il-Ħuttafa

Numru **179**

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Bekkaċċ

Il-magażin ta' Klabb Ħuttaf

BirdLife MALTA

Klabb Huttaf

Ħbieb Ħuttaf...

mill-editur

Meta nisma' u nara kemm għad hawn nies li ma jimpurtahomx min-natura inkun nixtieq insir superhero u nbiddel id-dinja!

L-istorja tas-siġar tal-Mosta (paġna 3) naħseb ilkoll smajtu biha. Meta l-Kunsill Lokali qablu li jneħħu s-siġar tal-pjazza, ħadd minnhom ma qal:

"L-għasafar li jorqdu fihom fejn ħa jmorru?"

Meta talbu għall-permess biex jagħmlu din l-istraġi qalulhom iva. U ħadd ma qal:

"U l-1200 zakak abjad li jorqdu fihom kull filgħaxija fejn se jistkennu, speċjalment issa li dieħla x-xitwa?"

Qisu ħadd ma jaħseb fin-natura ħlief aħna li nħobbuha.

Għalhekk tifhmu kemm huwa importanti li jkun hawn għaqdiet bħall-BirdLife. Inkella min se jaqbeż għalihom l-annimali u l-pjanti?

Importanti li dawn l-għaqdiet ikomplu jikbru u li jkollhom iktar membri.

Il-membri tagħna mhux biss jitgħallmu fuq in-natura **imma lin-natura jridu jgħinuha wkoll**, kif għamlet il-ħabiba tagħna Kimberley (paġna 13).

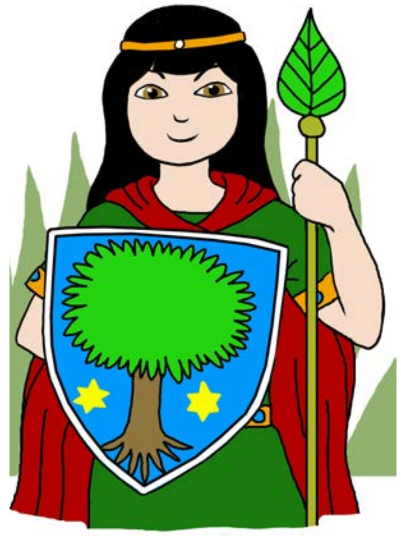
Ħafna min-nies li llum imexxu l-BirdLife u anke għaqdiet ambjentali oħrajn kienu membri fi Klabb Ħuttaf meta kienu daqskom. Mela xiex!

Għalhekk jekk għandkom ħbieb li bħalkom iħobbu n-natura ħajruhom jidħlu wkoll fi Klabb Ħuttaf.

Imma issa ħa nħallikom għax irrid immur nagħżel kostum ta' superhero! U rrid nivvinta isem ukoll. Jekk tiġikom xi idea għiduli ta!

Nawguralkom Milied sabiħ!

Victor
Victor Falzon
L-Editur



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Kitbu

Thais Amaral u Charlie Matthews (National Aquarium), Elena (Ecohive), Desirée Falzon, Victor Falzon, Nicholas Galea, Kimberley Marie Gatt

Klabb Ħuttaf

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

- can attend club activities, like walks, birdwatching, visits to nature reserves, boat trips and work to help nature
- receive *Il-Ħuttafa* 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 Ħuttaf and €20 for Family.

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FUQ QUDDIEM

Ritratt ta' Aron Tanti

Bekkaċċ

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Il-bekkaċċ għasfur tax-xtut sabiħ u mbaċċaċ b'munqar twil ħafna. Dan jużah biex iħaffer fit-tajn ifittex ħniex u dud x'jiekol. Il-bekkaċċ mhux faċli tarah għax mistħi u jħobb jistaħba. Barra minn hekk il-kulur ta' rixu jaqbel ħafna mal-weraq u l-ħaxix niexef max-xtut tal-widien u l-għadajjar fejn iħobb joqgħod.

Rawhom koroħ!

Murat Gelir

Kif kienu qabel il-massakru

L-uffiċjali tal-Kunsill tal-Mosta riedu jsebbħu l-pjazza tar-raħal. Dehrilhom li ringiela siġar tal-fikus kienu qed ikerrhu!

Dawn is-siġar ilhom ħafna snin isebbħu u jħaddru l-misraħ, u joffru dell mix-xemx lin-nies, u kenn lil eluf ta' għasafar.

Imma l-uffiċjali ġabu l-permess, żabru l-weraq kollu u ġew bil-gafef bil-lest biex l-għada jaqilgħuhom.

Dakinhar filgħaxija elf zakak abjad *(white wagtail)* ġew biex jorqdu bħas-soltu fis-siġar. Imma ma sabu xejn!

Fil-fixla l-povri għasafar bdew itiru u jagħqdu mal-pjazza qishom l-imġienen, jaħbtu f'xulxin u fl-arbli, u uħud waqgħu mejtin fl-art. In-nies li kienu hemm baqgħu skantati b'dak li raw. Skantati u rrabjati!

Il-BirdLife flimkien ma' Moviment Graffitti u għaqdiet oħra ipprotestat kontra dan il-barbariżmu. Ir-rabja fil-midja żdiedet u saret pressjoni biex l-uffiċjali jispjegaw għaliex riedu jeqirdu s-siġar. Imma dawn ma kellhomx tweġiba. Minflok, ċedew u bidlu d-deċiżjoni.

