

Malta

Bird Report

2022



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BirdLife Malta was set up in 1962 as the Malta Ornithological Society, with the conservation of wild birds, their habitat and biodiversity as its mission. BirdLife Malta reaches these aims mainly through environmental advocacy, education, habitat restoration, nature reserve management, and research and publication. Foremost among its study subjects are Malta's breeding seabirds, an ongoing research spanning several decades. Since 1965 BirdLife Malta has also run the Valletta Bird-ringing Scheme (a member of EURING), currently with around 25 active licenced ringers. BirdLife Malta publishes papers, reports and other ornithology-related material in its scientific journal *Il-Merill*, complemented by the annual *Malta Bird Report*.

Malta Bird Report 2022

Number 2

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Published by the Malta Rarities and Records Committee (MRRC)

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Printed at Poulton's Print on sustainably sourced paper

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Reg. Vol. Org. VO/0052

Cover photo: Spotted Flycatcher by Aron Tanti

Ongoing genetic studies of the breeding population of Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*) in Malta indicate that the main population is made up of 'tyrrhenica' (Mediterranean Flycatcher) individuals with intrusion of the North African clade of the *striata*. The breeding adult in the cover photo shows no fine streaking on breast and forehead, no clear demarcation between cheeks and throat and short primary projection typical of 'tyrrhenica' birds.



Foreword

Most countries in Europe and beyond have a body of experts – usually referred to as the rarities and records committee – responsible for keeping a curated list of birds recorded within their territory. Malta too has its own independent rarities and records committee, working under the umbrella of BirdLife Malta, made up of experienced ornithologists and bird experts. The Malta Rarities and Records Committee (MRRC) is a member of the Association of European Records and Rarities Committees (AERC). AERC provides guidelines so that a common and high standard is adopted by all its members.

As the name implies, the main aim of the Committee is to collect and verify records of rare birds recorded in the Maltese Islands so that these are published in reports such as the present one. It is common practice that when birders make a rare observation, this is documented and sent to the Committee that meets periodically to scrutinize and discuss such sightings. Documentation is usually in the form of record shots, but can also be in other formats, such as sound recordings or field notes. When assessing such records, the MRRC considers various aspects, such as possible confusion species, timing, trends for the species in the region, observer experience, possibility of captive origin, etc. The Committee is duty bound to be consistent and fair in its conclusions.

The MRRC also actively looks for important bird sightings on different platforms, so that these are not lost. The social media have become a very useful source of important observations made by casual observers that would have otherwise not been known to the MRRC. Maintaining a list of records as well as the official list of wild birds recorded in a country does not only involve adding new records or species, but may occasionally mean removing some. This is particularly relevant in cases where historical records of extremely rare species are only known from stuffed bird collections of unverified origin. The number of exotic birds in private taxidermy collections has grown exponentially since many Maltese hunters smuggle such birds killed on poaching expeditions abroad, making the work of the MRRC more difficult but all the more crucial.

Verifying claims of breeding records of rare species is another task of the MRRC, as are records of unusually high numbers of a species that is usually recorded in lower numbers. Records of species out of their known season are also checked.

While birding is primarily a hobby practised by enthusiasts for their enjoyment, it is also an important form of ongoing data collection exercise by citizen scientists. Having a body like the MRRC curating this data set is therefore important to ensure its suitability for scientific studies and publications. Not having a functioning MRRC in place can lead to distortion of patterns, inflation of bird populations, untruthful extension of ranges and exaggeration of vagrancy cases.

A parallel task that the MRRC has recently embarked upon is the naming of all birds recorded in the Western Palearctic in Maltese. Currently, only the species in the official list of birds recorded in Malta have a Maltese name, and when a new bird is added to the list, a Maltese name is assigned by the Committee. Not having a Maltese name for birds outside the list of Malta poses limitations when for example preparing content in Maltese that needs to refer to such bird species.

The MRRC prepares an annual report that lists and annotates all records discussed and any addition/deduction from the list of the birds of Malta. Such reports are published in the scientific journal of BirdLife Malta *Il-Merill*. All records that appear in this *Malta Bird Report*, including rare or unusual sightings, are curated and verified by the MRRC. I take this opportunity to thank Stefano Miceli for compiling the Systematic List for 2022, Nicholas Galea for making sightings and ringing data available, and Victor Falzon for designing and preparing the report for publishing. Thanks also to all birders and ringers who submitted their records on time, without whom this report would not be published. Thanks also to all members of the MRRC.

Raymond Galea

Chairman

Malta Rarities and Records Committee (MRRC)



Stefano Miceli

The birding calendar in Malta

To complement the introduction to the first edition of the *Malta Bird Report*, which provided an overview of the birding scene in Malta, we here summarise the birding calendar in Malta.

Winter

January and February are the coldest months in Malta. On average, around 45 species can be seen in mid-winter before the first spring migrants start turning up. In winter most activity is focused on Salina Nature Reserve, which attracts large numbers of gulls. Although Black-headed, Mediterranean and Yellow-legged Gulls constitute the vast majority of gulls present, Slender-billed, Lesser Black-backed and Audouin's Gulls are also common, while scarcer species such as Caspian Gull, Little Gull, Mew Gull and Black-legged Kittiwake can also be found with enough diligence. Sandwich Tern and Great Cormorant are also usually present, as well as some Common Kingfishers and Black-necked Grebes. Most of these species can also be seen at most bays and inlets around Malta, with those in the Marsaxlokk area generally being the most productive. Seawatching from the north-eastern coast can also produce these species at this time, and also provides the best chances for species such as Northern Gannet and flocks of Common Shelducks, particularly on days with strong north-westerly or north-easterly winds. The whole coastline from Qawra to Marsaskala can be good for seawatching.

Due to hunting and other human disturbance, the general countryside is rather impoverished of birds during winter, except for resident species and common wintering species such as Common Chiffchaff, Eurasian Blackcap, European Robin, Common Stonechat, Black Redstart, White Wagtail, Meadow Pipit and Common Starling. Besides a handful of species, which mostly find refuge in protected areas or offshore, wintering non-passerines are almost unheard of in Malta. The small protected woodland at Buskett is worth a visit in these months, as it provides practically the only safe haven with suitable habitat for species that would otherwise be shot

or trapped, such as thrushes and finches – mostly Song Thrush and Common Chaffinch but also small numbers of Eurasian Blackbird, Redwing, Eurasian Siskin and other species in most years. Other species wintering in small numbers include Eurasian Wryneck, Eurasian Skylark, Grey Wagtail, Dunnock, Goldcrest and Firecrest. The wetland nature reserves of Għadira and Simar are quiet at this time, but still popular with birders, since they provide the only safe refuge for species such as Little Grebe, Common Coot and Western Water Rail.

Spring

Spring migration is probably the highlight of most Maltese birders' year. Dedicated birders' yearlists generally shoot up by around 70–80 species during March and April. The first trans-Saharan spring migrants, usually House Martin and Green Sandpiper, generally turn up around mid-February. Birders start heading to Ċirkewwa, overlooking the bottleneck formed by the Kemmuna Channel, around this time to look out for flocks of Northern Pintails migrating north. Birding activity is generally focused on this area throughout March, since spring migration in the Kemmuna Channel can provide some of the most exciting birding possible in Malta. On good days one can see several flocks of ducks, mainly Garganey, but also Ferruginous Duck and Northern Shoveler among others, as well as flocks of waders, particularly Whimbrel, and other species such as Pomarine Skua and Glossy Ibis, all migrating north through the Channel.

Beyond the Kemmuna Channel, spring migration from mid-March to around mid-May has birding potential in many different parts of the Islands. Many birders either opt for observing visible migration from a suitable fixed position, such as from the coast or open agricultural areas, or going for a walk in places with suitable habitat, such as valleys or garrigue areas.

The island of Kemmuna can be particularly productive, which is likely a combined result of the concentrating effect of small islands and the still largely unspoilt landscape on the island.

In general, the best days in spring are days with easterly or north-easterly winds, while inclement weather can also result in considerable influxes of migrants. North-westerly winds, however, can bring good numbers of harriers. In addition, strong south-easterly winds in spring raise birders' hopes for rare species from North Africa, such as Moussier's Redstart and Desert Wheatear.

Different species have different phenologies, with some generally peaking in March or early April and others peaking in late April or early May. Species more typically encountered in March include Spotted Crane, Western Marsh-harrier and Pallid Harrier, Lesser Kestrel, Common Hoopoe, Northern and Isabelline Wheatears and Subalpine Warbler. April brings increasing richness and abundance, with common species such as European Bee-eater, Whinchat, Tree Pipit, Pied and Collared Flycatchers, Wood Warbler, Common Whitethroat and Garden Warbler starting to appear and peaking towards the end of the month. In late April, species such as European Turtle-dove, Squacco Heron, Little Bittern, European Honey-buzzard, Red-footed Falcon, Icterine Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher and Golden Oriole become more common. Most migratory waders, such as Curlew Sandpiper and Little Stint, are generally also more abundant in late April and May and are mainly seen at Salina and Ghadira nature reserves. By mid-May, spring migration is generally down to a trickle.

Summer

Late May and June are largely associated with breeding birds, although many species would have started their breeding season as early as February. Birding activity, at least from local birders, generally lulls during these months, not only due to lack of diversity but also due to rising temperatures. Spanish Sparrow and Sardinian Warbler breed ubiquitously in most habitats. Zitting Cisticola and Greater Short-toed Lark nest in open areas, while high quality garrigue supports Spectacled Warbler. Eurasian Tree Sparrow and Eurasian Collared-dove favour rural and suburban areas respectively. Blue Rock-thrush predominantly breeds in rocky areas and cliffs, but is also increasingly taking advantage of built-up areas that provide nesting habitat. Spotted Flycatcher breeds in small numbers in a handful of scattered woodland groves and gardens, their main strongholds being Buskett and Ta' Qali. Breeding Barn Swallow, previously a notable occurrence, has become more regular particularly in Gozo. Suitable coastal cliffs host breeding



The Gozo Channel, with Kemmuna in the middle distance

Scopoli's and Yelkouan Shearwaters, while the islet of Filfla supports large colonies of European Storm-petrel and Yellow-legged Gull. Common Swift nests in several urban areas, while Pallid Swift breeds in smaller numbers, including in coastal caves. Ghadira Nature Reserve supports a few breeding pairs of Little Ringed Plovers, while Moorhen nests in small numbers in several natural and artificial valleys, wetlands and ponds across the Islands. Breeding birds of prey are very rare due to persecution, but a pair of Peregrine Falcons and a few pairs of Common Kestrels manage to nest in most years.

Autumn

Among the first signs of autumn migration are usually Green Sandpipers turning up at the end of June. By mid-July there is usually a slow but steady passage of waders underway and birding activity starts to pick up. The first waders that turn up include Common Greenshank, Little Stint and Dunlin. However, due to an extreme lack of suitable habitat and targeting by poachers, the numbers of waders seen in Malta is minimal. The small Ghadira Nature Reserve, and to a lesser extent Salina Nature Reserve, are practically the only suitable areas for most wader species. A few Whimbrels also usually turn up along the coast in July, while moderate to strong north-westerly winds from mid-July entice birders to brave the heat with the hope of a few flocks of Eurasian Oystercatchers. The first Subalpine Warblers generally turn up in late July, as well as the first Common Kingfishers, of which a few remain to winter. Migration gradually ramps up as August progresses, with an increasing abundance and richness of species. Sought after waders in August include Ruddy Turnstone and Sanderling, while large numbers of Black Terns can be found associating with offshore fish farms together with European Storm-Petrels.

