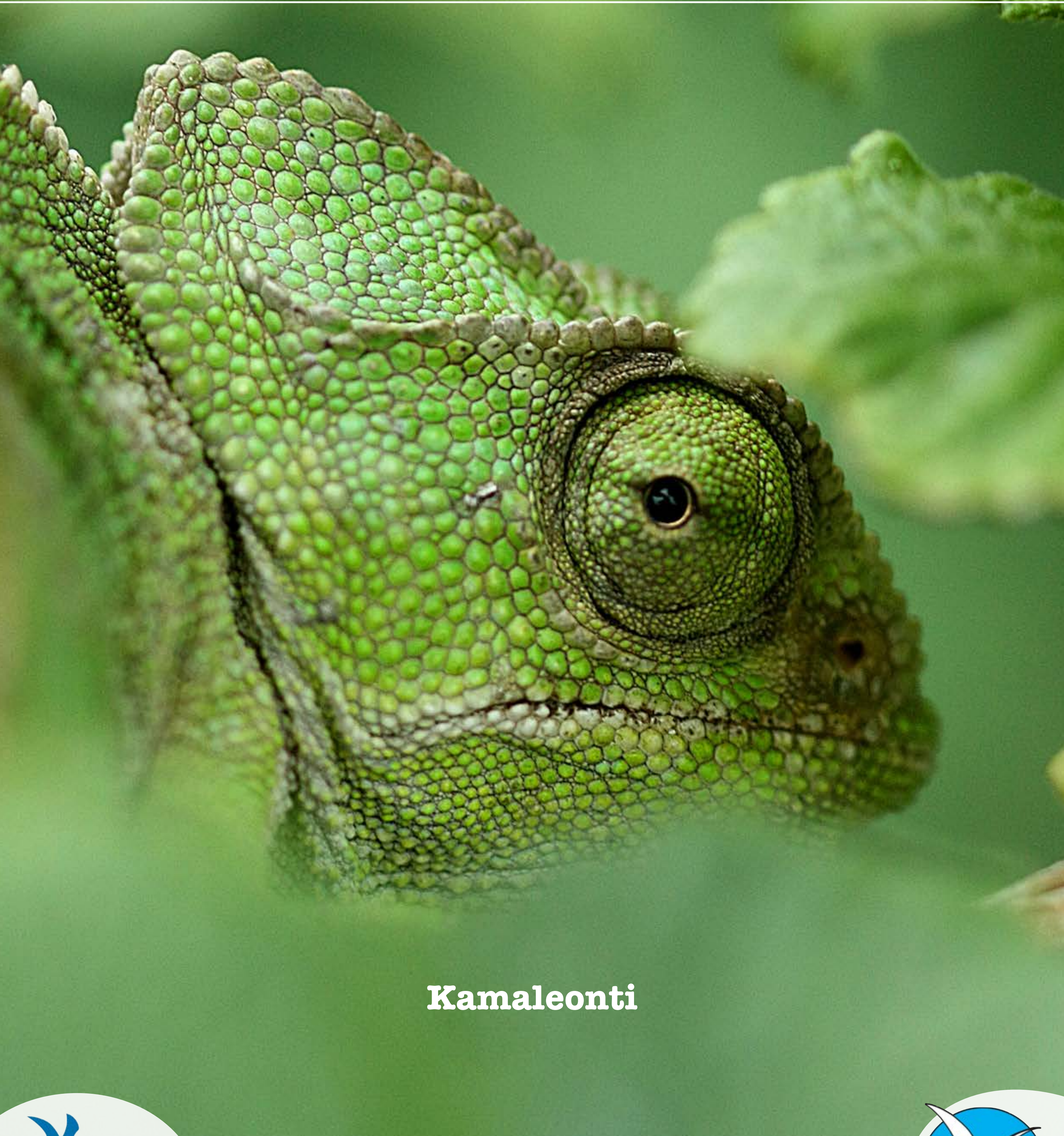
il-Ħuttafa

Numru **182**

Mejju – Ġunju 2024



Kamaleonti

BirdLife MALTA

Il-magażin ta' Klabb Ħuttaf

Klabb Ħuttaf

Desirée Falzon

Żewġ frieħ tal-ispallut aħdar (green vegetable bug), aktarx aħwa!

mill-editur

Ħbieb Ħuttaf...

Ma nafx x'inhi dil-manija biex jixegħlu s-siġar minn taħt. Jgħidu jsebbaħ imma jiena ma naqbel xejn.

Naħseb ħafna nies għadhom ma jafux li hemm ħaġa jgħidulha *light pollution.*

Jekk tistaqsi: "X'inhu tniġġis?" ħafna jsemmulek it-tniġġis tal-arja bid-dħaħen, jew it-tniġġis tal-baħar biż-żjut u l-plastik.

Dawn kollha twiġibiet tajbin, imma hemm tipi oħra ta' tniġġis. Wieħed minnhom huwa t-tniġġis bil-ħoss *(noise pollution)* u l-ieħor huwa t-tniġġis bid-dawl *(light pollution)*.

Victor Falzon

Hawn Malta donnu għadna ma nistgħux nifhmu li dawl żejjed bil-lejl mhux biss lilna jfixkel imma anke lin-natura. L-annimali u l-pjanti (iva, anke l-pjanti!) bħalna għandhom bżonn id-dlam biex jistrieħu ħalli l-għada mas-sebħ iqumu b'saħħithom.

Għalhekk nieħu qatgħa daż-żmien meta nisma' li nfetaħ xi ġnien jew triq ġodda, għax saret moda li s-siġar jimlewhom spotlights ħalli jibqgħu mdawlin il-lejl kollu.