Is-siġar se jibqgħu hemm!

Issa nisperaw li ma jdumux ma jerġgħu jtellgħu l-weraq ħalli lkoll inkomplu ngawduhom. Nawguraw ukoll li l-imsejknin għasafar li tilfu l-post tal-irqad jirnexxilhom isibu post ieħor fejn jorqdu qabel ma tidħol il-kesħa sew.

Wieħed mill-vittmi - zakak abjad

Rix Rari

Aron Tanti

F'Novembru fil-port tal-Imġarr (Għawdex) tfaċċa dan iċ-**ċinju**, għasfur rari fil-Mediterran. Dam jumejn ipaxxi l-għajn ta' min rah, u bil-preżenza tal-pulizija, tal-BirdLife u tal-ERA, ebda kaċċatur ma sparalu.

X'għandna mid-dinja?

Tiżdied ftit ftit

Fil-Brażil hemm proġett biex isalvaw il-**golden lion tamarin**, xadina żgħira ħamranija u simpatika, b'dak il-[1]munxar li tisthajjilha ljun żgħir! Tgħix fl-Atlantic Forest, foresta li darba kienet enormi imma li issa baqa' minnha 15% biss! Imma hemm għaqda ambjentali li qiegħda tixtri rqajja' ta' art u tħawwilhom bis-siġar. Issa qegħdin iħawlu wkoll kuriduri ta' siġar bejn dawn iċ-ċapep foresti ħalli t-tamarins (li jibżgħu jinżlu fl-art) ikunu jistgħu jaqsmu minn foresta għal oħra bla ma jinżlu mis-siġar. Fis-Snin Sebgħin kien stmat li kien baqa' biss xi 200 tamarins. Issa n-numru tela' għal xi 4800. Għadu baxx, imma progress kbir!

[1]**munxar.** Ix-xuxa goffa li jkollu madwar rasu l-iljun (bl-Ingliż *mane*)

Desirée Falzon

6 Għaliex l-affarijiet ħajjin għandhom bżonn l-ilma?

Victor Falzon

Meta x-xjenzati jfittxu l-ħajja fuq pjaneti oħra, l-ewwel ma jfittxu huwa l-ilma. Għaliex? Għax bla ilma ma jistax ikun hemm ħajja kif nafuha.

Naraw ftit għaliex...

L-ilma jġorr

L-ilma huwa likwidu ħafif li jiġri u għalhekk tajjeb biex iġorr l-affarijiet f'ġisem l-annimali u jwassalhom fejn ikun hemm bżonn. L-ossiġnu li jidħol fina meta nieħdu n-nifs jinħall fid-demm u minn hemm jimxi għal kull ċellola ta' ġisimna. Id-demm tal-annimali (ħlief tal-insetti) fih ħafna ilma. Tagħna l-bnedmin nofsu ilma! Bla ilma l-ossiġnu la jinħall u lanqas jiġri fil-vini. L-insetti jieħdu n-nifs differenti minna imma xorta jridu l-ilma biex iġorr in-nutrijenti f'ġisimhom.

Dan jgħodd għall-pjanti wkoll. L-għeruq itellgħu l-ilma bis-sustanzi mill-ħamrija u jitqassam mal-pjanta kollha. L-istess l-ikel li jagħmlu l-weraq mid-dawl tax-xemx jinġarr bl-ilma għall-bqija tal-pjanta. Fl-annimali wkoll, is-sustanzi li nieħdu mill-ikel jinġarr fid-demm. Anke meta l-ġisem jarmi dak li m'għandux bżonn, jinqeda wkoll bl-ilma biex iġorr il-fdal u jarmih 'il barra.

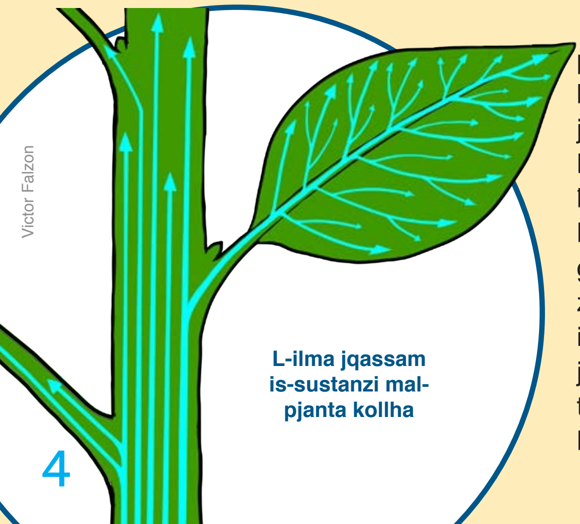
Victor Falzon

L-ilma jreġġi

L-ilma bżonnjuż ukoll għaliex iżomm il-forma tal-ġisem tal-annimali u anki tal-pjanti. Pereżempju, tliet kwarti mill-ġilda tagħna magħmula mill-ilma u dan iżommilha l-forma tagħha.

L-affarijiet ħajjin kollha magħmulin minn ċelloli. Biex jaħdmu sew, iċ-ċelloli għandhom bżonn l-ilma. Bla ilma ċellola tkun qisha bużżieqa mifqugħa!

