to 7pm is the best time to see birds of prey. The first time I went I didn't get very good views of birds like **marsh-harriers** but I did see a flock of **bee-eaters**, a small flock of 3 **turtle-doves**, a **golden oriole** and a scarce **roller**, which was a **2lifer** for me.

My second trip was much better. I got fantastic views of many flocks of bee-eaters and raptors such as marsh-harriers, **honey-buzzards**, **black kite**, **hobby** and **osprey**. Other birders also spotted an **Eleonora's falcon**.



**raft.** A group of seabirds resting together on the surface of the water

**2lifer.** A new bird on the birdwatcher's list

All photos on this page by Myles McClean

I urge you young birdwatchers to join BirdLife Malta's Young Birders Club. It will teach you lots of things and most of all you'll see birds you've never seen before.

**Wow!**

Migration brings out the best in physical achievement. Human Olympic feats pale in comparison.

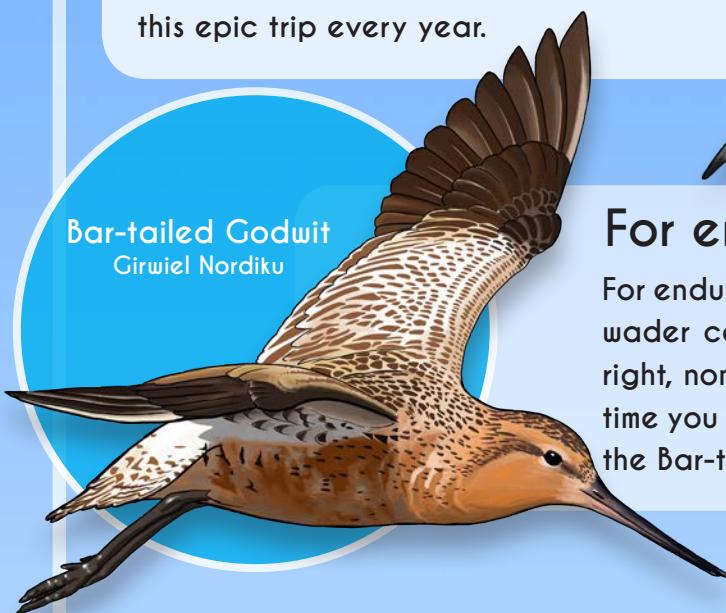
# The Migration Story

## For distance . . .

The Arctic Tern holds the record for the longest migration journey: a round trip of 71,000km, all the way from the Arctic to Antarctica and back. That's like walking the length of Malta 2630 times! Oh, and it does this epic trip every year.



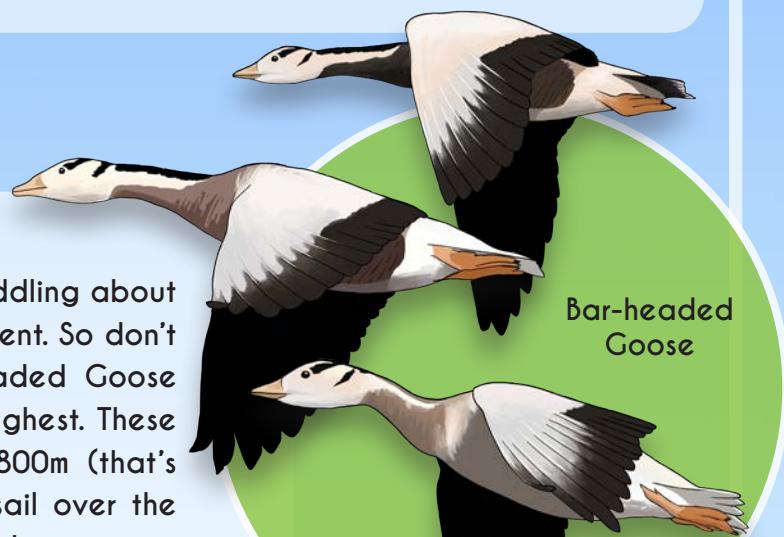
**Bar-tailed Godwit**  
Girwiell Nordiku



## For endurance . . .

For endurance, nobody beats the Bar-tailed Godwit. This wader can fly 11,200km nonstop for eight days. That's right, nonstop! No stopping to rest or sleep or eat. Next time you take part in a race and you feel tired, remember the Bar-tailed Godwit and get on with it!