X'inhi l-idea? Mela s-siġar xi statwa?

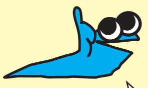
Jien għalija din kollha ħela ta' dawl u ħela ta' materjal (lampi, pajpijiet, wajers, eċċ) u flus.

Fis-siġar ikun hemm ħafna annimali, fosthom għasafar li bil-lejl ikunu jridu jorqdu. Dak id-dawl qawwi f'għajnejhom ma jħallihomx jorqdu sew u l-għada flok mimlijin enerġija msieken iqumu għajjenin. Din problema speċjalment jekk ikollhom bejta frieħ x'jitimgħu.

Ma nafx, forsi tgħidu qed nagħmel għaġeb, imma jien xorta nispera li intom taħsbuha bħali.

Happy holidays guys! Gawdu l-baħar imma uruh rispett ukoll u tħammġuhx.

Victor
Victor Falzon
L-Editur



Iktar dwar imġiba f'xatt il-baħar f'paġna 13

FUQ QUDDIEM

Ritratt ta' Victor Falzon

Kamaleonti

Mediterranean Chameleon *Chamaeleo chamaeleon*

Il-kamaleonti mhux annimal indiġenu għal Malta. Iddaħħal Malta mill-bniedem fis-Seklu 19 mill-Afrika ta' Fuq, u ftit ftit infirex. Minkejja dan, dan l-annimal simpatiku u interessanti llum meqjus parti mill-fawna naturali ta' pajjiżna, u huwa mħares bil-liġi bħar-rettili l-oħrajn kollha.

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Kitbu

Thais Amaral u Charlie Matthews (National Aquarium), Desirée Falzon, Victor Falzon, Alex Buontempo, Shanel Garcia

Klabb Ħuttaf

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

- can attend club activities such as 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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Aron Tanti

Ġie Frankie!

Kmieni filgħodu fid-9 ta' Mejju fir-riserva naturali tal-Għadira tfaċċat gawwija. L-Għadira spiss jinżel gawwi jistrieħ, imma din kienet speċjali... għax din ġiet min-naħa l-oħra tad-dinja!

Il-gawwija ma tantx damet imma b'xorti tajba leħqu ttieħdulha xi ritratti. Imbagħad bdiet id-diskussjoni bejn il-birdwatchers dwar jekk kinitx *Laughing Gull* jew *Franklin's Gull*, żewġ speċi jixxiebhu ħafna li t-tnejn normalment issibhom l-Amerka! B'xorti tajba din l-istess gawwija ftit wara niżlet fir-riserva naturali tas-Salina. Hemmhekk damet iktar u setgħet tiġi miflija aħjar. Fl-aħħar kulħadd qabel li din kienet **Franklin's Gull** *(Leucophaeus pipixcan)*, għasfur ġdid għal Malta!

Bil-Malti tajnieha l-isem **Gawwija tal-Kanada** għax din l-ispeċi tbejjet fil-biċċa l-kbira fil-Kanada.

X'għandna mid-dinja?

Fil-muntanji Tarcu tar-**Rumanija** hemm merħla sabiħa ta' biżont *(European bison)*. Fl-antik dan l-annimal impressjonanti kien mifrux mal-foresti tal-Ewropa, fosthom fil-muntanji Karpati. Imma bil-kaċċa u bl-iżvilupp il-biżont sparixxa kważi għal kollox mill-Ewropa. Fl-2014 kienet inbdiet popolazzjoni fir-riserva naturali ta' Tarcu u llum il-merħla tgħodd mal-170 bhima. Studju riċenti fuq dil-merħla wera li meta jieklu l-ħaxix u jippassiġġaw fuq il-ħamrija, il-biżonti jżommu kwantità kbira ta' karbon milli jaħrab mill-art imballta. Il-karbon fl-arja huwa l-kawżi prinċipali tal-bdil fil-klima.

Fil-wesgħat enormi tal-**Każakstan** reġa' tfaċċa il-Przewalski's horse, wara li kien ilu 200 sena nieqes. Dan iż-żiemel primittiv aktarx kien l-ewwel li ġie mmansat mill-bniedem (daqs 5500 sena ilu) proprju f'dawn l-inħawi! Imma bil-kaċċa u bl-iżvilupp din l-ispeċi kważi nqerdet għal kollox mis-selvaġġ. Issa bis-saħħa tat-trobbija ta' numru minnhom fil-magħluq, seba' żwiemel inħelsu ftit ġimgħat ilu fl-art oriġinali tagħhom fil-Każakstan. It-tama hi li tinbeda popolazzjoni ġdida fis-selvaġġ kif suppost. Xi xhur ilu sar proġett bħalu fil-wesgħat tal-Mongolja. Nawguraw suċċess!

Desirée Falzon

9 Għaliex l-annimali għandhom denb?

Fid-dinja jeżistu eluf ta' forom differenti ta' dnieb. Il-forma tad-denb għandha x'taqsam mal-ħajja u mal-ħabitat tal-annimal, għax id-denb fih ħafna użi. Naraw ftit minnhom...

Ħabel

Annimali li jixxabbtu mas-siġar, bħal diversi **xadini**, jużaw denbhom qisu għandhom id oħra. Ix-xadini denbhom twil u b'saħħtu, u kapaċi jreġġgħom huma u jitbandlu qalb il-frieġħi tal-foresta. Il-**kamaleonti** wkoll jużaw denbu biex jgħinu ma jaqax waqt li jixxabbat minn zokk għal ieħor.