Dispersing juvenile Audouin's Gulls are frequent in August and September. Flocks of Greater Flamingoes migrating along the coast turn up most years from mid-August, with exhausted juveniles regularly stranding along the coast or in the few coastal wetlands.

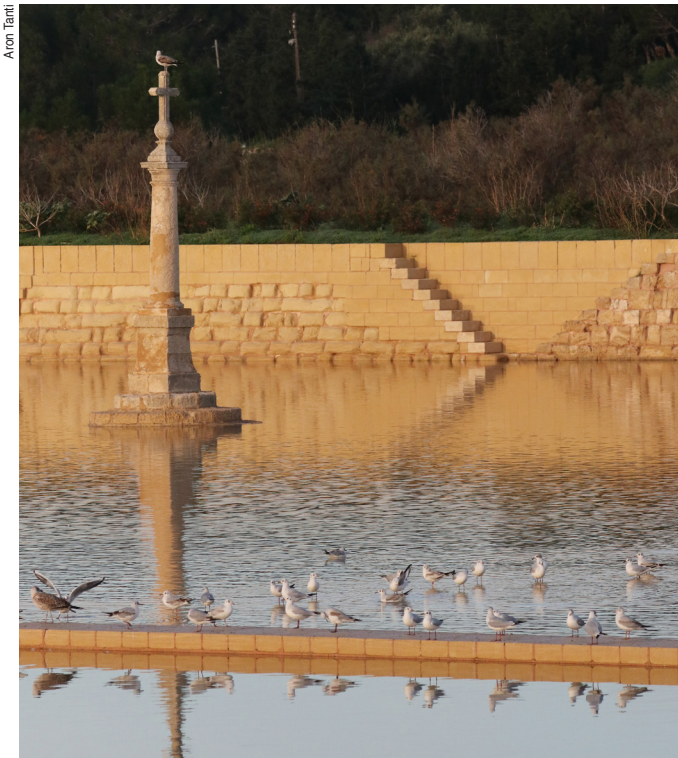
The first birds of prey, generally Eleonora's Falcon, Western Marsh-harrier, Montagu's Harrier and Black Kite also start turning up from mid-August, as well as flocks of Black-crowned Night-heron, and Purple and Grey Herons. From the end of August until around mid-October, most birders focus on seawatching from the north-east coast in the morning and fixed-point observation for birds of prey from the high ground in the south-west of the island in the afternoon – Buskett being the favoured site, also because the surrounding area attracts several raptors to roost for the night. Besides herons and Greater Flamingo, and other waterbirds such as Garganey, Caspian Tern and Glossy Ibis, seawatching in late August and September can produce practically any diurnal migrants, including birds of prey, coming in off the sea. The composition of species seen is highly dependent on the weather. As with spring, easterly winds and adverse weather tend to be the most interesting conditions for most species. For birds of prey, however, which depend on hot weather and light winds to migrate, the best conditions are sunny weather and light southerly winds. The most abundant birds of prey seen in the afternoon are by far Western Marsh-harrier, European Honey-buzzard and Eurasian Hobby, with less abundant but still frequent species including Osprey, Black Kite, Montagu's Harrier, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Common Kestrel, Lesser Kestrel and Eleonora's Falcon. Throughout September, European Bee-eater is very common and fills the air with

its calls while a few European Rollers also turn up. Soaring-bird migration generally peaks around 20 September. Late September and early October tend to produce scarcer but still regular species, such as Black Stork, Short-toed Snake-eagle, Hen and Pallid Harriers, Common Buzzard, Lesser Spotted and Booted Eagles, Merlin and Saker Falcon, and more rarely Red Kite. Other rare soaring birds such as White Stork and Egyptian Vulture tend to occur earlier in September or even in late August. Bird of prey migration is generally over by mid-October, although early November has been known to produce exceptional influxes of eagles. A handful of highly sought after Eurasian Dotterel are also seen somewhat regularly from late August to November.

The autumn migration of trans-Saharan passerines from late August to mid-October is probably under-appreciated especially when compared to spring, and is mostly noticed by ringers. Besides the ubiquitous Barn Swallow, trans-Saharan passerines that migrate in considerable numbers through Malta include Garden Warbler, Common Redstart, Western Yellow Wagtail, Northern Wheatear and Willow Warbler. These are followed from mid-October to November by the migration of Mediterranean-wintering species, including Eurasian Skylark, Common Chiffchaff, Eurasian Blackcap, European Robin, Song Thrush, Common Stonechat, Black Redstart, and finches. A fraction of these birds remain to winter. During this time, many birders and ringers are on the lookout for rarer species from the east. Yellow-browed Warbler, Red-breasted Flycatcher and Lesser Whitethroat are relatively regular, while rarer species include Olive-backed Pipit, Little Bunting and Common Rosefinch. Unfortunately, due to the heavy presence of hunters and trappers in the countryside from September onwards, birders generally limit themselves to a handful of protected areas.

In terms of non-passerines, in November and December many birders head to open areas, particularly the Airport, hoping for Eurasian Golden Plover and Northern Lapwing, and possibly a glimpse of Eurasian Woodcock in more sheltered areas. These species, however, are highly persecuted and seeing them is often a bittersweet experience since they have little chance of surviving. A few Common Cranes also turn up around this time but are becoming increasingly scarce. Strong north-westerly winds frequently produce flocks of Common Shelducks along the coast, while less frequent species which can also be seen include Great Crested Grebe, Pied Avocet and the odd Red-breasted Merganser. By mid-December, birding activity is once again concentrated at Salina Nature Reserve as in January.

In an average year, around 230 species are recorded in Malta. By the end of December dedicated birders' year lists generally stand, on average, at around 160–170 species. In a good year and with a lot of time, effort and some luck, up to 200 species can be seen.



Salina nature reserve



Birding summary for 2022

A total of 235 species of birds were recorded in the Maltese Islands in 2022 – an average year in terms of species richness.

Notable wintering birds lingering from 2021, enhancing Malta's poor wintering bird fauna, included a Hen Harrier on Kemmuna and a Dartford Warbler at Majjistral Park. Towards mid-month, a birder seawatching from the east coast spotted an unidentified auk, possibly the Razorbill filmed two days later by a non-birder. Another exceptional occurrence in January were 3 Northern Wrens, formerly a more regular species. Two of these were ringed together, rather unexpectedly site, at Manoel Island.

Spring duck migration in the Kemmuna Channel was very poor in 2022, with most Garganeys recorded on a single day being just over 250 birds, while very few ducks of other species were recorded. Other species also mostly associated with the Channel, e.g. Pomarine Jaeger and Whimbrel, were also scarce.

20 March was an exceptional spring migration day, with easterly winds bringing many migrants, including unusual numbers of Little Ringed Plovers and other waders. In late March, persistent and strong easterly winds on consecutive days brought an exceptional influx of Isabelline Wheatears (usually frequent in small numbers), with double figures at single sites on some days, and five records of Rüppell's Warbler (usually very rare but regular). Later spring produced a number of vagrants, including mostly North African birds like Greater Hoopoe-lark, Egyptian Nightjar and Desert Wheatear, but also others such as Barred Warbler and Eyebrowed Thrush, the latter probably the most outstanding record of the year. 1 May was another exceptional spring migration day, with 691 birds ringed across all sites, of which 347 were ringed on Kemmuna, which also produced a highly unseasonal Red-breasted Flycatcher. Another two Red-breasted Flycatchers were seen in the following days, making for an exceptional spring for this usually exclusively autumn species. Over 600 birds were ringed on 29 Apr and 2 May. Late spring also produced a very obliging Terek Sandpiper, an exceptional record considering the paucity of vagrant waders in Malta (at least recorded by birders).

During the summer lull in birding activity, no particularly exceptional breeding records were noted, except possible breeding of European Nightjar. Corn Bunting can probably be declared extinct as a local breeding bird, after another year

with no confirmed breeding. Boat trips produced two mega seabirds: Cory's Shearwater and Swinhoe's Storm-petrel.

Autumn saw the start of standardised observation sessions, being part of reporting obligations for the EU Birds Directive. In autumn, this consisted of standardised seawatching sessions from various coastal areas, such as Qawra and Valletta, and standardised raptor-watching sessions, mainly from Buskett, Dwejra (M) and Tal-Bardan in Gozo. Seawatching sessions began half an hour before sunrise until at least three hours later, while raptor-watching sessions began from at least late morning until sunset. These sessions meant that there was generally more birding effort than in previous years, possibly resulting in more birds observed than usual. This is probably particularly true in the case of bird of prey migration, since sessions started much earlier in the day than usual. Indeed, autumn 2022 was a good season for raptor migration, both in abundance and diversity. The sessions resulted in a total of 4339 birds of prey of 22 species, including practically all regular rare species, such as Red Kite and Lesser Spotted Eagle, as well as vagrants such as Levant Sparrowhawk and Sooty Falcon, and 4 storks (1 White, 2 Black and 1 unidentified).

Hot weather persisted until late October, resulting in poor autumn migration of many Mediterranean-wintering species, which were conspicuously scarce throughout winter 2022–23, including finches, Black Redstart and others. Passerine rarities, especially "Siberian" species, usually synonymous with late autumn migration, were also thin on the ground, highlights being a Pallas's Leaf-warbler ringed on Kemmuna and a Marmora's Warbler seen at Ta' Ċenċ. Late autumn passerine migration peaked around 28 Oct, with 440 birds ringed on that day across all sites, over half of which were European Robins.

Winter saw the start of winter bird monitoring, which consisted of transect-based surveys in randomly-selected grid cells across the Maltese Islands. This meant a more than average birding effort with a wider spatial scope. The effort, however, failed to produce outstanding sightings, except the aforementioned Marmora's Warbler. An exceptional winter occurrence was that of multiple Razorbills, resulting from a wider huge influx into the Mediterranean, with birds recorded as far east as Greece. This was followed by a sighting of a highly sought Pallas's Gull, which unfortunately did not stick around to be enjoyed by birders.

Stefano Miceli

Bird systematic list for 2022



This systematic list follows the scientific and vernacular nomenclature accepted and used by the Malta Rarities and Records Committee (MRRRC) which is the official Malta Bird Checklist (January 2023), which follows the HBW-BirdLife International Taxonomic Checklist.

References to seasons mainly refer to the migration periods of birds, which broadly correspond to the meteorological seasons rather than the astronomical seasons. These vary according to the phenology and wintering areas of different taxa, e.g. for many waders autumn migration typically starts at the end of June i.e. in summer.

Records marked with an asterisk (*) refer to records made through 'nocmigging', i.e. sound-recording of nocturnal migration. These records generally do not refer to the number of individuals but rather to distinct occurrences of the species within an overnight recording.

High counts of common and frequent species should generally be considered as minimum estimates. Moreover, these refer to high counts during individual birding sessions, rather than across all sessions on that date. It should be noted that the duration of birding sessions varies from a few minutes to whole days. Therefore it may be the case that counts are a function of session duration, rather than abundance of the species.

