

## Illegal Hunting Activity Guidance – Spring 2024

<b>Species and Quotas</b>	
It is illegal to: <b>Shoot at, Injure or kill</b> a protected species <b>Hunt over allowed quota</b> of birds which can be hunted	
<b>Bird species which can be hunted:</b>	European Turtle-dove Common Quail
<b>Protected species which cannot be hunted:</b>	All other bird species are protected
<b>Quotas:</b>	National hunting bag limit: 1,500 Turtle-dove and 2,400 Quail  Each bird caught has to be reported to the authorities. When the quota is reached it means that the hunting season has to close. Note that a shotgun out of its case is considered as still hunting.

<b>Timing</b>	
<b>Permitted hours:</b>	From two hours before sunrise (i.e. circa 4:30am) until 12pm, Monday to Sunday (including public holidays)
<b>Season:</b>	<b>Open season: 10<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024</b> Hunting on Quail is permitted from 10 <sup>th</sup> to 30 <sup>th</sup> April Hunting on Turtle-dove is permitted from 17 <sup>th</sup> to 30 <sup>th</sup> April

<b>Prohibited Locations</b>	
It is illegal to hunt or carry a gun:	
<b>In protected areas and surroundings</b>	These include Foresta 2000, Għadira Nature Reserve and Mellieha Bay, Simar Nature Reserve, Salina Nature Reserve and Kennedy Grove, Buskett, Ta' Qali, Marsaxlokk Salt Marsh
<b>On protected islands</b>	Filfla, St Paul's Island, Comino and Cominotto, Manoel Island, Fungus Rock off Gozo
<b>Within 200m of an inhabited area, the airport and heliport</b>	An area with inhabited or inhabitable buildings Malta International Airport, and heliport on Gozo
<b>Within 50m of a main road or radio station</b>	Eg radio station on Dingli Cliffs A main road is a main thoroughfare. Roads where buses pass are considered main roads. E.g. main road along Dingli Cliffs
<b>From a vehicle</b>	
<b>On or within 50m of sandy beaches</b>	Għadira Bay, Għajn Tuffieħa Bay, Paradise Bay, Golden Bay. Other small sandy beaches on Malta and Gozo
<b>In cemeteries, public gardens, sports grounds, Armed Forces Malta property</b>	Or within 50m of these
<b>Certain Gozo sites</b>	Ta' Ċenċ Cliffs, il-Qawra, Għammar Hill

<b>Guns</b>	
It is illegal to:	
Use or possess a <b>modified shotgun</b>	Shotguns that can fire more than three shots in succession
Use or possess other <b>guns capable of holding more than 2 shots at a time</b>	Including semi-automatic and automatic weapons
<b>Carry a gun or ammunition</b> out of its case during <b>non-permitted hours</b>	Earlier than 2 hours before sunrise After 12pm (midday)
<b>Carry a gun or ammunition</b> out of its case at a <b>prohibited location</b>	See Prohibited Locations section

<b>Other Methods</b>	
It is illegal to:	
Use <b>electronic callers</b>	Luring in birds using pre-recorded bird calls
<b>Use decoy birds of protected species, or birds which are blind or mutilated</b>	Any species other than European Turtle-dove or Common Quail is protected
Use any method of <b>trapping or live capture of birds</b>	Any trapping is illegal in spring. Includes using nets on the ground, cage traps, vertical nets, hooks or snares, etc
<b>Trespass</b>	Hunting on private land without the owner's permission