Bilanċ

Denb twil jgħinek ukoll iżżomm bilanċ meta tkun miexi fuq frieġħi mimdudin, ħaġa li mhux biss jagħmluha x-xadini, imma anke l-**qtates** u l-kuġini tagħhom il-**leopardi**. Kieku *tightrope walkers* taċ-ċirku jkollhom denb, ma jkollhomx bżonn dik il-lasta twila biex tgħinhom jibbilanċjaw!

Denb ta' **ring-tailed lemur**, annimal ħelu tal-Madagaskar. Meta jimxu fi gruppi jżommu denbhom 'il fuq bħal bandiera, aktarx biex ta' wara jaraw lil ta' quddiem u ma jinfirdux mill-grupp.

Moqdief, tmun u brejk

Il-**ħut** juża denbu mhux biss biex imexxihom 'il quddiem, imma jservi wkoll ta' tmun biex jibdlu d-direzzjoni. Ħafna **għasafar** ukoll jużaw denbhom biex iduru 'l hawn u 'l hemm waqt li jtiru; jużawh ukoll bħala brejk biex inaqqsu fil-ħeffa, speċjalment meta jkunu ħa jillandjaw.

Iċ-**ċita** wkoll tuża denbha biex iddur f'salt hija u tlebbet wara xi [1]għażżiela.

[2] Thermoregulator!

Xi annimali jużaw denbhom biex jirregolaw it-temperatura. Il-**kangarù** għandu ħafna vini f'denbu li jidjiequ jekk l-annimal irid jisħon u jespandu biex jibred. L-**iskwirils** ukoll jużaw denbhom biex jikkontrollaw t-temperatura, u jistgħu wkoll jitgeżwru fih qisu kutra!

Molla

Mhux hekk biss: meta l-kangaruni rġiel jiġġieldu għan-nisa, jistrieħu fuq denbhom ħalli jkunu jistgħu jimmollaw meta jagħtu jew jaqilgħu bil-ponn!

Annimali żgħar ħafna jgħidulhom ***springtails*** jużaw denb mitwi taħt żaqqhom biex jaqbżu minn post għall-ieħor b'ħeffa kbira.

[1]**għażżiela**. *Gazelle*, mammiferu jixbah liċ-ċriev
[2]**thermoregulator**. Apparat biex jirregola t-temperatura
[3]**għakreb**. Kelma oħra flok skorpjun

Arma u difiża

Speċjalisti oħrajn huma dawk li għandhom xewka fuq denbhom, bħall-[3]**għakreb**. Dan jgħaddi denbu minn fuq rasu biex iniggeż lill-għadu bla ma jaqla' għajnejh minn fuqu.

Ħafna **wiża'** u **gremxul** iwaqqgħu denbhom biex ifixklu lill-predatur, li jibqa' mqabbad mad-denb jitkagħweġ filwaqt li l-gremxula taħrab!

Komunikazzjoni

Kulħadd jaf li **kelb** ikun ferħan meta jferfer denbu, imma attent minn **qattus** li jagħmel l-istess, għax ifisser il-kontra! **Żiemel** ukoll juża denbu biex jagħti messaġġi, għalkemm spiss iferfru wkoll biex ikeċċi d-dubbien!

Ħafna għasafar ukoll jikkomunikaw b'denbhom. Il-**paguni** rġiel jifftħu r-rix ta' fuq denbhom biex jitkessħu quddiem in-nisa! Il-**gallozz iswed** jifflikkja denbu waqt li jimxi u jispikka r-rix abjad ta' taħt. Għaliex jagħmel hekk ma nafux – wara kollox il-messaġġ mhux għalina!

Kieku aħna l-bnedmin kellna denb, inti x'tip ta' denb kont tippreferi? ☺

Victor Falzon

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 131 sa 140**...

Aron Tanti, Ray Galea, Victor Falzon

131

Isem Malti
Girwiel Amerikan
Isem Ingliż
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Isem xjentifiku
Calidris subruficollis

132

Isem Malti
Pispisella Amerikana
Isem Ingliż
Pectoral Sandpiper
Isem xjentifiku
Calidris melanotos

133

Isem Malti
Girwiel tal-Bekkaċċ
Isem Ingliż
Long-billed Dowitcher
Isem xjentifiku
Limnodromus scolopaceus

134

Isem Malti
Gallina
Isem Ingliż
Eurasian Woodcock
Isem xjentifiku
Scolopax rusticola

135

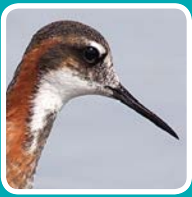
Isem Malti
Bekkaċċ ta' Mejju
Isem Ingliż
Great Snipe
Isem xjentifiku
Gallinago media

136

Isem Malti
Bekkaċċ
Isem Ingliż
Common Snipe
Isem xjentifiku
Gallinago gallinago

137

Isem Malti
Ċinkonja
Isem Ingliż
Jack Snipe
Isem xjentifiku
Lymnocryptes minimus

138

Isem Malti
Baruża
Isem Ingliż
Red-necked Phalarope
Isem xjentifiku
Phalaropus lobatus

139

Isem Malti
Baruża Griża
Isem Ingliż
Red Phalarope
Isem xjentifiku
Phalaropus fulicarius

140

Isem Malti
Pispisella tax-Xifa
Isem Ingliż
Terek Sandpiper
Isem xjentifiku
Xenus cinereus

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)

For Pete's sake... Don't buy PEAT!

Garden shops say peat is good for your plants. But if you care for the planet you should never buy peat.

Peat looks like compost, which is made from recycling organic material and food scraps. But peat is not compost: it's a natural habitat and to get it you have to dig it up (like a quarry) and destroy the habitat.

Peat habitat is very rare and it's getting rarer because gardening stores just keep wanting more to sell.

Peat habitat is also great at keeping carbon safe in the ground. Carbon is the gas that up in the air causes climate change. When people dig up peat, lots and lots of carbon escapes into the air.