L-istess jgħodd għall-pjanti. Ħafna pjanti tal-art li ma jagħmlux injam, bħall-fjuri li naraw fil-kampanja, ma jżommux weqfin jekk ma jreġġihomx l-ilma. Il-pjanti tal-art għandhom ħafna kanali minn fejn jgħaddi l-ilma li jkun tiela' mill-għeruq. L-ilma jkun għaddej kontinwu u l-pressa tiegħu żżomm il-pjanta wieqfa. Jekk dawn il-kanali jinqatgħu (bħal meta xi ħadd jaqta' zokk jew fjura), dik il-parti tal-pjanta tikkrolla għax ma jkollhiex l-ilma jżommha.



Victor Falzon

L-ilma jqassam is-sustanzi mal-pjanta kollha

L-ilma jirregola

L-ilma għandna bżonnu wkoll biex jirregolalna t-temperatura. Meta joħorġilna l-għaraq dan iżommna friski speċjalment meta tgħaddi żiffa.

Il-pjanti wkoll joħorġilhom l-ilma minn toqob fini fil-weraq. Dan l-ilma l-pjanti jużawh biex ineħħu materjal li jagħmlilhom il-ħsara, bħall-melħ. Xi pjanti għandhom xagħar fin mal-weraq li jaqbad ftit mill-ilma li joħorġilhom ħalli jżomm il-werqa friska.

Min iktar, min inqas...

Aron Tanti

L-affarijiet ħajjin mhux kollha jeħtieġu l-istess kwantità ta' ilma. Il-pjanti tad-deżert jintefħu bl-ilma meta tagħmel ix-xita ħalli mbagħad jużawh fi żmien in-nixfa. Ħafna annimali ma tarahomx jixorbu, mhux għax m'għandhomx bżonn l-ilma imma għax l-ikel fih biżżejjed ilma għall-bżonnijiet tagħhom. Ħafna insetti jieħdu l-ilma mill-pjanti li jieklu, u ħafna għasafar jieħdu l-ilma mill-priża li jaqbdu jew mill-frott li jieklu.

Imma r-regola hija l-istess għal kull ħaġa ħajja: **jekk trid tgħix f'din id-dinja, għandek bżonn l-ilma!**

L-Għasafar KOLLHA ta' Malta

F'Malta s'issa dehru ftit **iktar minn 400 speċi** ta' għasafar. Xi speċi huma komuni, oħrajn rari, uħud iżuruna ftit ġranet fis-sena, oħrajn jgħixu magħna s-sena kollha. F'dis-sensiela qed inġibu l-lista kollha! Dawn huma **Numri 101 sa 110**...

Ritratti Aron Tanti, Ian Balzan, Victor Falzon

101

Isem Malti
Fras-servjent
Isem Ingliż
Black-winged Stilt
Isem xjentifiku
Himantopus himantopus

102

Isem Malti
Pluviera Griża
Isem Ingliż
Grey Plover
Isem xjentifiku
Pluvialis squatarola

103

Isem Malti
Pluviera
Isem Ingliż
Eurasian Golden Plover
Isem xjentifiku
Pluvialis apricaria

104

Isem Malti
Pluviera Żgħira
Isem Ingliż
Pacific Golden Plover
Isem xjentifiku
Pluvialis fulva

105

Isem Malti
Birwina
Isem Ingliż
Eurasian Dotterel
Isem xjentifiku
Eudromias morinellus

106

Isem Malti
Monakella Prima
Isem Ingliż
Common Ringed Plover
Isem xjentifiku
Charadrius hiaticula

107

Isem Malti
Monakella
Isem Ingliż
Little Ringed Plover
Isem xjentifiku
Charadrius dubius

108

Isem Malti
Monakella Żgħira
Isem Ingliż
Kentish Plover
Isem xjentifiku
Charadrius alexandrinus

109

Isem Malti
Birwina tal-Lvant
Isem Ingliż
Greater Sandplover
Isem xjentifiku
Charadrius leschenaultii

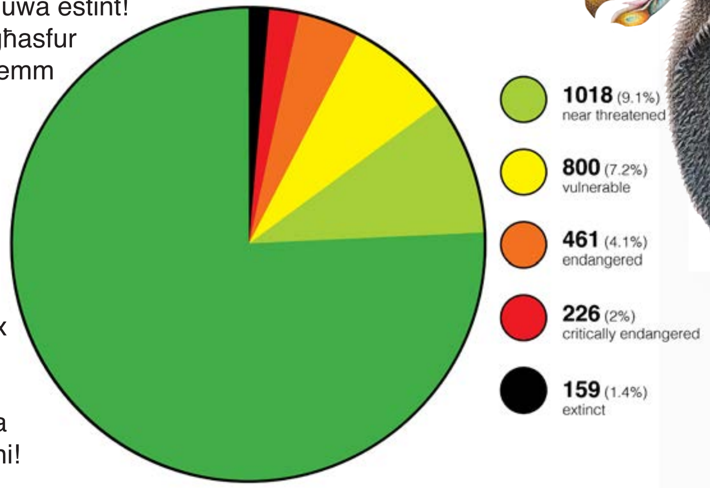
110

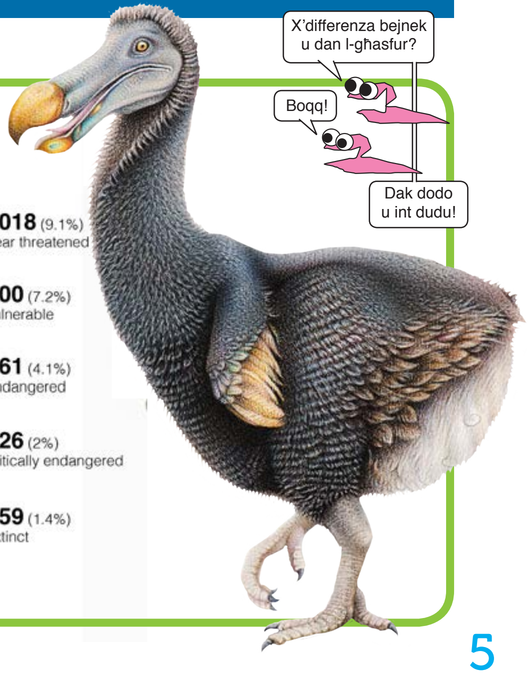
Isem Malti
Birwina tal-Asja
Isem Ingliż
Caspian Plover
Isem xjentifiku
Charadrius asiaticus