Where relevant, the species' accounts include information on the total number of new birds ringed and the main site of ringing to give an indication of abundance and preferred habitat. This information is not provided for species for which all or the vast majority of ringed birds were confiscated.

Common Quail (Summiena) *Coturnix coturnix*

In winter, singles at Majjistral Park on 03 Jan, at Pembroke on 22 Jan and at Bidnija on 19 Feb. Then in spring, sightings on 23 dates from 04 Mar to 31 May, always singles but 2 at Majjistral Park on 15 Mar and at Bingemma on 02 Apr. Then singles at San Blas on 26 Aug, at Prajjet on 13 Nov and at Girgenti on 08 Dec. As usual this cryptic species was highly under-recorded by birders.

2 ringed (excl. confiscated and/or rehabilitated birds), both in spring.

Chukar (Ċukar) *Alectoris chukar*

Introduced and established species (i.e. Category C), present on Kemmuna throughout year. Maintained breeding population as usual and regularly reported in double figures of up to 50.

Red-breasted Merganser (Serra) *Mergus serrator*

5 at Żonqor on 23 Nov, 1 at Valletta and Tas-Safra (same bird) on 13 Dec, and 2 at Qbajjar on 24 Dec.

Common Shelduck (Kuluvert tas-Salib) *Tadorna tadorna*

Singles at Għadira NR on 13 Jan and from 20 Jan to 07 Apr, 39 at Qawra on 15 Jan, 1 at Marsaxlokk on 17 Jan, 8 on 10 Mar, 1 on 11 Mar and 6 on 25 Mar at Ċirkewwa and 2 at Salina NR on 05 Apr. In summer, 3 at Għadira NR on 03 Aug of which 1 stayed till 05 Aug. Then in autumn/winter, 5 on 12 Dec, 2 on 13 Dec and 1 from 14–31 Dec, increasing to 2 from 16–17 Dec all at Għadira NR, 18 at Tas-Safra on 18 Nov, 1 at Kalkara on 21 Nov, 1 at Salina NR on 24 Nov, 1 at Qawra on 27 Nov, 1 on 01 Dec, 9 on 08 Dec and 3 on 11 Dec at Valletta, 5 on 12 Dec and

1 on 15 Dec at Salina NR, 7 at Birżebbuġa and 20 at Qawra on 17 Dec, and 22 at L-Aħrax on 21 Dec.

Common Pochard (Brajmla) *Aythya ferina*

Singles on 17 Dec and from 24–26 Dec at Għadira NR.

Ferruginous Duck (Brajmla Ħamra) *Aythya nyroca*

In spring, 1♂ at Simar NR from 12–18 Feb, 68 at Ċirkewwa on 11 Mar, singles at Salina NR on 31 Mar, at Simar NR from 08–13 Apr, at Għadira NR on 09 Apr and at Kemmuna on 16 Apr, 2 at Għadira NR on 30 Apr, 3 at Għadira NR on 14 May and 1 at Simar NR on 30 May. In autumn, 1 at Qawra on 02 Jul, 1 at Simar NR on 05 Jul, 8 at Qawra on 11 Sep and 2 at Għadira NR on 14 Sep.

Garganey (Sarsella Ħamra) *Spatula querquedula*

Daily sightings from 10–16 Mar, then on 21st, 22nd and 25 Mar, mainly in Kemmuna Channel, with max. 264 on 21 Mar, 150 on 22 Mar and 120 on 12 Mar. Interestingly, flocks were sound recorded migrating at night over Birkirkara on 3 nights. Then 1 at Għadira NR on 04 Jul, 4 at Salina NR on 08 Aug, 1 at Salina NR on 24 Aug, 12 at Valletta on 01 Sep, 16 and 10 at Ras il-Gżira (Marsaskala) on 02nd and 03 Sep respectively, 1 at Simar NR on 12 Oct, 3 at Salina NR on 02 Nov and 1 at Salina NR on 10 Nov.

Northern Shoveler (Palettuna) *Spatula clypeata*

2 at Salina NR on 06 Jan. In spring 20 at Qammieħ on 12 Feb, 4 at Ċirkewwa on 24 Feb, 8 at Kemmuna on 12 Mar and 8 at Qammieħ on 13 Mar. Then in autumn, 2 at Salina NR on 08 Aug, singles at Għadira NR on 14 Aug, at Salina NR on 04 Sep, at Valletta on 25 Sep and at Għadira NR on 12 Oct. In winter, 9 at Żonqor on 22 Dec.

Gadwall (Kuluvert Griż) *Mareca strepera*

Singles on 28 Jan at Għadira NR and on 14 Mar at Ċirkewwa.

Eurasian Wigeon (Silfjun Ewropew) *Mareca penelope*

1 at Salina NR on 11 Oct.

Mallard (Kuluvert) *Anas platyrhynchos*

1♀ at Għadira NR on 07 Mar.

Northern Pintail (Silfjun) *Anas acuta*

In winter, 1 at Salina NR on 27 Jan. In spring, 4 at Ċirkewwa on 27 Feb, 205 at Ċirkewwa on 11 Mar, 3 at Ġnejna Bay on 12 Mar, 1 at Migra I-Ferħa on 13 Mar, 65 on 14 Mar, 9 on 16 Mar and 3 on 25 Mar, all at Ċirkewwa. Then in autumn, 1 at Salina NR on 04 Dec.

Common Teal (Sarsella) *Anas crecca*

1 at Għadira NR from 01 Jan to 12 Feb, increasing to 2 from 05 Jan to 13 Jan, 1 at Marsa from 01–08 Jan. In spring, singles at Salina NR on 07 Mar and at Għadira NR on 09 May. 1 at

Għadira NR on 09 Jul. Then in autumn, 1 at Salina NR on 27 Sep, 2 at Għadira NR from 01–02 Oct, 4 at Kemmuna on 02 Nov, 4 at Għadira NR on 04 Nov reducing to 2 on 05 Nov, 7 at Għadira NR on 12 Nov (of which 1 stayed till 15 Nov), 2 at Qawra on 22 Nov, 1 at Salina NR from 04–11 Nov and 1 at Salina NR on 19 Nov.

Little Grebe (Blongun Żghir) *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Sightings practically daily from 01 Jan to 19 Mar, mainly 1–2 birds at Għadira NR (Fig. 01). 1 at Wied Għajn Riħana on 30 Jul was an unusual sighting. Then, first sighting on 02 Oct followed by daily sightings from 06 Oct till end of year, mainly 1 at Għadira NR and 1–2 at Simar NR.

Great Crested Grebe (Blongun Prim) *Podiceps cristatus*

Singles at Mġarr (G) on 05 Mar and at Ċirkewwa on 11 Mar. Then singles at Għar Lapsi on 02 Oct, at Salina NR from 16–24 Dec, and 2 at Qawra on 17 and 18 Dec.

Black-necked Grebe (Blongun Sekond) *Podiceps nigricollis*

Sightings on most dates from 01 Jan to 24 Feb, all single birds at Simar NR and Salina NR but 2 at Salina NR on 02 Jan. Then 1 at Għadira NR from 22 May to 14 Jun. Then a very poor autumn and winter, with only singles at Marsaskala on 03 Nov and at Żonqor on 23 Nov.

Greater Flamingo (Fjamingu) *Phoenicopterus roseus*

1 offshore west Gozo on 03 Sep, flock of 86 seen from various sites on 08 Sep, 1 at Għadira NR from 14–18 Sep, 1 at Simar NR on 14 Sep, 2 at Simar NR from 18–19 Sep, 2 at Salina NR on 19 Sep, 1 at Salina NR from 23–24 Sep, 1 bird released at Għadira NR on 02 Oct was joined by a wild bird on 02 Dec and both stayed till end of year, 30 in the Kemmuna Channel on 05 Oct, 3 at Għadira Bay on 30 Oct, 15 at Kemmuna on 04 Nov, and 11 at Tas-Safra on 08 Nov.

Common Woodpigeon (Tudun) *Columba palumbus*

Relatively good year with singles at Għadira NR on 20 Mar, at Ta' Xħajma on 24 Mar, at Salina NR on 06 Apr, at Għadira NR on 15 Apr, at Kemmuna on 23 and 25 Apr, at Buskett on 05 May and 15 Jul, and at Tas-Safra on 25 Sep.



Fig. 01. Little Grebe at Għadira NR on 22 Jan



Fig. 02. This Egyptian Nightjar at Xrobb I-Għaġin on 18 Apr was the 11th for Malta but the first seen by birders

European Turtle-dove (Gamiema) *Streptopelia turtur*

In spring, first sightings on 20 Mar, 26 Mar and 04 Apr, then almost daily from 11 Apr to 04 Jun, followed by 1 relatively late bird on 21 Jun. Spring counts always in single figures but 10 at Kemmuna on 4 dates. Then in autumn, 1 early bird on 09 Aug, then on most days from 21 Aug to 05 Oct. Autumn counts almost all in low single figures, with max. 80 on 01 Sep and 12 at Buskett.

9 ringed (all in spring), most (8) at Kemmuna.

Eurasian Collared-dove (Gamiema tal-Kullar) *Streptopelia decaocto*

Common resident breeder, observed throughout most of the Islands but mainly at species strongholds (e.g. Ghadira NR area and Ta' Qali) with counts of up to 100.

28 ringed throughout year, all at Ghadira NR.

European Nightjar (Buqrajq) *Caprimulgus europaeus*

In spring, first sightings on 31 Mar and 05 Apr, then practically daily from 16 Apr to 07 May and from 11 to 15 May. Spring counts always in single figures but 15 at Kemmuna and 11 at Buskett on 29 Apr. At least 3 (2 singing ♂♂ and 1♀) present at an undisclosed site on 22 Jul and 07 Aug, but successful breeding not confirmed. In autumn, sightings practically daily from 15–28 Sep and from 05–08 Oct, then more sporadically until 22 Oct. Autumn counts also always in single figures but 15 and 12 at Buskett on 24th and 19 Sep respectively.

111 ringed (76 in spring, 2 in summer, 33 in autumn), most (58) at Buskett.

Egyptian Nightjar (Buqrajq Abjad) *Caprimulgus aegyptius*

1 at Xrobb I-Għaġin on 18 Apr (Fig. 02). This is the 11th confirmed record for Malta but the first seen by birders (previous record was in Apr 1978).

Alpine Swift (Rundun Żaqqu Bajda) *Tachymarptis melba*

In spring, sightings on most dates from 13 Mar to 03 Apr, then more sporadically till 10 May. Most spring counts in low single figures, with max. 31 at Qammieħ on 19 Mar and 30 at Ghajjn

Tuffieħa on 31 Mar. In summer, 2 at Dahlet Qorrot on 10 Jul and 1 at Mistra on 21 Jul. Then in autumn, sightings on 13 dates from 06 Sep to 15 Oct, always in single figures but 25 at Buskett on 19 Sep.

Pallid Swift (Rundun Kannelli) *Apus pallidus*

Regular sightings from 19 Mar to 12 Oct, with max. 30 at Tal-Bardan on 12 Sep, followed by 1 late bird at Valletta on 21 Nov. This species is likely under-recorded due to difficulty of distinguishing from Common Swift. Breeding recorded as usual, including in sea caves in Gozo.

6 ringed (in summer), most (3) at Wied il-Għasel.