Forests are good at storing carbon, but peat habitat is much better at it. Peatland covers just 3% of the planet but it locks twice as much carbon as all the forests on earth put together. That's how good it is!

So if you want to help your garden plants, forget peat and buy compost.

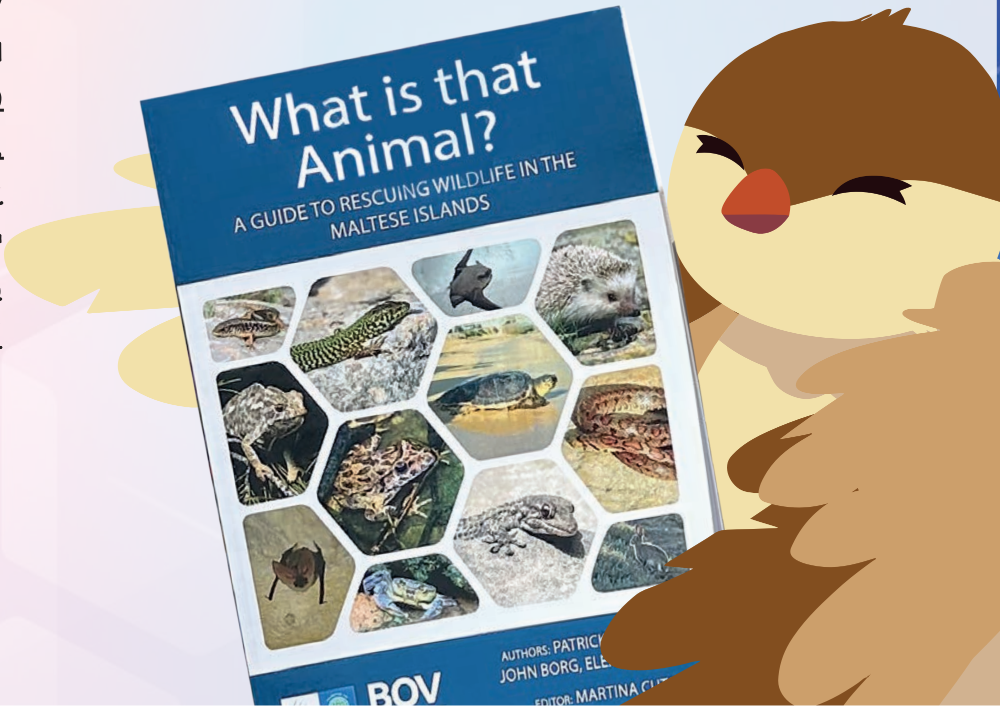
What is that Animal?

X'minnkom tfal? Qed inħossni ilna ftit ma nitkellmu. Illum vera eċitat għax irrid ngħidilkom dwar ktieb ġdid li ħarġu l-BOV u n-Nature Trust-FEE Malta flimkien. Jien il-kotba t-tieni l-aktar ħaġa favorita tiegħi (l-ewwel waħda naħseb tafu x'inhi s'issa – inħobb inpaċpaċ).

Dan mhux ktieb tas-soltu. Il-ktieb huwa bl-Ingliż u jismu: "What is that Animal?" Bażikament huwa gwida għall-fawna ta' Malta. Jekk ma tafux x'inhi fawna ħa nispjegalkom jien toqogħdux tinkwetaw. Jien, billi għasfur, parti mill-fawna Maltija. Fawna tfisser l-annimali li jgħixu fil-madwar. Fil-każ tagħna l-annimali li jgħixu fuq il-gżejjer Maltin. Permezz ta' dan il-ktieb tistgħu ssiru tafu dwar ħafna mill-annimali li jgħixu madwarkom.

Mhux hekk biss! Il-ktieb fih ukoll x'għandek tagħmel u x'ma tistax tagħmel meta tiltaqa' ma dawn il-kreaturi ħelwin. Anke jekk tiltaqa' ma' xi annimal ferut il-ktieb jgħidlek x'passi tista' u ma tistax tieħu. Insomma biex naqta' l-istorja fil-qasir. Dan ktieb li kulħadd irid ikollu, għax il-bijodiversità ta' madwarna hija fundamentali għal kulħadd.

U l-aħħar ħaġa u l-aktar ħaġa importanti kif tistgħu takkwistaw dan il-ktieb. Sempliċi ħafna. Tistgħu ċċemplu lil Nature Trust-FEE Malta fuq 21313150 jew billi tibgħatu email fuq: info@naturetrustmalta.org. Mela nispera li dax-xahar dal-ktieb iżżiduh fil-libreriji tagħkom!



Petitu
(l-għasfur tal-bejt)