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-Ingliż u xjentifiċi huma dawk li tuża BirdLife International (www.birdlife.org)

Id-Dodo

Id-dodo għasfur famuż... għax huwa estint! Imma d-dodo mhuwiex l-uniku għasfur li sparixxa minn wiċċ id-dinja. Hemm **159 speċi** oħrajn li wkoll saru estinti. U ma' dawn hemm **2504 speċi** oħrajn li qegħdin jonqsu u li jekk ma noqogħdux attenti ħa jispiċċaw estinti wkoll! L-għaqdiet imseħbin f'BirdLife International (fosthom BirdLife Malta) qed jagħmlu ħilithom biex isalvaw dawn l-ispeċi. U hemm diversi stejjer sbieħ ta' suċċess, fejn speċi li kienu saru rari ħafna nġibdu lura minn xifer l-estinzjoni!





Kif aħna tfal? Mela kont qed indur u nagħqad lejn in-naħat tar-Rabat għax qed infittex dar ġdida u f'daqqa u l-ħin nilmaħ ħafna tfal deħlin ġo binja. Jien kurjuż ħafna u għalhekk inżilt nittawwal biex nara x'inhu jiġri.

Kulħadd kien liebes vera pulit u milli stajt nifhem (għax jien il-lingwa tal-bnedmin għadni qed nitgħallimha bil-mod) kienu qed jingħataw xi premjijiet talli l-iskola tagħhom irnexxielha tagħmel il-programm *Dinja Waħda* mmexxi minn Birdlife b'kollaborazzjoni speċjali mal-Bank of Valletta. Kemm nieħu gost nara dawn l-affarijiet!

Nara tfal jitgħallmu fuq in-natura u kemm hi importanti għal kulħadd li nieħdu ħsiebha. Jekk ma tiħdux sehem f'dan il-programm bħala skola għidu lill-għalliema tagħkom biex tingħaqdu. Kull skola f'Malta u Għawdex tista' tieħu sehem kemm jekk għadkom fil-primarja u kemm fis-sekondarja. Aktar ma tkunu aktar aħjar ħalli nsalvaw, nipproteġu u nżidu l-ambjent naturali f'Malta u Għawdex.

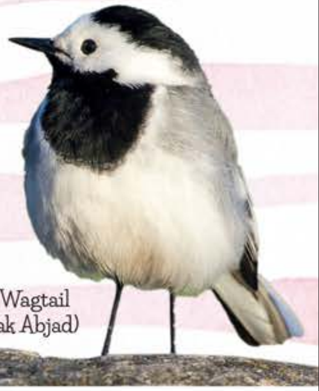
Dis-sena mid-dehra ħadu sehem 77 skola (jekk qrajt in-numru sew - in-numri għadni nbati ftit fihom). Immaġinaw kieku kull skola tieħu sehem. Kieku jien u sħabi l-annimali żgur ikollna ħajja aħjar u anke intom tfal. Aktar ma jkollna natura madwarna aktar ikollkom ħajja b'saħħitha. Mill-arja, sal-ħxejjex li tieklu! Issa ħa jkolli nħallikom għax jien ngħid ħafna (hekk tgħidli ommi) u komplu għożżu l-ambjent ta' madwarkom.

Toni

L-Għasfur tal-Bejt

Common Starling (Sturnell)

Spanish Sparrow
(Għasfur tal-Bejt)



White Wagtail
(Zakak Abjad)

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Ix-Xitwin

Ħdax-il fjura xitwija! Morru passiġġata fil-kampanja f'daż-żmien, żommu għajnejkom miftuħin, araw kemm issibu minnhom u ttikkjaw il-kaxxa bajda. Iċ-ċrieki kkuluriti jgħidulkom humiex komuni jew rari.

Victor Falzon

☐ **Qarsu**

Desirée Falzon

☐ **Bebuna**

Victor Falzon

☐ **Qniepen**

Desirée Falzon

☐ **Fidloqqom**

Victor Falzon

☐ **Berwieq**

Desirée Falzon

☐ **Kaħwiela**

Desirée Falzon

☐ **Żagħfran selvaġġ**

Desirée Falzon

☐ **Suffejra tar-raba'**

Aron Tanti

☐ **Sieq il-ħamiema**

Victor Falzon

☐ **Lellux**

Victor Falzon

☐ **Erika**

- komuni ħafna
- skarsa
- komuni
- rari

Ċikonja Sewda

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

Ritratt ta' Ian Balzan meħud f'Istanbul

Poster Il-Ħuttafa

BirdLife
MALTA

Pine Woodlands

The Aleppo Pine or Jerusalem Pine (iż-żnuber /is-sigra tal-prinjol) is a medium sized evergreen which is native to the Mediterranean region.