Common Swift (Rundun) *Apus apus*

First sightings on 09 and 13 Mar, then practically daily from 19 Mar to 13 Oct, followed by 1 unseasonal bird at Valletta on 13 Dec. Regular counts in double and triple figures, with max. 500 at Ta' Gianpula on 12 May and 300 at Salina NR on 10 May. Breeding birds present throughout summer at various sites.

157 ringed (Apr to Jul), most (152) at Wied il-Għasel.

Great Spotted Cuckoo (Daqquqa Prima) *Clamator glandarius*

1 2nd-year bird ringed at Kemmuna on 16 Apr and still present the following day. This was the second time this species has been ringed in Malta (Fig. 03), followed by 1 at Mgarr ix-Xini on 19 Apr.



Fig. 03. Second-year Great Spotted Cuckoo ringed at Kemmuna on 16 Apr - the second to be ringed in Malta



Fig. 04. The second Swinhoe's Storm-petrel for Malta, seen offshore Marsaskala on 28 Aug, gave exceptional views to several birders

Common Cuckoo (Daqquqa Kaħla) *Cuculus canorus*

In spring, sightings on 16 dates from 31 Mar to 18 May, always singles but 2 at Kemmuna on 27 Apr and at Dwejra (M) on 04 May. In autumn, singles at Għadira NR on 16 Aug and at Salina NR on 24 Aug.

3 ringed (all in spring), all at Kemmuna.

Western Water Rail (Gallozz tax-Xitwa) *Rallus aquaticus*

Regular sightings from 01 Jan to 27 Mar and from 08 Oct to 31 Dec. Almost all sightings from Għadira NR and Simar NR in low single figures, with max. 4 at Għadira NR on 16 Jan. Sightings outside these sites included singles at Ramla Dam on 18 and 25 Mar, and at Wied Ghajn Rihana on 08 Dec. This species is certainly under-recorded due to its secretive nature.

1 ringed in Mar at Għadira NR.

Spotted Crake (Gallozz tat-Tikek) *Porzana porzana*

Sightings on 17 dates in spring from 24 Feb to 27 Apr, mainly at Wied Ghajn Rihana with max. 3 on 06 Mar.

Little Crake (Gallozz Żgħir) *Zapornia parva*

Singles at Simar NR on 20 Mar, at Chadwick Lakes from 26 Mar to 01 Apr, 2 at Wied Ghajn Rihana on 03 Apr, 1 at Ramla I-Ħamra on 09 Apr and 1 at Wied Ghajn Rihana on 15 Apr.

Common Moorhen (Gallozz Iswed) *Gallinula chloropus*

Sightings throughout year, esp. at Għadira NR and Simar NR, with max. 15 and 25 at these sites respectively. Outside these sites, most regularly seen at Wied Ghajn Rihana also through most of year, with max. 12, including chicks, on 07 Jun. Otherwise also recorded in most months, including breeding, at various other sites, such as Ramla Dam, Wied Sara, Wied Ta' Żejta and Żejtun, mostly in low single figures, with max. 8 at Ramla Dam on 25 Mar and 10 at Wied Ta' Żejta on 22 May.

Common Coot (Tigieġa tal-Baħar) *Fulica atra*

Sightings almost daily from 01 Jan to 10 May, always in single figures but 10 at Simar NR on 07 Mar, otherwise up to 8 throughout Jan. Then again almost daily from 27 Aug to 31 Dec, with max. 4 at Simar NR on several dates from Oct to Dec. All recorded at Simar NR, except two at Għadira NR.

Common Crane (Grawwa) *Grus grus*

A poor year with only 3 sightings: 1 at Tal-Bardan on 21 Oct, 2 at Bingemma on 13 Nov and 1 at Ta' Gianpula on 23 Nov.

European Storm-petrel (Kangu ta' Filfla) *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Sporadic sightings on 26 Apr, 12 May, 18 May and 30 Jun, including 30 offshore NE of Malta on 12 May. Then regular sightings from 13 Jul to 09 Sep. Counts from land generally in single or low double figures. Highest offshore counts of 500 and 200 at the South-East Aquaculture Zone on 28 Aug and 08 Sep respectively. Unseasonal records of 15 at Qawra on 23 Oct and 1 at Ċirkewwa on 16 Dec. Breeding in large numbers on Filfla as usual.

705 ringed (Apr–Sep except 1 rescued bird in Dec), most (696) on Filfla.

Swinhoe's Storm-petrel (Kangu tal-Lvant) *Hydrobates monorhis*

1 offshore Marsaskala on 28 Aug gave exceptional views to several birders (Fig. 04). This was the second confirmed record for Malta and is likely the same bird observed on 25 Aug 2019, which was the first record.

Scopoli's Shearwater (Ċiefa) *Calonectris diomedea*

Regular sightings from 21 Feb to 16 May and from 19 Jun to 30 Oct, followed by unseasonal records of 2 and 1 at Qawra on 24 Nov and 17 Dec respectively. Regular counts in triple figures, with max. 800 at Ta' Ċenċ on 15 Aug and at Tas-Safra on 21 Sep. Breeding in localised colonies as usual.

46 ringed (Jun–Oct), mostly (20) at Fungus Rock.

Cory's Shearwater (Ċiefa tal-Atlantiku) *Calonectris borealis*

1 on 25 Jul at Ta' Ċenċ rafting with breeding Scopoli's Shearwaters photographed during a BirdLife Malta boat trip (Fig. 05). This was the second confirmed record for Malta (first record was in Jul 2019).

Yelkouan Shearwater (Garnija) *Puffinus yelkouan*

Regular sightings from 01 Jan to 18 May, then sporadically till



Fig. 05. The second Cory's Shearwater (bird at right) for Malta, at Ta' Ċenċ on 25 Jul

Mario V Gauci



Fig. 06. An exceptionally early White Stork at its overnight roost at Mtarfa on 18 Feb

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Fig. 07. This Eurasian Spoonbill graced Salina NR for some days in early Sep

06 Aug. Then 1 on 01 Sep, then regularly again from 23 Oct to 23 Dec. Regular counts in low double figures, with max. 350 at Ċirkewwa on 11 Mar, 300 at Majjistral Park on 05 Apr and 130 at Fomm ir-Riĥ on 30 Apr. Breeding in localised colonies as usual.

222 ringed (Feb to Aug), mostly (135) at L-Ahrax. 1 ringed in Malta controlled in Turkey.

Black Stork (Ċikonja Sewda) *Ciconia nigra*

In spring, 1 at Ġhajn Tuffieħa and Manoel Island on 29 Mar. In autumn, 2 at Pembroke on 21 Sep and 2 at Dwejra (M) and Buskett on 15 Oct.

White Stork (Ċikonja Bajda) *Ciconia ciconia*

1 exceptionally early bird seen from various locations from 16–18 Feb (Fig. 06), followed by 1 at Buskett on 15 Oct.

Eurasian Spoonbill (Paletta) *Platalea leucorodia*

A poor year with 1 at Ghadira NR on 08 Apr, then 1 at Ras il-Gżira (Marsaskala) on 03 Sep and 1 at Salina NR from 04–08 Sep (Fig. 07).

Glossy Ibis (Velleran) *Plegadis falcinellus*

In spring, 17 at Ċirkewwa on 17 Mar and 60 at Qammieħ on 25 Mar, followed by 1 at Ghadira NR on 28 Mar. In autumn, 10 at Ras il-Gżira (Marsaskala) on 09 Aug, 12 at Tas-Safra on 14 Aug, 9 at Simar NR on 31 Aug, 4 and 3 at Qawra on 09 and 11 Sep respectively (Fig. 08), and 1 at Mellieħa on 17 Sep. Autumn sightings of this species seem to be on the increase.

Eurasian Bittern (Kappun) *Botaurus stellaris*

In spring, singles at Ghadira NR on 16 and 24 Apr and at Wied Blandun on 28 Apr. Then in autumn, singles at Ghadira NR on 15 Oct, and at Kemmuna on 25 Oct and 03 Nov. This species is mostly heard calling after sunset and is likely under-recorded.

Common Little Bittern (Russett tas-Sigar) *Ixobrychus minutus*

In spring, sightings on 12 dates from 05 Mar to 19 May. All sightings of singles except for 15 at Ġhar Lapsi on 28 Apr and 3 at Ta' Ċenċ on 10 May. In autumn, sightings on 4 dates from 03–30 Aug, always singles but 3 at Tal-Bardan on 30 Aug. Mostly heard calling after sunset and is likely under-recorded.

Black-crowned Night-heron (Kwakka) *Nycticorax nycticorax*

First sightings on 20 Feb, 11 Mar and 16 Mar, then almost daily from 20 Mar to 01 May, then sporadically till 24 May. Spring counts generally in low single figures, with max. 20 and 18 at Kemmuna on 16 Apr and 01 May respectively. Then in summer, sightings on 4 dates from 16 Jun to 12 Jul, always singles but

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Fig. 08. Autumn sightings of Glossy Ibis, such as these 4 at Qawra on 09 Sep, seem to be on the increase



Fig. 09. Three out of five Great White Egrets at Simar NR on 09 Oct, here joined by Little Egrets and Cattle Egrets

3 at L-Aħrax on 10 Jul. Then in autumn, regular sightings from 02 Aug to 04 Nov. Autumn counts regularly in double figures, with max. 70 at Valletta on 11 Sep and 60 at Buskett on 01 Sep.

Squacco Heron (Agrett Isfar) *Ardeola ralloides*

In spring, sightings almost daily from 30 Mar to 23 May followed by 1 late bird at Għadira NR from 20–26 Jun. Spring counts mostly of low single figures, with max. 11 at Dwejra (G) on 16 Apr and 6 at Salina NR on 30 Mar. In autumn, sightings on 7 dates from 02 Aug to 20 Sep, including 14 at Tas-Safra on 02 Aug, 6 at Ras il-Gżira (Marsaskala) on 08 Aug and 29 at Valletta on 29 Aug.

Cattle Egret (Agrett tal-Bhejjem) *Bubulcus ibis*

Feral population in Salina NR area present throughout year with up to 260 birds counted on a single day. The presence of these birds can make identification of genuine wild migrants difficult. Apparently wild birds recorded mainly in small numbers in spring from 05 Apr to 16 May, with max. 3 at Simar NR on 15-16 May, and in higher numbers in autumn from 31 Aug to 17 Dec, with max. 28 at Santa Venera on 10 Sep and 18 at Simar NR on 09 Oct.

Grey Heron (Russett Griz) *Ardea cinerea*

1 at Buskett on 02 Jan and 1 at Salina NR on 08 Feb, then regular sightings from 17 Feb to 10 Jun. Spring counts mostly in single figures, with max. 41 at Ċumnija and 29 at Salina NR on 20 Mar. Then in autumn, almost daily from 07 Aug to 29 Nov, followed by 3 late birds at Qawra on 18 Dec. Regular autumn counts of low double figures, with max. 41 at Qawra on 01 Sep and 40 at Majjistral Park on 31 Aug.

Purple Heron (Russett Aħmar) *Ardea purpurea*

In spring, sightings almost daily from 19–31 Mar, and regularly from 11 Apr to 02 May, followed by late birds at Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq on 21 May and at Salina NR on 14 Jun. Spring counts all in single figures, with max. 9 at Kemmuna on 17 Apr and 6 at Simar NR on 20 and 29 Mar. In autumn, regular sightings from 02 Aug to 12 Oct. Autumn counts mostly in single figures, with max. 40 at Qawra and 33 at Simar NR on 01 Sep.