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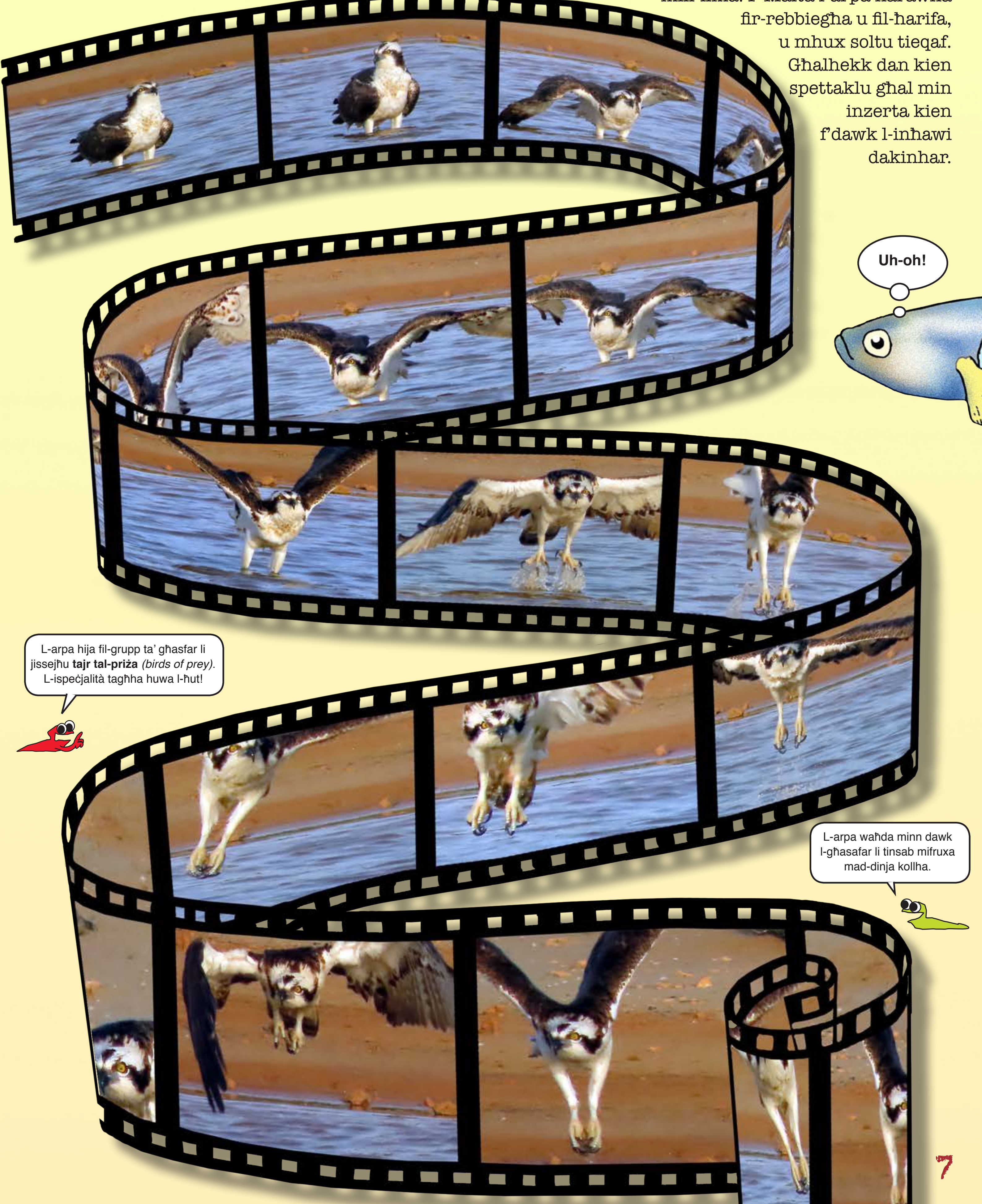
BOV Bank of Valletta

Lights... Camera... Arpa!

Ftit ġimgħat ilu din l-arpa *(osprey)* niżlet tistrieħ fir-riserva tal-Għadira. B'xorti tajba l-gwardjan David Attard kellu l-kamera f'idu u ħadilha din is-sekwenza ta' ritratti hi u tinqata' mill-ilma. F'Malta l-arpa narawha fir-rebbiegħa u fil-ħarifa, u mhux soltu tieqaf. Għalhekk dan kien spettaklu għal min inzerta kien f'dawk l-inħawi dakinhar.



Ċirlewwa tax-Xitwa

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

Ritratt ta' Aron Tanti meħud fir-riserva naturali tas-Salina

Poster Il-Ħuttafa

Bees as Pollinators

Bees are among the most popular pollinators. They provide widespread range of products, including honey - used as food; beeswax - used to treat dry skin; and propolis - used to boost the immune system and shortens the duration of the common cold.

There are three different members present in the hive:

- **The Queen Bee** is undoubtedly the most envied and stress-free bee as her only role is to lay eggs to produce the hive's upcoming generations.
- **The worker bees** are all female and their purpose is to hunt for food – pollen and nectar from flowers.
- **The drone bees** are all the male bees and their job is to mate with the queen bee to for reproduction.

Fun Facts

1

Tiny Brains, Big Buzziness

It's unbee-lievable to note how the brain of a buff-tailed bumblebee is as small as the size of a poppy seed!

2

Royal Replacement

If the queen bee dies there is no time for mourning as the hive workers immediately start buzzing away to create a new fertile leader for their hive. A young larva is then selected and the hive workers feed it 'royal jelly' for it to develop into a lush queen.

3

The Waggle dance

When bees aren't hard at work, you'll find them buzzing around! The 'Waggle Dance' is not a new up-and-coming dance move, but it is rather a witty manner in which bees communicate between themselves to express where to find the best food sources.

4

Colony Collapse Disorder

Unfortunately, bees are slowly becoming endangered. Billions of bees are departing their hive and not going back. How can you help? Start planting flowers rich in nectar to help bees gather the food they need.

5

Only in Malta

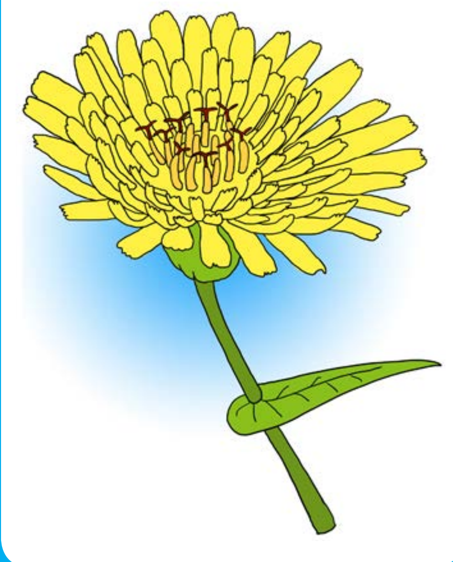
We have our very own Maltese honeybee species (*Apis mellifera ruttneri*) which are small in size and of a dark colour. It is endemic to the Maltese Islands, hence unique to our country.

