

2023 COUNCIL ELECTION CANDIDATES



James Aquilina

I graduated in Economics, and work as a Senior Finance Executive with Heritage Malta. Between 2003–2018 I successfully led a youth group in my community. I have been a member of BirdLife Malta since 2013. In July of the same year, I commenced my first training sessions in the study of bird ringing. Three years later I became a licensed bird ringer. I am also a birdwatcher and a passionate bird photographer. I was elected to the BirdLife Council in 2021.



Capt. Denise Casolani

I have been an active member of BirdLife Malta (and previously of the Malta Ornithological Society, MOS) since the age of 13. In my younger days I served as a committee member of the youth section, in charge of newsletters and of organising various activities for the young and teen members. After finishing my Bachelor's degree in Maths and Physics in Malta, I travelled abroad to get my pilot's license, and for the last 27 years have been flying for Malta's national airline as an airline captain. Throughout these years, my love and interest in birds and nature has never diminished. I am looking forward to taking an active part once again as a Council member, and to contribute to this important cause I truly believe in.



Kathleen Galea

My journey as an active member of BirdLife Malta started as a leader on family outings with *Klabb Huttaf*. Feeling that I could contribute more to enriching our members' experience with nature, I joined the *Klabb Huttaf* committee and served both as member and chairperson. Currently I am serving on BirdLife Malta's Council and have been doing so for the past four terms. This has provided me with a window to the extensive work carried out by BirdLife Malta in our many different fields, but mainly, it has given me the opportunity to view, analyse and be part of the priceless work being carried out by our education team. Being a teacher by profession, I have experienced our *Dinja Waħda* programmes first-hand, and I truly believe that by connecting our students with nature, in any way possible, we can create an invaluable bond that will lead to a respect, love and protection of nature.



Miriam Camilleri

I am the founder and Managing Director of MConsult & Associates. I have been involved in the transport industry for over 40 years with the last 30 years focused on the international maritime industry. I chair the Malta Branch of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport and am an active member of the Malta Maritime Law Association having served as Vice-President for many years. I am a Board member of the Malta Maritime Forum, a member of the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry and actively involved in the Chamber of SMEs. I sit on the University's Education and Maritime platform. I am also the Honorary Consul for Georgia in Malta. I believe that the ENGO's role is crucial and that we must continue to provide support to this hardworking and dedicated organisation in its endeavours to protect our environment and ensure the safety of birds and their habitats. I have been a member of BirdLife Malta now for more than five years even if I have always been an avid follower. I was also a Council member back in 2019/21. I bring years of professional and management experience to BirdLife Malta.



Norman Chetcuti

I joined the Malta Ornithological Society (MOS) in 1973 at the age of 10 and later became a volunteer and eventually a council member. I am currently BirdLife Malta's Treasurer on the Council. I have a diploma in the hospitality management. I am an accredited Financial Adviser by the Chartered Institute of Bankers and Insurance. I worked for more than 30 years with one of Malta's leading banks with the last 10 years as an Area Sales Manager.



Darryl Grima

I have many years of senior management experience which I bring to the organisation's Council, which I have presided for the past years. I currently work in vegan and animal activism, and have been involved in various environmental, animal and political NGOs from a young age. In the past I had also worked with BirdLife Malta as Education Officer.

2023 COUNCIL ELECTION CANDIDATES



Dr Eurydike Kovacs

As I have a special interest in conservation medicine, I started helping BirdLife Malta on a voluntary basis at the end of the 1990s. As a government-appointed veterinarian I examine injured wild birds that are recovered by the public, the police and BirdLife Malta. Apart from being a veterinary surgeon I am also the veterinary adviser of the conservation team's rehabilitation programme. I have been on the Council for the last four terms and this has given me the possibility to share my views and knowledge for the benefit of the organisation.



Paul Portelli

I joined the youth section of BirdLife Malta, (at the time known as the Malta Ornithological Society, MOS) in 1977. Shortly after joining I was elected on the Youth Committee and eventually became committee chairman as well as Education Officer. In 1987 I was elected President of MOS, a post I relinquished in the following year to become the first Director, serving in the role until 1996. I have a degree in Communications and Anthropology and a Masters in Maltese Studies and have researched human/insect relations in Malta for my PhD thesis. I am presently curator of Ghar Dalam in Birżebbuġa.



Steve Zammit Lupi

I am 28 years old. Having grown a passion for wild birds since the early age of 10, I have been an avid birder since. I am also an active BirdLife Malta member and have been volunteering at the nature reserves and the annual conservation camps for a number of years. In 2018 I graduated in European Studies at the University of Malta. A year later, in 2019, I was elected for the first time as an independent councillor in my hometown of Haż-Żebbuġ. Other interests of mine include cycling, current affairs and videography.



Caldon Mercieca

My involvement with BirdLife Malta goes back to my childhood when I joined MOS at the age of six and started active birdwatching by 12. During the 90s I was active in the youth section of BirdLife, eventually chairing the youth section, running the activities programme for youths and attending national and international meetings relating to environmental activism and conservation. During summer work placements I worked tirelessly at Simar Nature Reserve and Għadira Nature Reserve. Since then, I have been active in BirdLife Malta's Rarities and Records Committee, where I am working on the compilation of systematic lists of birds observed in Malta on an annual basis. Currently I am working as a manager at the Valletta Design Cluster, within the Valletta Cultural Agency. For the last 20 years I have worked on EU-funded projects involving urban planning, heritage conservation, the cultural and creative sector, as well as direct engagement with policymakers, NGOs and civil society, and various international stakeholders on a Mediterranean and European level.



Capt. Raphael Soler

Having being exposed to birdwatching and to *Klabb Huttaf* from a young age, in 2016, after returning to Malta while pursuing a career in aviation I made it a priority to renew my BirdLife Malta membership and to join the BirdLife Malta birdwatching community. Since then I have consistently been out in the field with fellow enthusiasts and friends learning how to improve my bird identification skills. I was also introduced to the BirdLife Malta bird ringing scheme and I have assisted licensed bird ringers on numerous occasions at various locations such as Buskett, Għadira and the Comino Bird Observatory. Now, at the age of 32, having observed the annual migration patterns of birds I have come to appreciate fully the conservation effort required to protect our birds and Malta's natural environment, thus offering my candidature into the BirdLife Council.