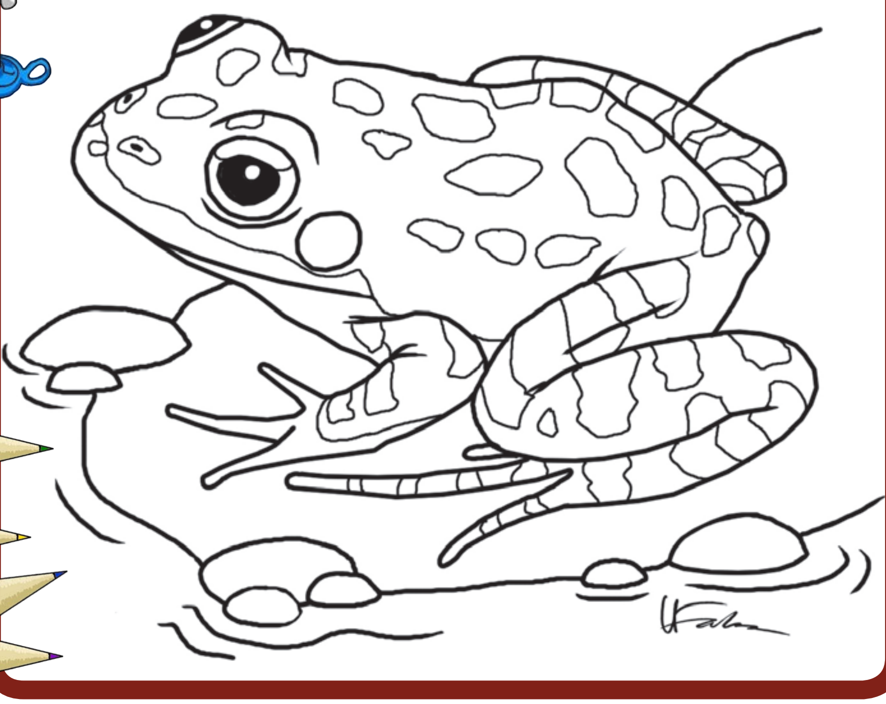
The leaves which are found in pairs, are needle-like with a light green colour and around 6-13 cm long. It is interesting to note that both male and female cones are borne on the same tree. Male cones are yellowish in colour and hold pollen while female cones are reddish-purple and produce seeds.

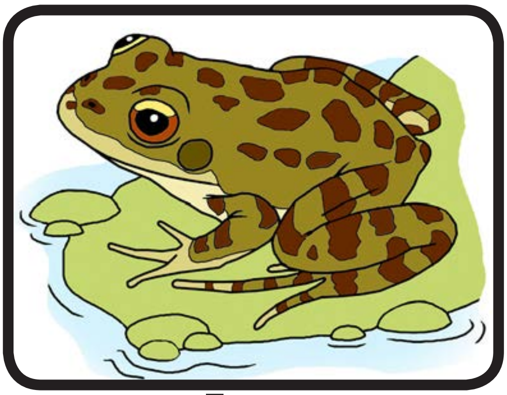
The male and female flowers are located on different parts on the tree and are both wind-pollinated. Seeds typically mature after three years and fruits ripen between late July and early August. The bark of this tree is orange-red, thick and deeply fissured at the base of the trunk. This is in contrast to the bark found on the tree's upper crown which is thin and flaky.

As the name suggests pine woodlands are mainly comprised of pine trees. In recent years the Aleppo Pine was re-introduced in the wild and numerous pines were planted to form pinetums, such as the ones at Miżieb. Other pine woodlands are also found at Il-Buskett, Comino and Imgiebaħ amongst other locations.

The Aleppo Pine is legally protected in certain areas in Malta.

Agħti kulur!



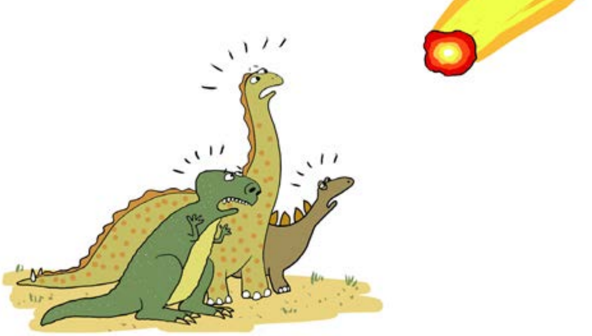


Victor Falzon

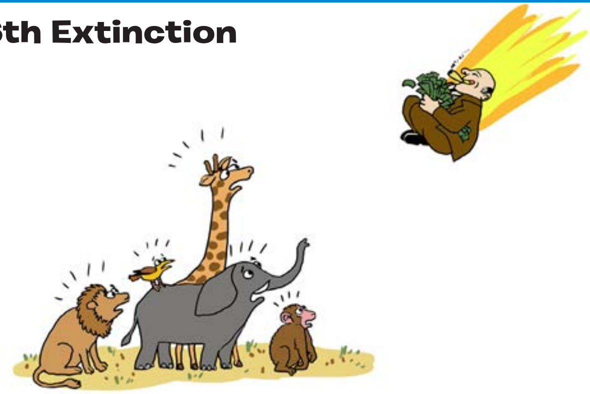
iż-żring

Iż-żring annimal speċjali ħafna f'Malta, għax huwa l-uniku amfibju li għandna f'pajjiżna. F'artijiet oħrajn hemm diversi speċi ta' żringijiet, u hemm ukoll *toads*, *salamanders* u *newts*. Imma aħna din l-ispeċi waħda biss għandna. Għalhekk tajjeb li nibżgħu għall-ħabitat tiegħu (widien niedja, nixxigħat u għadajjar bl-ilma ħelu) inkella se nitilfuh.