Great White Egret (Russett Abjad) *Ardea alba*

1 at Simar NR on 08 Feb. In spring, sightings on 6 dates from 02–29 Apr, always singles but 5 at Ċirkewwa on 02 Apr and 2 at Xrobb I-Għaġin on 20 Apr. In autumn, sightings on 13 dates from 16 Aug to 31 Oct, always singles but 2 at Salina NR on 15 Sep and 5 at Simar NR on 09 Oct (Fig. 09) of which 2 stayed till 12 Oct.

Little Egret (Agrett Abjad) *Egretta garzetta*

Resident feral population present in the Salina, Simar and Għadira NR general area throughout year with ca 15 regularly present at these sites. The presence of these birds can make identification of genuine wild migrants difficult. Definite spring migrants noted regularly from 03 Mar to 05 May, with max. 40 at Dwejra (G), and 21 at Kemmuna on 16 Apr. Autumn migrants noted from 06 Aug to 16 Oct, with max. 54 at Valletta on 15 Oct.

Northern Gannet (Sula) *Morus bassanus*

Sightings on 9 dates from 04 Jan to 27 Feb, all of 1–2 birds. Then singles at Tigné Point on 23 Nov, and at Qbajjar and Valletta on 24 Dec. Sightings of this species seem to be on the decline.

Aron Tanti



Fig. 10. 2022 was a relatively good year for Eurasian Oystercatchers, including this flock at Tas-Safra on 31 Jul

Great Cormorant (Margun) *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Regular sightings from 01 Jan to 19 Apr, followed by late birds on 07 May. Then again regularly from 01 Sep to 26 Dec. Sightings from various sites mainly around coast. Max. 155 at Simar NR on 23 Feb and 140 at Ras il-Gżira (Marsaskala) on 22 Feb.

Eurasian Thick-knee (Tellerita) *Burhinus oedicanus*

In spring, sightings on 7 dates from 11 Mar to 26 Apr, always singles but 2 at Wied il-Mielah on 11 Apr. In autumn, sightings on 9 dates from 23 Sep to 10 Nov, always 1–2 birds but 3 at Majjistral Park on 05 Oct and at Kemmuna on 30 Oct.

Eurasian Oystercatcher (Gallina tal-Baħar) *Haematopus ostralegus*

A relatively good year for this species: 11 at Gajdoru on 09 Jul, 1 at Filfla on 21 Jul, 9 at Qawra on 31 Jul, 19 on 31 Jul (Fig. 10), 18 on 06 Aug, 24 on 20 Aug, and 3 on 23 Aug, all at Tas-Safra, and 1 at Qawra on 24 Aug.

Pied Avocet (Xifa) *Recurvirostra avosetta*

2 at Salina NR on 29 Mar (Fig. 11), 1 at Għadira NR on 09 Nov and 28 in 2 flocks at Qawra on 21 Dec.

Black-winged Stilt (Fras-servjent) *Himantopus himantopus*

Sightings on most dates from 14 Mar to 15 May, always in single figures but 10 at Salina NR on 16 Mar and 01 Apr. Then 1–3 birds at Salina NR from 27 May to 15 Jun and at Għadira NR from 03–10 Jul. Then, regular sightings from 04 Aug to 30 Sep, almost all of 1–2 birds at Għadira NR and Salina NR, but 5 at Għadira NR on 21 Aug and 12 at Simar NR on 18 Sep.

Grey Plover (Pluviera Griza) *Pluvialis squatarola*

Singles at Salina NR on 20 Jul, at Simar NR on 02 Aug, at Birkirkara on 11 Aug*, at Salina NR and Tas-Safra (same bird) from 20–24 Aug, at Ras il-Gżira (Marsaskala) on 30 Aug, at Manoel Island on 31 Aug, at Dwejra (G) on 07 Sep and at Ta' Barkat on 06 Nov.

Eurasian Golden Plover (Pluviera) *Pluvialis apricaria*

Singles on 20 Jan at Kemmuna, at L-Aħrax and Luqa Airport on 02 Mar, at Birkirkara on 09 Mar*, and 6 at Ta' Xħajma on 13 Mar. 1 unseasonal bird at Għadira NR on 02 Jul possibly escapee. Then sightings on 9 dates from 06 Nov to 06 Dec, always in low single figures but 10 at Ta' Gianpula on 26 Nov.

Eurasian Dotterel (Birwina)

Eudromias morinellus

A poor year with singles at Ta' Ċenċ on 08 and 12 Apr, at Kemmuna on 08 and 10 Nov, and at Salina NR on 10 Nov.

Common Ringed Plover (Monakella Prima)

Charadrius hiaticula

1 at Salina NR on 24 Jan. In spring, sightings almost daily from 04 Apr to 02 Jun. All spring counts in single figures, with max. 8 at Salina NR on 08 and 11 May. In autumn, regular sightings from 08 Jul to 23 Nov, followed by late birds on 04 Dec and 17 Dec. All autumn counts in single figures but 11 at Salina NR on 22 Sep.

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Fig. 11. Pied Avocets at Salina NR on 29 Mar

3 ringed (excl. confiscated and/or rehabilitated birds), all at Għadira NR in autumn.

Little Ringed Plover (Monakella) *Charadrius dubius*
Sightings almost throughout year. Sightings on 7 dates from 01 Jan to 07 Feb, including 4 at Għadira NR on 07 Feb. Then almost daily from 18 Feb till 28 Nov, followed by 1 at Għadira NR on 07–08 Dec. Exceptional passage on 20 Mar, with 60 at Ta' Xhajma and 52 at Għadira NR. Otherwise counts regularly in low double figures. At least 3–4 pairs bred at Għadira NR (Fig. 12). 1 pair also bred at Salina NR, but nest was predated by gulls.

10 ringed (excl. confiscated and/or rehabilitated birds).

Kentish Plover (Monakella Żgħira)

Charadrius alexandrinus

1 at Ras il-Gżira (Marsaskala) on 10 Aug.

Northern Lapwing (Venewwa) *Vanellus vanellus*

Only 2 sightings: 1 at Iż-Żebbuġ (G) on 05 Nov and 4 at Luqa Airport on 27 Nov.

Whimbrel (Gurlin Sekond) *Numenius phaeopus*

In spring, 1 at Ċirkewwa on 15 Mar and 61 at Ċirkewwa and 1 at Birkirkara* on 21 Mar. In autumn, 3 at Qawra and 1 at Tas-Safra on 02 Jul, 1 at Tas-Safra from 09–10 Jul, 1 offshore on 13 Jul, 1 at Majjistral Park on 29 Aug, 3 at Qawra on 01 Sep, 1 at Pembroke on 04 Sep, and 1 at Valletta on 25 Sep.

Eurasian Curlew (Gurlin) *Numenius arquata*

In spring, singles at Burmarrad on 15 Mar, at Qammieħ on 21 Mar and at Luqa Airport on 22 Mar. In autumn, a flock of 12 in the Kemmuna Channel on 20 Jul, 2 at Dwejra (M) on 23 Sep, 1 at Kemmuna on 29 Oct, and 3 at Kemmuna on 02 Nov.

Ruddy Turnstone (Monakella Imperjali) *Arenaria interpres*

A poor year with only 3 sightings in autumn: 1 at Ras il-Gżira (Marsaskala) on 10 Aug, 2 at Tas-Safra on 22 Aug and 1 at Tas-Safra on 24 Aug.

Ruff (Girwiel) *Calidris pugnax*

In spring, sightings on most days from 02 Mar to 27 May. Regular spring counts in low double figures, with max. 29 at Għadira NR on 20 Mar and 27 at Luqa Airport on 21 Mar. Then 1 at Għadira NR on 27 Jul, followed by daily sightings from 23–28 Sep, with max. 10 at Luqa Airport on 24 Sep.

Curlew Sandpiper (Pispisella Ħamra) *Calidris ferruginea*

In spring, sightings on most dates from 02 Apr to 14 May. Spring counts generally in low single figures, with max. 11 at Għadira NR on 09 May. In autumn, regular sightings from 24 Jul to 01 Oct. Autumn counts always in single figures, with max. 8 at Għadira NR on 28 Sep.



Fig. 12. Little Ringed Plover fledgling at Għadira NR (09 Jul)

2 ringed (excl. confiscated and/or rehabilitated birds), both in autumn at Għadira NR.

Temminck's Stint (Tertuxa Griża) *Calidris temminckii*

In spring, sightings on 11 dates from 25 Apr to 12 May, always of 1–2 birds. In autumn, sightings on 12 dates from 22 Jul to 23 Sep, always singles but 2 at Għadira NR on 24 Aug. All sightings at Salina NR and Għadira NR.

3 ringed, all in autumn at Għadira NR. 1 ringed in Hungary controlled.

Dunlin (Pispisella tad-Dabra) *Calidris alpina*

1–3 present at Salina NR from 01 Jan to 23 Feb. 1 at Salina NR on 14 Mar. In autumn, first bird on 09 Jul, then on most days from 17 Jul to 22 Dec. Autumn counts mostly in low single figures, with max. 9 at Salina NR on 23 Sep.

5 ringed (all in autumn), all at Għadira NR.

Little Stint (Tertuxa) *Calidris minuta*

1–2 at Salina NR from 04–31 Jan. Then almost daily from 13 Feb to 05 Jun. Regular spring counts in double figures, with max. 45 at Salina NR from 29–30 May. Then in autumn, first sighting on 10 Jul, then almost daily from 16 Jul to 26 Nov. Autumn counts mostly in single figures, with max. 15 at Salina NR on 21 Aug.

81 ringed (excl. confiscated and/or rehabilitated birds), 2 in spring and 79 in autumn; most (74) at Għadira NR.

Eurasian Woodcock (Gallina) *Scolopax rusticola*

Singles at Wied Għollieqa on 12 Jan, at Kemmuna and at Qawra on 04 Nov, at Żebbuġ (G) on 05 Nov, at Kemmuna on 09 Nov, at Wied Ħarq Ħamiem on 11 Nov and 2 at Buskett on 12 Nov. As usual this species is highly under-recorded by birders.



Fig. 13. The sixth Terek Sandpiper for Malta at Ghadira NR from 28 May to 04 Jun provided exceptional views to multiple birders

Common Snipe (Bekkaċċ) *Gallinago gallinago*

Sightings on most days from 01 Jan to 20 Apr, always in low single figures with max. 4 on 03 Mar at Ghadira NR. Then in autumn, first sighting on 07 Aug, then regularly from 29 Aug to 16 Nov, always of 1–2 birds.

2 ringed in Mar at Ghadira NR.

Jack Snipe (Ċinkonja) *Limnocyptes minimus*

1 on 20 Jan, 1 on 12 Mar, 2 on 22 Mar and 1 on 31 Mar, all at Ghadira NR. Singles at Wied Ghajn Rihana on 19 Feb and from 04–05 Mar, followed by 1 at Marsa from 23–25 Mar. Then singles at Simar NR on 19 Oct and at Wied Ghajn Rihana on 20 Oct.