6

Six Weeks of Buzz

It might come as a surprise that the lifespan of a typical worker bee is around five to six weeks. During this period the worker bee will produce about a twelfth of a teaspoon of honey.

Agħti kulur...



it-tfiefa

It-tfiefa hija waħda mill-iktar pjanti komuni li naraw madwarna. Tħaddar u twarrad tista' tgħid is-sena kollha. Meta tinxef tolqot l-għajn għax iż-żerriegħa tagħmilha forma ta' ballun sufi u aħna jkollna ġenn biex nonfħulhom ħalli naraw ix-xniexel itiru! Ħafna nies meta jaraw dak il-ballun imfelfel jgħidu: "Ara dandelion!" imma l-isem tat-tfiefa proprju bl-Ingliż huwa smooth sow-thistle.

Għadek m'intix membru fi Klabb Ħuttaf?

- Tixtieq tidħol fil-Klabb?
- Tixtieq iġġedded?
- Tixtieq iddaħħal il-familja kollha?

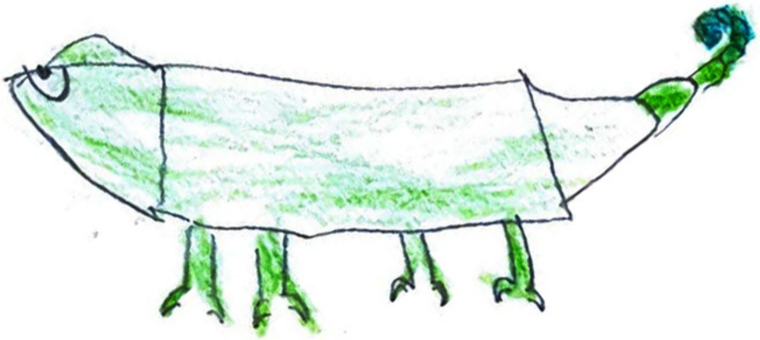
Minn dal-QR code tista' tinqeda kollox onlajn. GRAZZI!

Tixtieq tagħti donazzjoni lil BirdLife Malta?

Il-BirdLife ikollha ħafna spejjeż biex tmexxi l-attivitajiet u biex taħdem għan-natura.

Minn dal-QR code tista' tagħmel donazzjoni onlajn. GRAZZI!

Art Gallery



Kamaleonti
Liam Pulis 8

Ibagħtulna tpinġijiet tan-natura ħalli nġibuhom f'Il-Ħuttafa.

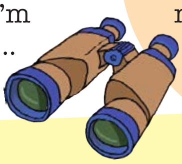
victor.falzon@birdlifemalta.org

Hello!

My name is **Alex Buontempo**. I am 12 years old and I started birdwatching when I was 9. The very first bird I observed was a spotted flycatcher, at my own home! I joined the Young Birders Club in January 2023 after attending the first Nature Guardians course organised by BirdLife Malta, and from there my passion for birdwatching grew. When I grow up I want to become an **ornithologist**, which is someone who studies birds. I love attending bird ringing sessions, mostly at Għadira and Kemmuna, and I look forward to becoming a licenced ringer myself someday.

My Birding Calendar

Here's the calender I'm keeping for this year...



My favourite thing about birdwatching is the **birding calendar**. When you start birdwatching your calendar changes according to the birds' migration and breeding seasons. Every month (sometimes every week) brings different birds, which take me to different parts of Malta to try and spot them.

Alex Buontempo

Flamingo at Salina

Winter

Winter is a great birdwatching season, especially in the wetland nature reserves. This year I've seen 2 **grebe** species, a **gadwall**, a **shoveler**, some **grey wagtails**, 2 **Caspian gulls**, 1 **little gull** and multiple **kingfishers** and **common sandpipers**.

Spring

In spring many migrants appear, some of which I saw this year included **cuckoo**, **nightingales**, **subalpine warbler**, **wood warbler**, **willow warbler**, **garden warbler** and even **nightjars** and a **scops owl**. Spring migration starts as early as February, the first migrants usually being **house martins**. So a birdwatcher's spring does not start on 21 March, but rather when the first house martin appears!

Summer

Summer is a hot season and few birds appear, but breeding birds like **Sardinian warbler** and **blue rock-thrush** can be seen and some migrants like **Audouin's gulls** and **flamingoes** too. Summer for us birders is quite short, since autumn migration starts as early as July!

Alex Buontempo

Subalpine Warbler at Kemmuna

Autumn

Autumn brings lots of birds again, including **birds of prey** which can be enjoyed mainly from Buskett. Late autumn brings wintering birds such as **robins**, **song thrushes**, **skylarks** and **siskins**.

Aron Tanti

Ring Ouzel

Rare birds can pop up anywhere, anyday. Some rare birds I've seen in 2023 included **Bonaparte's gull**, **whiskered tern**, **rosefinch**, **lesser spotted eagle** and 2 **ring ouzels**.

So many special birds in one year! I hope to continue filling my calendar with great birds and birding adventures in the coming months. I truly recommend everyone to start birdwatching like me. I'm sure it will change the way you look at your calendar too!