**Bar-headed Goose**



## For altitude . . .

Domestic geese are big, heavy birds waddling about in a farmyard. Wild geese are very different. So don't be surprised to learn that the Bar-headed Goose holds the record of the bird that flies highest. These birds fly at a whopping altitude of 8800m (that's almost 9km) above sea level, as they sail over the Himalayas in India... with no oxygen masks!

**Great Snipe**  
Bekkaċċ ta' Mejju



## For speed . . .

The award for the fastest bird on migration goes to the Great Snipe. This bird can fly up to 6700km at speeds of 96km/h. On our roads that would earn it a few speeding tickets!

If you go to Is-Simar nature reserve, you will see this page as a nice big board!

## HELLO TFAL!

Jien Nina,

Qed niktbilkom għax għandi bżonn ftit għajjnuna fuq progett tal-iskola mil-lezzjoni tal-Istudji Soċjali. Mid-dehra x-xogħol għamiltu ftit bil-għażla u l-ismijiet u l-istampi ħawwadthom. Tistgħu tgħinuni ftit biex nirrangahom, billi tqabblu bil-vlejegħ?

L-Għasfur Nazzjonali ta' Malta



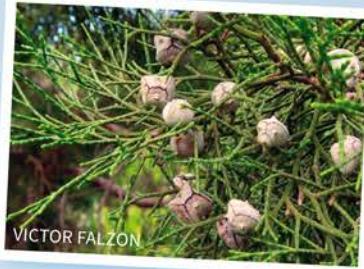
WIDNET IL-BAHAR

Il-Pjanta Nazzjonali ta' Malta



L-ĞHARGħAR

Il-Ħuta Nazzjonali ta' Malta



IL-MERILL

Is-Sigra Nazzjonali ta' Malta



IL-BUŻAQQ

**GRAZZI TAL-GħAJNUNA TAGħKOM!**

# il-Bomblu Iswed



Victor Falzon

- Il-bomblu iswed huwa l-ikbar naħla li għandna Malta. Huwa wkoll waħda mill-ikbar naħal fl-Ewropa!
- L-isem xjentifiku tal-bomblu iswed huwa *Xylocopa violacea*. Il-kelma *xylocopa* ġejja mill-Grieg u tfisser qattiegh tal-injam! Anke bl-Ingliz jismu *large carpenter bee*. Carpenter huwa mastrudaxxa!
- Il-bomblu iswed għandu xedaq b'saħħtu. Dan jużah biex iħaffer mina fl-injam, bid-dahla tonda. Din il-mina tintuża jew biex il-mara tbid fiha jew għar-raqda tax-xitwa.
- Il-bomblu iswed spiss juža qasab niexef biex ibejjet fih. Fil-fatt isem ieħor għal dan l-insekk huwa naħla tal-qasab.
- Il-bomblu iswed huwa insett solitarju, jiġifieri ma jgħixx fi gruppi bħan-naħla tal-ħas-sel.
- Il-bomblu iswed ma jagħmlx għasel.

- Il-bomblu iswed jiekol nektar u polin mill-fjuri. Iżur diversi speċi ta' pjanti u huwa 'dakkār tajjeb.
- Meta l-mara tbid, thallil ballun polin ma' kull bajda biex meta x-xagħat ifaqqas isib mill-ewwel x'jekol.
- Bħal xi naħal ieħor, il-bomblu iswed għandu xewka f'tarf il-warrani. Din ix-xewka južaha biex jiddefendi ruħu.
- Għalkemm jidher xi ftit tal-biżże' l-bomblu iswed mhux aggressiv. Trid tittantah biex idur għalik! Nuru rispett u nħalluh bi kwietu.



Victor Falzon

<sup>1</sup>dakkār. Annimal li jgħorr polin minn fjuri għal oħra u bis-saħħha t'hekk il-fjura tiddakkar u ssir frotta u żerriegha

Il-bomblu  
iswed jagħmel  
toqba tonda  
perfetta...  
daqs l-aqwa  
mastrudaxxa



## SAVING THE UNIVERSE

WRITTEN BY ELENA