5th Extinction



6th Extinction



Għadek m'intix membru fil-Klabb?
Tixtieq iġġedded?
Tixtieq iddaħħal il-familja kollha?

Photo Gallery

Kuxxinetti
Alan Ellul 10

My teachers the birds!

Part 1

Nicholas Galea

I would like to write about something I thought of while travelling back home from a birding trip across the megadiverse country of Ecuador. I had just seen 700+ bird species on this trip and I was thrilled. Earlier this year I also visited Ghana in Africa where I saw around 400 bird species, so putting them together that's already 1000+ birds.

And I thought: "Since most of these birds were new to me, this means that I learned over a thousand new bird names!" And there are 10,000 more birds species in the world, each with a unique name! That's a lot of different names.

And I thought again: "Wow, throughout my life I've learned so many new words thanks to birds and birdwatching. I'm so lucky to have a hobby that teaches me so much!"

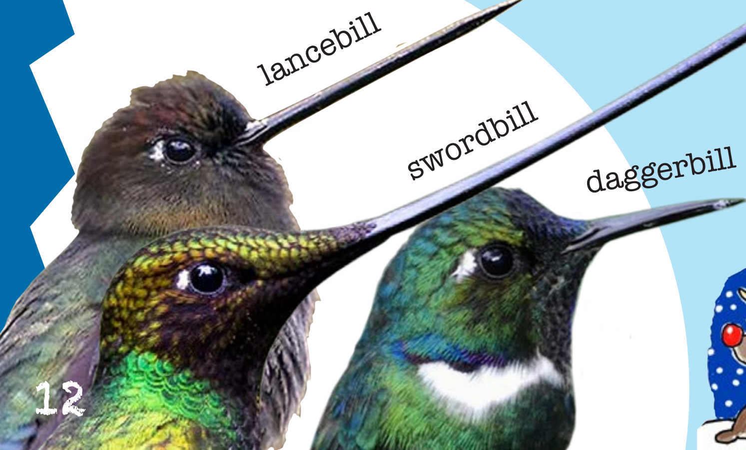
A **giant kingfisher** and an **Oriental dwarf kingfisher** are VERY different in size!

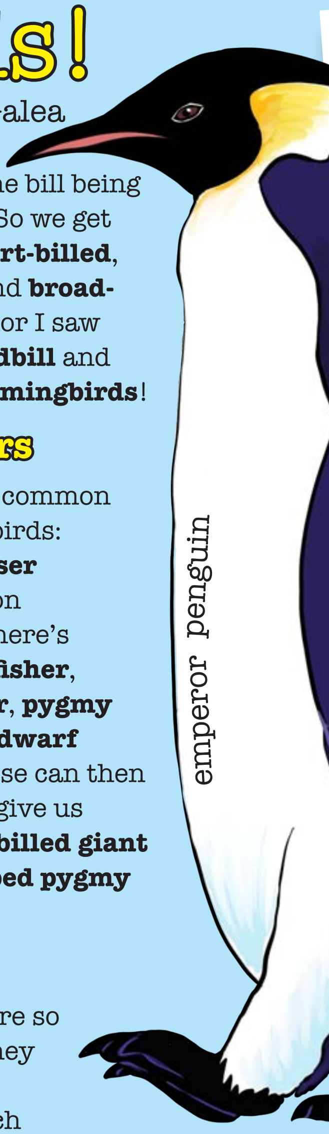
For each a special name

Every organism, each species, has a scientific name. It's a unique name made up of two Latin words: the genus name and the species name. It's the same with birds. Birds are given names in their own country of course, and in fact we have Maltese names for all the 400+ bird species that have been seen in Malta. But did you know that there is also an English name for all the birds of the world?

What they look like

There are so many different ways to describe and name a bird. Perhaps the most common way is to name the bird according to how it looks, and this usually involves different colours, patterns and body parts. For example, there are many words to describe different shades of red: **rufous**, **ferruginous**, **ruddy**, **crimson**, **scarlet**, **carmine**. Patterns can include **plain**, **streaked**, **barred**, **lined**, **dotted**, **spotted**, etc. All of these can then be combined to different bird parts; **rufous-winged**, **scaly-breasted**, **dot-backed**, **blue-rumped**, **orange-billed**, etc. The shapes of body parts are also used, the bill being a big favourite. So we get **long-billed**, **short-billed**, **wedge-billed** and **broad-billed**. In Ecuador I saw **lancebill**, **swordbill** and **daggerbill hummingbirds**!





Size matters

Size is also a common way of naming birds: **greater** and **lesser** are very common adjectives but there's also **giant kingfisher**, **little kingfisher**, **pygmy kingfisher** and **dwarf kingfisher**! These can then be combined to give us names like **red-billed giant** this or **blue-naped pygmy** that.

So pretty!

Some birds are so beautiful that they are named with superlatives such as **superb starling** or **magnificent frigatebird**, or royalty such as **king penguin** and **emperor penguin** (strangely there are no 'queen' birds, or at least none that I know of!). Even without knowing what these birds look like, their name alone tells you they must look fantastic and you just have to see them!