The **Young Birders Club** is part of **Klabb Ħuttaf**. To join the group ask your parents to email **nicholas.galea@birdlifemalta.org**

Mid-Djarju…

Sensiela ħelwa ta' kitbiet minn studenti tas-sitt sena fl-**iskola primarja Fgura B**, li jiktbu f'isem xi pjanti li jikbrulhom fil-Ġnien Dinja Waħda tal-iskola tagħhom.

Mid-Djarju ta' Rummiena

Kitba ta' **Shanel Garcia** Yr 6.5

It-Tlieta, 9pm

Għażiż Djarju,

Illum nixtieq nirrakkontalek kif kienet il-ġurnata tiegħi. Ġrawli bosta affarijiet differenti!

Filgħodu malli qomt il-ġurnata mill-ewwel turik, kienet tassew sabiħa li lanqas sħaba waħda ma dehret f'sema kaħlani. Kien hemm atmosfera tassew kwieta u kalma. Bdew jinstemgħu l-għasafar ipespsu. Mal-ħin ġew ħafna tfal jilagħbu u ma jonqosx l-għajjat ukoll. Hekk kif it-tfal kienu qegħdin jilagħbu u jkantaw u saħansitra jidħku b'xulxin ukoll inqalgħet ġlieda bejniethom u qajmu storbju kbir!

F'daqqa waħda waqgħet dalma kbira, is-sema swiedet, beda jqum ir-riħ u kulħadd sparixxa. Ir-riħ beda jitqawwa sew u tassew dejjaqni ma' wiċċi. Tant kien qawwi li beda jxengilni 'l hemm u 'l hawn! Sfortunatament il-ħabiba tiegħi Ċistu Roża spiċċat bil-petali mtajrin bir-riħ qawwi li kien hemm. Beda nieżel it-taqtir tax-xita wkoll bil-mod il-mod u qabdet iżżid mal-ħin.

Jien flimkien ma' sħabi Lelluxa, Ċistu Roża, Erika u Widnet il-baħar bdejna nilagħbu flimkien u vera ħadna gost u pjaċir, imma kellna bilfors nieqfu milli konna qed nagħmlu għax ix-xita qabdet nieżla sew.

Wara li waqfet ix-xita kollox ġie lura f'postu. Ġew xi ħaddiema jnaddfu l-ħerba li kien hemm u f'ħin qasir kellna ambjent mill-ġdid nadif u sabiħ madwarna. Erġajna ħadna r-ruħ u lkoll flimkien tpaxxejna bil-ġmiel ta' madwarna.

Il-ġurnata kienet waslet biex tispiċċa u għalaqnieha tassew kuntenti!

Dejjem tiegħek,

Rummiena

Victor Falzon

Grazzi wkoll lill-għalliema ta' dawn l-istudenti Ms Christina Kitney

Ambjentalisti f'xatt il-baħar

Meta tixtri ġelat ixtrih tal-magna, bil-*cone* tal-wejfer. B'hekk mhux biss tiekol il-ġelat bit-tazza b'kollox imma tiffranka li żżid tazza tal-plastik mal-iskart.

Jekk qed tiekol ġelat jew *soft drink* u titfaċċa żunżana, tippanikjax! Ma ġietx tniggżek imma biex forsi tilgħaq ftit ġelat! Fis-sajf iż-żnażan ftit isibu fjuri u nektar, għalhekk ikollhom ġenn għal xi ħaġa ħelwa!

Xi nies iħobbu jaqilgħu l-imħar minn mal-blat u jikluh. Taqbadx dal-vizzju u tagħmilx bħalhom, naħseb ġibt biżżejjed miegħek x'tiekol! Għix u ħalli lil min jgħix!

Tiħux qxur tal-bebbux miegħek id-dar, anke jekk jidhru vojta. Ħafna drabi ma jkunu vojta xejn imma fihom ikun hemm granċ mistoħbi mwerwer. Bogħod mill-baħar il-granċ imut.

Kull meta tmur il-baħar agħmel *clean-up* żgħira. Imla mqar borża żgħira bi skart tal-plastik li ssib fil-baħar u itla' armihom fil-landa apposta. Immaġina kieku kulħadd jagħmel bħalek!

Uża sun-block *animal friendly* jew *cruelty-free*. Qabel tixtri ċċekkja l-lejbil u ara li l-prodott ma ġiex ittestjat fuq l-annimali. Is-soltu jkun hemm xi logo bħal dan.

Tħallix skart fix-xatt jew fil-baħar. Anke l-iċken biċċa plastik taf ittir u tispiċċa fil-baħar u tiblagħha ħuta żgħira.

CORAL BLEACHING

MALTA NATIONAL AQUARIUM

WHAT ARE CORALS?

You have probably seen beautiful photos of colourful coral reefs in tropical areas. Corals are animals related to jellyfish and their amazing colours come from tiny algae that live inside them. Even though coral reefs occupy only around 1% of the ocean's surface area, over 25% of all marine species live on them. That is a lot of different creatures living together in one place!

WHAT IS CORAL BLEACHING?

When sea temperatures get too hot for too long, the corals throw that very important algae out of their bodies and then turn white. A white coral isn't necessarily a dead one, but it is definitely very stressed. Then, in the long term, if the water doesn't cool off, they can even die. This means that coral bleaching is, basically, a type of stress caused by heat.

AND WHY IS THIS BAD?

Corals get up to 90% of their food from the algae inside them. If they bleach and there's no algae to feed them, they starve to death.

HOW CAN CORALS PROTECT THEMSELVES AGAINST IT?

Some corals can produce some chemicals and turn fluorescent, which can act like sunscreen for a little while. However, it won't last forever and if the temperature doesn't drop, they're still in real trouble.