Terek Sandpiper (Pispisella tax-Xifa) *Xenus cinereus*

1 at Ghadira NR from 28 May to 04 Jun (Fig. 13). This is the sixth confirmed record for Malta but only the first seen by birders (previous record was in May 2020).

Common Sandpiper (Pispisella) *Actitis hypoleucos*

Sightings practically daily throughout year except for late May to mid-Jun, with some birds lingering in summer mainly at Salina NR. Max. 15 on 01 Apr and 14 on 30 Aug at Salina NR.

70 ringed (excl. confiscated and/or rehabilitated birds), most at Simar NR. 1 ringed in Malta controlled in Poland.

Green Sandpiper (Swejda) *Tringa ochropus*

In spring, first sightings on 11 and 13 Feb, then almost daily from 28 Feb to 14 Apr followed by relatively late birds on 22–23 Apr and 01 May. Spring counts always in single figures, with max. 7 at Salina NR on 14 Apr. In autumn, first sighting on 14 Jun, then regularly from 21 Jun to 20 Oct, followed by late birds on 11 Nov, 14 Nov and 16 Dec. Autumn counts always in single figures, with max. 9 at Ghadira NR on 10 Jul.

8 ringed (excl. confiscated and/or rehabilitated birds), 2 in spring and 6 in autumn; most (7) at Ghadira NR.

Spotted Redshank (Ċuvett) *Tringa erythropus*

In spring an exceptional record of a flock of 9 at Ghadira NR on



Fig. 14. Multiple sightings of Collared Pratincole at Salina NR, including these 2 on 06 Apr, gave birders rare close views

20 Mar. In autumn, singles at Salina NR on 11 Jun, at Ghadira NR on 26 Jun, at Salina NR on 03 Sep and at Ghadira NR on 21 Oct, followed by 2 at Ghadira NR on 08 Dec.

Common Greenshank (Ċewċewwa) *Tringa nebularia*

In spring, sightings on 12 dates from 19 Mar to 25 May, with counts always in low single figures, with max. 4 at Ghadira NR and Salina NR on 20 Mar. In autumn, regular sightings from 29 Jun to 12 Oct, followed by late birds on 10 Nov, 24 Nov and 23 Dec. The 24 Nov record was the highest count, with 5 birds at Salina NR.

Common Redshank (Pluverott) *Tringa totanus*

In spring, 1 at Kemmuna on 14 Mar, 1 at Salina NR from 11–12 Apr, 1 at Kemmuna on 19 Apr, and 1 at Salina NR on 22 Apr. In autumn, singles from 29–30 Jun, on 10 Jul and on 14 Jul all at Ghadira NR, at Żebbiegħ on 13 Aug and at Salina NR on 06 Sep.

2 ringed (1 in spring, 1 in autumn).

Wood Sandpiper (Swejda Ċara) *Tringa glareola*

In spring, first sightings on 01 Mar, then on most days from 14 Mar to 21 May. Most spring counts in low single figures, with max. 11 at Ghadira NR on 28 Mar. Then in autumn, first sighting on 23 Jun then on most days from 02 Jul to 15 Nov. All sightings in single figures but 26 at Ghadira NR on 11 Aug.

9 ringed (excl. confiscated and/or rehabilitated birds). 1 ringed in Finland observed.

Marsh Sandpiper (Ċewċewwa Żghira) *Tringa stagnatilis*

Only 2 sightings: singles at Salina NR on 28 Mar and from 26–30 Sep.

Collared Pratincole (Perniċjotta) *Glareola pratincola*

2 on 06 Apr (Fig. 14), 1 from 15–16 May and 1 on 01 Jun, all at Salina NR.

Little Gull (Gawwija Żghira) *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Singles at Birzebbuga from 22–24 Feb and at Salina NR on 10

Mar. Then 1 on 11 dates from 17 Nov to 27 Dec at Salina NR (Fig. 15). All sightings involved first-winter birds.

Black-legged Kittiwake (Gawwija tal-Ingilterra) *Rissa tridactyla*
An atypical record of this predominantly pelagic species of 1 at Simar NR on 09 Jan (Fig. 16), followed by first-winter birds at Birżebbuġa and Marsaxlokk from 12–14 Jan and at Salina NR on 19 Jan. Then singles at Qawra on 27 Nov, at Valletta on 10 Dec, at Salina NR on 12 Dec, at Valletta on 13 Dec and at Marsaskala on 15 Dec. All sightings involved first-winter birds.

Slender-billed Gull (Gawwija Munqarha Rqiq) *Larus genei*
Regular sightings from 01 Jan to 11 May, always in low single figures, with max. 4 on three dates in Jan and on 01 Apr at Salina NR. Then 1–2 at Salina NR from 13–15 July and on 6 dates from 21 Aug to 18 Sep. Then sightings on most dates from 28 Oct to 30 Dec, always in single figures, with max. 9 at Salina NR on 02 Dec.

Black-headed Gull (Gawwija Rasha Kannella) *Larus ridibundus*
Sightings daily from 01 Jan to 01 May, commonly in quadruple figures in Jan and Feb always at Salina NR, with max. 4000 on 22 Feb and 2800 on 02 Feb. Then more sporadically on 13 dates from 07 May to 01 Jul in low single figures. Then regularly from 06 Jul to 12 Sep and practically daily from 15 Sep to 31 Dec. Counts commonly in quadruple figures in Nov and Dec, with max. 3000 and 2800 on 23 Nov and 26 Dec respectively, both at Salina.

1 ringed (excl. confiscated and/or rehabilitated birds) in Dec at Salina NR. 5 ringed in Poland, 1 ringed in Ukraine, 2 ringed in Croatia and 7 ringed in Hungary observed.

Pallas's Gull (Gawwija Imperjali) *Larus ichthyaetus*
1 adult seen very briefly at Salina NR on 10 Dec (Fig. 17) – the third confirmed record for Malta (previous record was in Mar 2018).

Mediterranean Gull (Gawwija Rasha Sewda) *Larus melanocephalus*
Sightings almost daily throughout year. Daily in at least double or triple figures from 01 Jan to 29 Apr, with max. 1600 and 1100 at Salina NR on 13 Jan and 22 Feb respectively. Then almost daily from 29 Apr to 26 Oct, with at least 4 lingering at Salina NR throughout summer. The again daily in at least double figures from 27 Oct to 31 Dec, with max. 600 at Salina NR on 26 Dec.

1 ringed in Nov at Salina NR. 1 ringed in Spain observed.

Audouin's Gull (Gawwija Munqarha Ahmar) *Larus audouinii*
Regular sightings from 01 Jan to 09 Feb and from 21 Feb to 19 Mar, followed by late birds from 04–06 Apr. Then first summer sighting on 25 July, then regularly from 02 Aug to 23 Oct. Then sightings on 6 dates from 23 Nov to 17 Dec. Highest winter count of 20 at Birżebbuġa on 02 Mar. Highest summer count of 4 at Tas-Safra on 14 and 23 Aug.

2 ringed in Italy observed.



Fig. 15. This first-winter Little Gull at Salina NR on 12 Dec was seen on multiple dates in Nov and Dec



Fig. 16. This first-winter Black-legged Kittiwake at Simar NR on 09 Jan was an unusual record of this predominantly pelagic species



Fig. 17. The third Pallas's Gull for Malta that turned up briefly at Salina NR on 10 Dec



Fig. 18. Salina NR has become a regular site for Mew Gulls, such as this first-winter bird on 14 Dec

Mew Gull (Gawwija Sekonda) *Larus canus*

Sightings on 14 dates from 29 Nov to 20 Dec (Fig. 18), all at Salina NR with max. 3 on 15 Dec.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (Gawwija Daharha Iswed) *Larus fuscus*

Sightings practically throughout year. Sightings almost daily from 01 Jan to 08 May, with regular counts in double figures at Salina NR with max. 25 on 01st and 08 Feb. Then singles on 19 May and 09 Jun. Then again almost daily from 10 Jun to 30 Dec. Again regular double figure counts at Salina NR, with max. 20 on 22nd and 29 Nov. In recent years some birds have started to turn up at Salina NR in summer.

3 ringed in Finland and 1 ringed in Norway observed.

Yellow-legged Gull (Gawwija Prima) *Larus michahellis*

Resident species present throughout year, with max. up to

1500. Breeding mainly on Filfla as usual, but also at smaller scattered colonies such as St Paul's Islands and Kemmuna.

132 ringed, of which 114 pulli from breeding colonies on Filfla and St Paul's Islands. 1 ringed in Malta controlled in Italy.

Caspian Gull (Gawwija tal-Kaspju) *Larus cachinnans*

Sightings almost daily from 01 Jan to 29 Mar, then more sporadically until 13 May, almost all at Salina NR with max. 12 on 31 Jan. Then sightings on 17 dates from 18 Nov to 29 Dec, always at Salina NR with max. 3 on 04 Dec.

Singles ringed in Czechia, Poland and Germany observed.

Common Gull-billed Tern (Ċirlewwa Bumunqar) *Gelochelidon nilotica*

In spring, singles at Salina NR on 12 Apr and at Dwejra (G) on 16 Apr. 2 at Ghadira NR on 31 Jul. Then singles at Qawra on 01 Sep and at Salina NR on 05 Sep (Fig. 19).

Caspian Tern (Ċirlewwa Prima) *Hydroprogne caspia*

In spring, 1 at Salina NR on 19 Apr. In autumn, sightings on 9 dates from 09 Aug to 16 Oct, followed by 1 unseasonal bird at Salina NR on 26 Dec. Counts always in low single figures, with max. 4 at Ghadira NR on 05 Oct.

Black Tern (Ċirlewwa Sewda) *Chlidonias niger*

An unusual spring record of 1 at Ghadira NR from 08–10 May. Then in autumn, sightings on 18 dates from 30 Jul to 11 Sep. Sightings from land generally in single to low double figures. Offshore counts at aquaculture zones higher, with max. 1000 at the South-East Aquaculture Zone on 28 Aug.

Common Tern (Ċirlewwa tal-Baħar) *Sterna hirundo*

1 at Qawra on 23 Nov.

Sandwich Tern (Ċirlewwa tax-Xitwa) *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

Thalasseus sandvicensis

Sightings almost daily from 01 Jan to 25 Apr, regularly in low double figures at Salina NR, with max. 25 on 22 Mar and 21 on 28 Mar. Then on 13 dates from 11 Aug to 29 Oct, then on most days from 19 Nov to 30 Dec, always in single figures, with max. 8 at Salina NR on 23 Dec.

Pomarine Jaeger (Skuwa) *Stercorarius pomarinus*

A poor year with only 1 at Ċirkezza on 16 Feb.

Great Skua (Skuwa Prima) *Catharacta skua*

Singles at Qbajjar on 11 Jan, offshore on 16 Jan, at Miġra l-Ferħa on 13 Mar, at Ċirkezza on 15 Mar and 18 Mar. 1 at Ras il-Gżira (Marsaskala) on 13 Jan, 22 Feb and 27 Feb and at Żonqor on 21 Feb was likely the same wintering individual.

Razorbill (Mus) *Alca torda*

1 unidentified auk seen at Ras il-Gżira (Marsaskala) on



Fig. 19. Autumn sightings of Common Gull-billed Tern, such as this first-year bird at Salina NR on 05 Sep, seem to be on the increase



Fig. 20. An exceptional influx of Razorbills into the Mediterranean also produced a few birds in Malta, including this one which gave birders excellent views at Valletta on 25 Nov.