The **magnificent frigatebird**

Part 2 in next issue of *Il-Ħuttafa*

Tiktbilna Kimberley...

X'rajt fuq il-bejt!

Għażiż Editur,

Fuq il-bejt għandna pjanta tal-brokkoli. Kibret u nfirxet mhux ħazin, iżda wara s-sajf qalil li kellna din is-sena, ftit li xejn kien baqagħalha fjuri. Issa li ninsabu fil-ħarifa qisha reġgħet ħadet ir-ruħ. Meta nkun fuq il-bejt dejjem nittawwal qalb il-weraq biex nara nsibx xi ħaġa.

Ħmistax ilu, waqt li kont fuq il-bejt ngħin lill-Mamà tonxor, rajt xi 30 dudu medhijin jieklu mill-pjanta tal-brokkoli. Ħmm, dawn poġġihom xi ħadd u issa faqqsu! Missejthom bil-mod u xi ftit minnhom mill-ewwel telgħu fuq idi.

Il-Mamà tinqala' għal dawn l-affarijiet u malajr niżlet iġġib vażett imżaqqaq, tefgħet fih ftit zkuk irqaq u biċċtejn weraq tal-pastard.

"Weraq u zkuk għalfejn?" staqsejt, imbagħad ftakart li darba kienet qaltli li d-dud iridu jkunu mqabbdin sew ma' xi ħaġa biex meta jkunu fosdqa ma jiħdux kedda kif jiġi l-waqt li joħorġu minnha.

U hekk għamilna! Kull filgħodu konna nitilgħu naraw il-proċess meraviljuż ta' dan l-insett. Għamilna ftit riċerka u sirna nafu li d-dud jagħmlu tlett ijiem jieklu bla ma jieqfu. Domna 12-il ġurnata nosservawhom, narawhom jinbidlu f'fosdqa u mbagħad jibjadu u jieħdu l-forma ta' farfett.

Fl-aħħar il-jum tant mistenni wasal u bdejna narawhom isiru friefet. Neħħejna l-għatu tax-xibka u bdew ħerġin itiru wieħed wara l-ieħor. Xi ġmiel hux! Għamilna tlett ijiem naraw hekk sakemm fl-aħħar ma rajniex aktar.

Tassew kellna xortina tajba, u bħala tifkira żammejt zokk ċkejken b'sitt fosdqiet vojta mdendlin miegħu. Nispera li jiġi lura mqar wieħed mill-friefet u jbid il-bajd fil-pjanta tal-brokkoli, biex forsi nara tikek sofor ileqqu qalb il-weraq. B'hekk inkun nista' ngħid li rajt il-proċess kollu!

Kimberley Marie Gatt + il-Mamà u ħija Benjamin

Għażiża Kimberley,

Ħadt gost naqra l-ittra tiegħek u nifli l-ħafna ritratti li bgħattli. Jidher ċar li intom familja naturalisti, prosit kbira!

Kemm hu feeling sabiħ hux meta tgħin lin-natura! Il-friefet għandhom bżonn ħafna l-għajnuna tagħna għax tant qridnielhom mill-ħabitat tagħhom.

Nittama li jirnexxilek issibilhom il-bajd. Fittex taħt il-weraq għax il-farfett tal-kaboċċi hemmhekk iħobb ibid!

Qis li tibqa' żżomm għajnejk (u qalbek) miftuħin għall-meravilji tan-natura. U bilħaqq prosit ukoll ta' kemm tikteb Malti tajjeb!

L-Editur

I'M DREAMING OF A GREAT WHITE CHRISTMAS...

MALTA NATIONAL AQUARIUM

Wish it could be Christmas every day? Well, some sea creatures don't even have to wish... let's have a look at a few particularly festive friends who were just born in the Christmas mood!

CANDY CANE SHRIMP

These shrimps are mostly blind, and dinner is definitely served since they surely look delicious for some marine creatures!

CHRISTMAS TREE WORM

What would a Christmas party be without a colourful tree, right? These are actually little worms with 'Christmas trees' on their heads which help them feed and breathe.

COMMON JINGLE SHELL

Any party needs a soundtrack, and when these are strung together, they can sound like bells! I bet one can hear: jingle shells, jingle shells, jingle shells rock!

COOKIE CUTTER SHARK

Someone is ready for baking some festive joy! This tiny shark has a strong circular bite which gives its name. Do you think it leaves any of its treats out for Santa?

SNOWFLAKE CLOWNFISH

This is a unique colour variation of the popular common clownfish. It's Nemo's not-so frozen cousin!

CHRISTMAS ISLAND RED CRAB

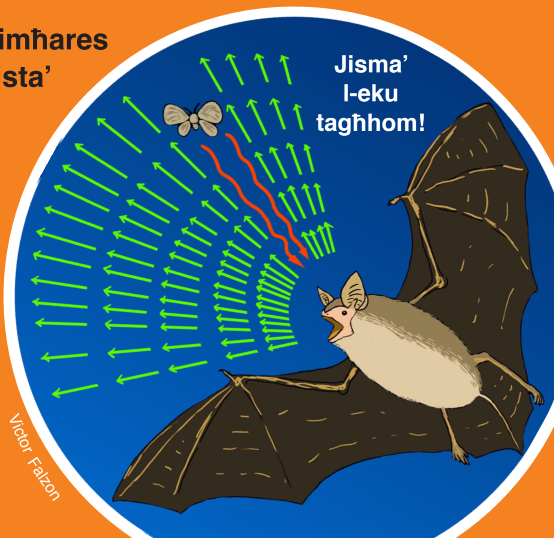
Believe it or not, Christmas Island isn't at the North Pole but actually next to Australia! This is where an annual mass migration of red crabs happens so they can lay their eggs in the ocean, with up to 45 million crabs doing it at once! Wow!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE OCEAN AND FROM THE MALTA NATIONAL AQUARIUM!