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

Coral bleaching is a natural process, but climate change is making it far more common than it should be. For example, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia has bleached 5 times in the last 8 years, with each bleaching event being worse than the last one. The 2024 event is the worst on record so far! That is horrible!

WHAT CAN WE DO?

We can plant more corals to restore a reef, which helps but it's very expensive and all the new coral is still at risk of bleaching due to climate change. Another option is creating Marine Protected Areas around them, limiting other human threats to corals like fishing and pollution.

HOWEVER, TO ACTUALLY SAVE CORAL REEFS WE NEED TO SERIOUSLY FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE, OTHERWISE THE HOTTER IT GETS, THE MORE THE REEFS WILL BLEACH AND DIE. TO BE FRIEND OF CORALS WE NEED TO BE ALSO FRIENDS OF THE PLANET!

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F A T T I F A W N A

Victor Falzon

il-Ħabbara

Il-**ħabbara** hija waħda minn xi 600 speċi ta' baħrijiet li nsibu fil-Gżejjer Maltin. Il-baħrijiet *(moths)* huma kuġini tal-friefet imma xi ftit differenti, pereżempju l-biċċa l-kbira tal-baħrijiet joħorġu bil-lejl flok binhar.

Il-ħabbara hija waħda mill-ftit speċi ta' baħrijiet li joħorġu binhar, u għalhekk nistgħu ngawduha ddur mal-fjuri fid-dawl tax-xemx.

L-istess bħall-friefet, l-ikel tal-baħrijiet huwa n-nektar, dak l-ilma ħelu li jkun hemm fil-fjuri. Biex jixorbu n-nektar il-baħrijiet (bħall-friefet) għandhom ilsien twil u rqiq, u jużawh eżatt kif aħna nużaw tibna *(straw)*.

L-isem xjentifiku tal-ħabbara huwa *Macroglossum stellatarum*. Il-kelma *macroglossum* ġejja minn żewġ kelmiet bil-Grieg li jfissru **lsien twil**. Jekk tħares lejn ir-ritratt tifhem għaliex!

Bl-Ingliż jisimha *hummingbird hawkmoth*. Dan għaliex il-ħabbara ma tillandjax fuq il-fjuri biex tixrob, imma tissaqqar viċin il-fjura waqt li ddeffes ilsienha għan-nektar – eżatt kif jagħmlu l-*hummingbirds*!

Fil-fatt ħafna nies meta jaraw ħabbara jaħsbuha *hummingbird*. Imma aħna ngħixu l-Amerka u qatt ma nersqu lejn l-Ewropa.

L-isem Malti **ħabbara** aktarx ġej minn meta n-nies kienu jemmnu li l-baħrija ġġiblek xorti ħażina, u li jekk taraha qisha qed tħabbarlek li ħa tiġrilek xi traġedja – nisperaw ħadd m'għadu jemmen dawn il-ħmerijiet!

Il-ħabbara tixrob minn kull xorta ta' fjura, speċjalment fjuri qishom trumbetta, għax ilsienhom jidħol fihom bla problema ta' xejn.

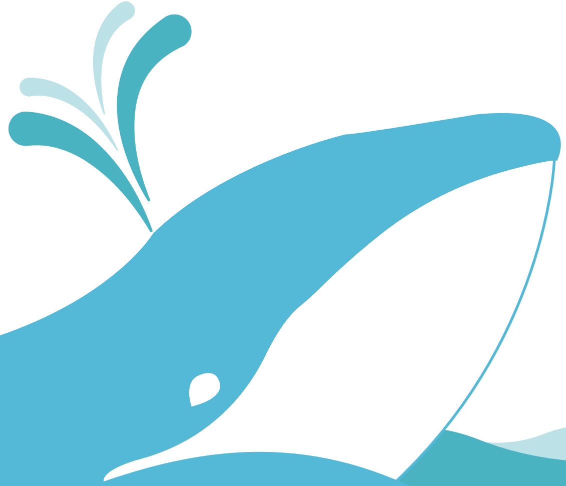
Il-ħabbara tbid fuq diversi pjanti, fosthom tipi ta' **ħarxajja** *(goosegrass, madder)* u t-**toppu tar-reġina** *(red valerian)*. Meta jfaqqsu, ix-xgħat jieklu l-weraq sa ma jikbru biżżejjed biex jagħmlu l-fosdqa.

Desirée Falzon

Il-fjura tat-toppu tar-reġina

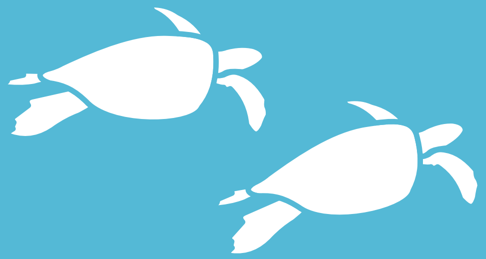
Summer Programme 2024

Is-sajf jiġi biex ingawdu l-baħar, iżda biex nitgħallmu dwaru minn fuq l-art ukoll!



Kif tagħmel kull sena, Heritage Malta ħejjiet programm ta' attivitajiet tassew eċċitanti biex matul is-sajf l-istudenti jibqgħu jitgħallmu waqt li jieħdu gost.

Fl-attivitajiet ta' dan is-sajf, it-tema komuni se tkun proprju l-baħar. Minn arzell u sireni sa klieb il-baħar, sajd u pirati, se nesploraw il-baħar minn kull aspett, waqt li mmiddu jdejna għal ħafna attivitajiet prattiċi … u nieklu xi ġelat ukoll, għaliex le?



Il-programm hu miftuħ għal tfal minn tliet snin sa 15-il sena, u aktar tagħrif dwaru ssibu hawn: **heritagemalta.mt/whats-on**

Heritage Malta