13 Jan was probably this species. This was followed by records of 1 at Mġarr (G) on 14 Jan and 1 filmed by a spearfisher at Kemmuna on 15 Jan. Then in Nov an exceptional influx into the Mediterranean also brought a few to Malta: 1 on 24 Nov at Pembroke, 1 on 25 Nov in Grand Harbour (possibly same bird) (Fig. 20), 1 at Qawra on 01 Dec and 1 found dead at Xwejini on 01 Dec. These were the 15th to 19th records for Malta.

Eurasian Scops-owl (Kokka) *Otus scops*

In spring, sightings of singles on 9 dates from 31 Mar to 03 May. In autumn, sightings on 13 dates from 20 Sep to 02 Nov, followed by 1 at Buskett on 23 Dec. All sightings of singles but 2 at Kemmuna on 20 Oct.

23 ringed (9 in spring, 14 in autumn), most (9) at Manikata.

Northern Long-eared Owl (Qattus) *Asio otus*

1 ♂ ringed at Kemmuna on 01 Nov (Fig. 21).

Short-eared Owl (Kokka tax-Xagħri) *Asio flammeus*

Sightings on 15 dates from 15 Jan to 24 Apr, always of 1–2 birds. Then 1 at Girgenti on 16 Sep followed by sightings on most dates from 21 Oct to 18 Nov, then on 19 Dec, generally at Kemmuna. Most sightings in low single figures with max. 9 on 12 Nov and 8 on 19 Dec at Kemmuna.

18 ringed (excl. confiscated and/or rehabilitated birds), 1 in winter and 17 in autumn; all at Kemmuna.

Osprey (Arpa) *Pandion haliaetus*

In spring, sightings on 13 dates from 20 Mar to 14 May, always of 1–2 birds. Then in autumn, regular sightings from 22 Aug to 23 Oct, almost always in low single figures, with max. 9 at Buskett on 19 Sep.

1 ringed in Estonia observed.

European Honey-buzzard (Kučċarda) *Pernis apivorus*

In spring, sightings on 17 dates from 18 Apr to 02 Jun, followed by late birds on 26 Jun and 05 Jul. Spring counts all in single figures except 10 at Ghar Ilma on 22 Apr and 10 at Kemmuna on



Fig. 21. This ♂ Northern Long-eared Owl was ringed at Kemmuna on 01 Nov

Arón Tanti



Fig. 22. Short-toed Snake-eagle at Dwejra (M) on 12 Oct

Nicholas Galea



Fig. 23. Lesser Spotted Eagle at Buskett on 25 Sep

Benjamin Metzger



Fig. 24. The fourth Levant Sparrowhawk for Malta at Buskett on 04 Oct

24 Apr. In autumn, first birds on 23 and 24 Aug, then practically daily from 27 Aug to 16 Oct followed by late birds on 20 Oct, 27 Oct and 09 Nov. Autumn counts regularly in higher double and triple figures, with max. 527 and 297 at Buskett on 14 Sep and 15 Sep respectively.

Egyptian Vulture (Avultun Abjad) *Neophron percnopterus*
Singles on 14 Sep seen from Buskett and Dwejra (M) and on 02 Oct at Żurrieq.

Short-toed Snake-eagle (Ajklja Bajda) *Circaetus gallicus*
Singles at Buskett on 05 Oct, at Victoria on 06 Oct, at Santa Venera on 08 Oct, at Dwejra (M) on 12–13 Oct (Fig. 22), at Żebbiegh on 15 Oct and 2 at Luqa Airport on 24 Oct.

Lesser Spotted Eagle (Ajklja tat-Tikek) *Clanga pomarina*
Singles on 21st and 25 Sep at Buskett (Fig. 23) and on 26 Sep in Gozo.

Booted Eagle (Ajklja tal-Kalzetti) *Hieraaetus pennatus*
1 light morph from 01–04 Oct and 1 dark morph on 08 Oct, both at Buskett.

Western Marsh-harrier (Bagħdan Aħmar) *Circus aeruginosus*
In spring, first sighting on 03 Mar, then daily from 07 Mar to 06 May and more sporadically to 20 May. Regular spring counts in low double figures, with max. 30 at Siġġiewi and 27 at Wied Ghajn Riħana on 28 Mar. In autumn, sightings practically daily from 12 Aug to 31 Oct, then sporadically till 16 Nov. Autumn counts commonly in high double and low triple figures, with max. 157 and 133 at Buskett on 17 Sep and 14 Sep respectively.

Hen Harrier (Bagħdan Ikħal) *Circus cyaneus*
1 ♀ wintering on Kemmuna last seen on 23 Mar. In spring, 1 ♀ at Ġebel Ciantar on 05 Apr. In autumn, singles at Dwejra (M) on 08 Oct, at Delimara and at Majjistral Park on 15 Nov and at Qrendi on 28 Nov.

Pallid Harrier (Bagħdan Abjad) *Circus macrourus*
In spring, sightings on 23 dates from 15 Mar to 01 May, always in low single figures with max. 4 at Luqa Airport on 28 Mar and at Tal-Bardan on 01 and 04 Apr. In autumn, sightings on 8 dates from 13 Sep to 22 Oct, always in low single figures, with max. 4 at Buskett on 21 Sep.

Montagu's Harrier (Bagħdan Griż) *Circus pygargus*
In spring, sightings on most days from 28 Mar to 05 May, then sporadically till 13 May. All spring counts in low single figures, with max. 5 at Għar Ilma on 22 Apr. In autumn, first sighting on 21 Aug, then almost daily from 27 Aug to 14 Sep. Autumn counts mostly in low single figures, with max. 10 and 7 at Buskett on 31 Aug and 07 Sep respectively.

Levant Sparrowhawk (Sparvier tal-Lvant) *Accipiter brevipes*
1 ♂ at Buskett from 03–04 Oct (Fig. 24). This is the fourth confirmed record for Malta (previous record was in Oct 2020).

Eurasian Sparrowhawk (Sparvier) *Accipiter nisus*
In spring, sightings of singles on 4 dates from 17 to 29 Apr. In autumn, sightings almost daily from 10 Sep to 02 Nov, then sporadically on 3 dates from 07 to 28 Nov. Autumn counts almost always in low single figures, with max. 6 at Buskett on 06 Oct and 5 at Dwejra on 25 Sep.

1 ringed (excl. confiscated and/or rehabilitated birds) in Sep at Għadira NR.

Red Kite (Astun Aħmar) *Milvus milvus*
Singles at Buskett on 03rd, 06th and 10 Oct.

Black Kite (Astun Iswed) *Milvus Migrans*

A poor spring, with singles on 6 dates from 19 Apr to 10 May. In autumn, sightings almost daily from 21 Aug to 02 Sep and from 07 to 25 Sep, then more sporadically on 6 dates from 03 Oct to 05 Nov. Autumn counts generally in single figures of up to 7 on 4 dates but one exceptional flock of 22 at Mtarfa on 23 Aug.

Eurasian Buzzard (Kučċarda Prima) *Buteo buteo*

Singles on 12 Feb at Kemmuna and on 15 Dec at Salina NR (Fig. 25).

Common Hoopoe (Daquqa tat-Toppu) *Upupa epops*

In spring, first sighting on 03 Mar, then almost daily from 12 Mar to 03 May. Sightings of 1–2 lingering birds at two sites from mid-May to early Jun raised hopes of breeding, but no breeding confirmed. Spring counts always in single figures with max. 7 at Qammieħ on 12 Mar and at Kemmuna on 14 Mar. In autumn, regular sightings from 15 Aug to 07 Oct, always of 1–2 birds but 3 at Manoel Island on 02 Sep and at Għadira NR on 03 Sep.

18 ringed (17 in spring, 1 in autumn), most (6) at Kemmuna.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater (Qerd in-Naħal Aħdar) *Merops persicus*

1 at Għarb on 01 May. This is the 13th confirmed record for Malta (previous record was in May 2018).

European Bee-eater (Qerd in-Naħal) *Merops apiaster*

In spring, sightings almost daily from 03 Apr to 26 May, then on 6 dates in Jun till 20 Jun. An unsuccessful breeding attempt recorded in Victoria (G). Spring counts regularly in high double and triple figures, with max. 250 at Kemmuna on 26 Apr and 184 at Salina NR on 03 May. In autumn, sightings daily from 24 Aug to 30 Sep, followed by late birds on 05 Oct and 25 Oct. Triple figure counts regular in autumn, with max. 600 at Buskett on 16 Sep and 440 at Dwejra (M) on 07 Sep.

76 ringed (excl. confiscated and/or rehabilitated birds), 31 in spring and 45 in autumn.

European Roller (Farruġ) *Coracias garrulus*

In spring, singles on 6 dates from 22 Apr to 14 May. In autumn, sightings on 6 dates from 27 Aug to 11 Sep followed by 1 on 01 Oct. All autumn counts of singles, but 2 at Ġirgenti and 4 at Buskett on 01 Sep.

Common Kingfisher (Għasfur ta' San Martin) *Alcedo atthis*

Sightings almost daily from 01 Jan to 27 Mar, all of 1–3 birds with max. 4 at Salina NR on 18 Feb. Then in autumn, first sighting on 18 Jul then almost daily from 24 Jul to 31 Dec. Max. 6 at Salina NR on 27 Sep.

41 ringed (2 in Feb–Mar, 39 in Jul–Nov), most (19) at Simar NR.

Eurasian Wryneck (Bulebbiet) *Jynx torquilla*

In winter, sightings on 10 dates from 01 Jan to 14 Feb, always of 1–2 birds. Then in spring, sightings on most days from 06 Mar to 30 Apr, always in low single figures, with max. 4 at Miġra



Benjamin Metzger

Fig. 25. This Eurasian Buzzard, showing gunshot injuries, turned up at Salina on 15 Dec

I-Ferħa on 22 Mar. In autumn, regular sightings from 27 Aug to 09 Dec, always of 1–2 birds, followed by 1 on 31 Dec at Buskett.

49 ringed (31 in spring, 18 in autumn), most (16) at Għadira NR.

Lesser Kestrel (Spanjulett Sekond) *Falco naumanni*

In spring, sightings almost daily from 04 Mar to 20 Apr, then more sporadically from 04 to 18 May. Spring counts generally in single or low double figures, with max. 30 at Wied Għajjn Rihana on 19 Mar and 25 at Chadwick Lakes on 01 Apr. In autumn, sightings almost daily from 03 Sep to 16 Oct. Autumn counts mostly in single and low double figures with occasional influxes, with an exceptional highest count of 177 at Tal-Bardan on 22 Sep, followed by 36 at Dwejra (M) on 19 Sep.

Common Kestrel (Spanjulett) *Falco tinnunculus*

Sightings on most dates from 01 Jan to 02 Jun. Winter sightings generally of 1–2 birds, with max. including 7 at Salina NR on 30 Mar, 6 at Prajjet on 16 Apr and 6 at Kemmuna on 21 Apr. In summer, sightings on 6 dates from 12 Jun to 09 Jul, always singles but 2 at Xlendi on 09 Jul. At least 2 pairs bred successfully in the western cliffs of Gozo. Then in autumn/winter, first sighting on 23 Aug then practically daily from 30 Aug to 30 Nov, and on 13 dates in Dec. Autumn counts mostly in single figures, with max. 10 at Tal-Bardan on 06 Oct, at Buskett on 10 Oct and at Dwejra (M) on 13 Oct.