FATTI FAWNA

il-Pipistrell

- Il-pipistrell huwa wieħed minn xi 10 speċi ta' friefet il-lejl li nsibu Malta.
- Għalkemm jisimhom hekk, il-friefet il-lejl m'għandhom x'jaqsmu xejn mal-friefet. Il-friefet *(butterflies)* huma insetti, il-friefet il-lejl *(bats)* huma mammiferi.
- Il-friefet il-lejl li naraw Malta huma kollha annimali żgħar, u l-pipistrell huwa l-iżgħar fosthom!
- Bħall-friefet il-lejl Maltin l-oħra, il-pipistrell huwa insettivoru, jiġifieri jiekol insetti, l-iktar nemus u baħrijiet.
- F'Malta għandna mill-inqas tliet speċi ta' pipistrelli: il-pipistrell *(common pipistrelle)*, il-pipistrell żaqqu bajda *(Savi's pipistrelle)* u l-pipistrell tal-keffa *(Kuhl's pipistrelle)*.
- Għalkemm bl-Ingliż ngħidu *"blind as a bat"* il-friefet il-lejl fil-fatt għandhom għajnejn u jaraw.
- Bħall-friefet il-lejl l-oħra, il-pipistrell għandu smigħ eċċellenti.
- Il-pipistrell normalment joħroġ bil-lejl iħuf u jfittex x'jiekol. Binhar isib xquq żgħar bejn ġebel f'ħitan tal-bini, fejn jorqod sa ma jidlam.
- Il-pipistrell jaqbad l-insetti bl-*echolocation*. Jitfa' twerżiq irqiq u kontinwu u jissemma' għall-eku minn insetti li jkunu qed itiru. B'hekk jaqbad il-priża mhux bis-saħħa t'għajnejh imma bis-saħħa ta' widnejh!
- Il-pipistrell imħares bil-liġi. La jista' jitfixkel, la jinqabad u lanqas jinqatel.
- Il-friefet il-lejl Maltin ma jixorbux id-demm!



ECOHIVE MISSIONS
THE CLEAR LAKES
WRITTEN BY VALENTINA
IT WAS A SPECIAL DAY AT CLEAR LAKES
THE CAKE TURNED OUT PERFECT!
THE SCULPTURE IS READY. I'LL COVER IT!
GREAT JOB, GUYS! COMMANDER YELLOW IS GOING TO LOVE THIS!
HEHEHE!
BOSS, IT'S RUBY. IT SEEMS THOSE PESKY BEES ARE THROWING A PARTY...
ECOHIVE TEAM WAS SETTING UP A SURPRISE!
GRRR...
A PARTY?? WITHOUT ME? WE'RE GOING TO CRASH THAT PARTY AND DROP THE THUNDER ON THOSE BEES!
BUT SOMEONE WAS BEING A PARTY POOPER!
EMMM... BOSS, ISN'T IT BETTER TO JUST WAIT FOR AN INVITATION?
DID I ASK YOU FOR ADVICE?! NEVER QUESTION MY GENIUS AGAIN! NOW GO BACK TO SPYING!
YES, BOSS.
WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT, RUBY! THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S COMING!
BENEDETTA BADGER, WE'RE READY! GO GET HER!
HOKEY DOKEY. ON MY WAY!
AND WHAT IS COMING EXACTLY, BOSS??
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO EXPLAIN?!
WE ZAPP THE PLASTIC SCULPTURE AND THIS WILL CAUSE A LIGHTNING TO DISCHARGE FROM THE SKY AND FRY THEIR PARTY!
CAN I OPEN MY EYES NOW?
JUST A SECOND... AND... OPEN!
WOW! HOW BEAUTIFUL! IS THIS ALL FOR ME?!
DID YOU HEAR THAT? WHAT'S THAT IN THE BUSHES?!
REVEAL YOURSELVES! WE CAN HEAR YOU!
OH NO! SHOULDN'T WE BLAST THEM NOW, BOSS?!
A-HA!! IT'S YOU AGAIN?! WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW?
WELL, FIRST WE WERE GOING TO ZAPP THE SCULPTURE TO ATTRACT LIGHTNING...
AND WHO ARE YOU??
SHHHHH!!!
DON'T SAY WHAT I TOLD YOU!
I'M RUBY THE RAT, HIS NEW PERSONAL ASSISTANT!
WHY HELLO! NICE TO MEET YOU, RUBY!
AS FOR YOU... ELECTROCUTING PLASTIC PRODUCES TOXIC FUMES THAT COULD HAVE ALSO POISONED YOU BOTH!
OH NO! I JUST WANTED TO RUIN YOUR PARTY BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T INVITE US...
YOU CAN JOIN US, BUT PROMISE ME - NO TROUBLE!
NO PROMISES MADE...
YAY! THANK YOU!
VISIT ECOHIVE.COM.MT/KIDS