1 ringed (excl. confiscated and/or rehabilitated birds) in spring at Kemmuna.

Kestrel sp. *Falco naumanni/tinnunculus*

Unidentified kestrels recorded regularly from 27 Feb to 21 May and from 18 Aug to 31 Oct. Highest counts included 12 at Ċirkewwa on 06 Mar and 12 at Luqa Airport on 08 Mar.

Red-footed Falcon (Żumbrell) *Falco vespertinus*

In spring, sightings on 14 dates from 15 Apr to 14 May. All spring counts in single figures but max. 16 at Gajdor on 30 Apr. In autumn, sightings on 7 dates from 07 Sep to 22 Oct, always singles, but 2 at Buskett on 28 Sep and at Dwejra (M) on 15 Oct.



Fig. 26. Saker Falcons, such as this one at Buskett on 13 Oct, are always a highlight

Eleonora's Falcon (Bies tar-Regina) *Falco eleonorae*

In spring, sightings on 11 dates from 22 Apr to 26 Jun, always singles but 2 at Ġebel Ciantar on 13 May. Then in autumn sightings on most dates from 26 Aug to 11 Oct. Almost all autumn counts of singles, with max. 4 at Buskett on 27 Aug and 3 at Tal-Bardan on 06 Sep.

Sooty Falcon (Żumbrell Għarbi) *Falco concolor*

1 at Buskett on 13 Sep. This is the fourth confirmed record for Malta (previous record was in Jun 1971).

Merlin (Seqer ta' Denbu) *Falco columbarius*

In spring, 1 at Kemmuna on 24 Apr. In autumn, sightings on 17 dates from 24 Sep to 25 Oct, always of 1–2 birds.

Eurasian Hobby (Seqer tal-Ħannieqa) *Falco subbuteo*

In spring, sightings on 25 dates from 28 Mar to 28 May. Most spring counts of low single figures, with max. 10 on 17 Apr and 6 on 18 Apr at Kemmuna and 6 on 09 and 22 Apr at Xagħra (G). Then in autumn, 1 early bird at Buskett on 12 Aug, then practically daily from 31 Aug to 22 Oct, followed by last sightings on 26 Oct. Regular autumn counts in low double figures, with max. 25 at Buskett on 19 Sep and 24 at Dwejra (M) on 13 Sep.

Saker Falcon (Bies tal-Lvant) *Falco cherrug*

Falco cherrug

Singles at Buskett on 08 and 13 Oct (Fig. 26).

Peregrine Falcon (Bies) *Falco peregrinus*

Falco peregrinus

Sightings almost throughout year. 1 at Salina NR on 09 Jan. Then sightings on 25 dates from 11 Mar to 01 May, always singles but 2 at Kemmuna on 27 Apr. Breeding confirmed at one location where one pair fledged 3 young; single birds also seen at other sites in late spring and summer. Then sightings on 20 dates from 12 Sep to 01 Dec, always singles but 2 at Buskett on 06 Oct.

Eurasian Golden Oriole (Tajra Safra) *Oriolus oriolus*

Oriolus oriolus

In spring, sightings on most dates from 30 Mar to 11 Jun, mostly low single figures with max. 30 at Buskett on 01 May. 1 unseasonal bird on 03 Jul at Buskett. In autumn, sightings on 12 dates from 25 Aug to 23 Sep, always

in low single figures with max. 5 at Buskett on 06 Sep.

17 ringed (all in spring), most (6) at Mtahleb.

Red-backed Shrike (Kaċċamendula Ħamra) *Lanius collurio*

Adult ♂♂ on 28 May at Simar NR and on 07 Aug at Kemmuna (the latter ringed) (Fig. 27), and a first-winter bird from 18–21 Oct at Kemmuna (ringed).

Woodchat Shrike (Kaċċamendula) *Lanius senator*

In spring, sightings on most dates from 29 Mar to 18 May, almost always in single figures, with max. 20 and 15 at Kemmuna on 25 Apr and 03 May respectively. In autumn, 1 at Dwejra (M) on 09 Aug.

29 ringed (all in spring), mostly (19) at Kemmuna.



Fig. 27. This adult ♂ Red-backed Shrike ringed at Kemmuna on 07 Aug was an unexpected surprise



Fig. 28. The 19th Greater Hoopoe-lark for Malta (at L-Ahrax from 23–25 Apr) was very approachable and gave great views

Greater Hoopoe-lark (Alwetta Bumunqar) *Alaemon alaudipes*
 1 at L-Ahrax from 23–25 Apr (Fig. 28). This is the 19th confirmed record for Malta (previous record was in Apr 2014).

Greater Short-toed Lark (Bilbla) *Calandrella brachydactyla*
 Relatively early birds on 06 and 07 Mar, then on most days

from 11 Mar to 27 Sep, including breeding birds in summer in suitable areas. Counts generally in single or low double figures, with max. 50 at Tal-Bardan on 30 Aug, 3 pulli ringed in Jun at Mġarr ix-Xini.

Eurasian Skylark (Alwetta) *Alauda arvensis*
 Sightings almost daily from 01 Jan to 12 Apr, usually in single figures, with max. (probably spring migrants) 35 at Ghajn Tuffieħa on 22 Mar and 33 at Majjistral Park on 14 Mar. Then again almost daily from 05 Oct to 31 Dec, mostly in single and low double figures, with max. 40 at Kemmuna on 27 Oct. 4 ringed in Oct at Kemmuna.

Zitting Cisticola (Bifula tal-Imrewħa) *Cisticola juncidis*
 Widespread resident breeder recorded daily throughout year in single and low double figures, with max. 20 at Wied Ghajn Riħana on 14 May. 73 ringed throughout year.

Olivaceous Warbler (Bekkafik tal-Lvant) *Iduna pallida*
 1 at Kemmuna from 22–27 Apr (Fig. 29).

Melodious Warbler (Bekkafik tal-Għana) *Hippolais polyglotta*
 1 ringed at Manikata on 15 May (Fig. 30). This is the 17th confirmed record for Malta (previous record was in Oct 2018).

Icterine Warbler (Bekkafik Isfar) *Hippolais icterina*
 In spring, first birds on 16 and 17 Apr, then practically daily from 22 Apr to 22 May, with last bird on 29 May. Spring counts mostly of low single figures, with max. 30 and 20 at Kemmuna on 01st and 02–03 May respectively. In autumn, singles on 8 dates from 05 Aug to 07 Oct. 253 ringed (245 in spring, 8 in autumn), most (94) at Kemmuna.

Acon Tanti



Fig. 29. This Olivaceous Warbler at Kemmuna from 22–27 Apr provided a rare sight record of this usually ringing-exclusive species

Jean Paul Farrugia



Fig. 30. The 17th Melodious Warbler for Malta ringed at Manikata on 15 May

Moustached Warbler (Bufula Qastnija) *Acrocephalus melanopogon*
Sightings on 5 dates from 02 Jan to 19 Mar at Wied Għajn Rihana was probably same wintering individual.

Sedge Warbler (Bufula tas-Simar) *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
In spring, first sighting on 01 Mar then on most days from 07 Mar to 17 May. Spring counts mostly in single figures, with max. 30 and 20 at Kemmuna on 01st and 02 May respectively. In autumn, sightings on 13 dates from 23 Aug to 09 Oct, followed by 1 late bird at Simar NR on 01 Nov. All autumn counts of 1–2 birds.

199 ringed (190 in spring, 9 in autumn), most (55) at Simar NR.

1 ringed in Malta controlled in Czechia.

Common Reed-warbler (Bufula tal-Qasab) *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*
In spring, regular sightings from 12 Apr to 07 Jun, always in low single figures, with max. 5 at Wied Għajn Rihana on 14 May and 21 May. Singles on 22 Jun, 26 Jun u 03 Jul were likely local potential breeders. Breeding only confirmed at Wied Għajn Rihana. In autumn, regular sightings from 23 Jul to 20 Oct, always in low single figures, with max. 6 at Wied Għajn Rihana on 30 Jul and 5 at Għadira NR on 24 Sep.

78 ringed (13 in spring, 65 in summer/autumn), most (34) at Għadira NR. 1 ringed in Finland controlled.

Great Reed-warbler (Bufula Prima) *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*
1 atypical wintering bird at Wied Għajn Rihana was last seen on 01 Mar. In spring, sightings almost daily from 30 Mar to 21 May, always in low single figures but 10 at Kemmuna on 01 May. In autumn, sightings on 11 dates from 23 Aug to 16 Oct, always of singles but 2 at Mtaħleb on 31 Aug.

80 ringed (70 in spring, 10 in autumn), most (22) at Għadira NR. 1 ringed in Serbia controlled.

Savi's Warbler (Bufula tal-Buda) *Locustella luscinioides*
1 first-year bird ringed at Għadira NR on 15 Sep.

Northern House Martin (Fawwiefja) *Delichon urbicum*
In spring, first bird on 22 Jan, then almost daily from 27 Jan to 09 Jun, followed by 2 late birds at Buskett on 18 Jun. Spring counts regularly in high double and triple figures, with max. 500 and 400 at Prajjet on 16th and 15 Apr respectively. 2 pairs nested at Hal Far. In autumn, sightings almost daily from 03 Sep to 27 Oct, followed by 3 late birds at Buskett on 09 Nov. Autumn counts mostly in single figures, with max. 40 and 30 at Buskett on 01st and 09 Oct respectively.

38 ringed (37 in spring, 1 in autumn), most (32) at Għadira NR.

Red-rumped Swallow (Regina tal-Futtaf) *Cecropis daurica*
In spring, first sightings on 05 and 13 Mar, then on most days from 19 Mar to 30 Apr. Spring counts usually in low single figures, with max. 10 and 12 at Xagħra (G) on 13th and 15 Apr respectively. In autumn, singles at Buskett on 13 Sep and 07 Nov.

7 ringed (all in spring), most (3) at Bidnija.



Fig. 31. Spring 2022 provided some unusual spring records of Eurasian Crag Martins, including this one at Għadira NR on 20 Mar

Barn Swallow (Futtafa) *Hirundo rustica*

Sightings practically throughout year. 1 at Chadwick Lakes on 01 Jan and 1–2 at Għadira NR and 1 at Simar NR throughout Jan. Then increasing from 06 Feb daily till 30 May. Spring counts in triple figures regular, with max. 350 at Burmarrad on 05 Apr and at Fomm ir-Riħ on 30 Apr. Breeding recorded at various localities in Gozo, such as Sannat and Kercem, and at Siġġiewi. Regular sightings from mid-Jun throughout summer referred to local breeders, with most sightings in Gozo and at Għadira NR. Autumn migration from around 26 Aug daily till 27 Oct, with some lingering regularly till 10 Nov, followed by late birds on 22 Nov, 17 Dec and 21 Dec. Autumn counts regularly in triple figures, with max. 500 at Ġnejna on 19 Sep and 450 at Buskett on 27 Sep.

917 ringed (1 in Jan, 597 in Mar–May, 70 in Jun–Aug, 249 in Sep–Oct), most (651) at Għadira NR.

Eurasian Crag Martin (Fawwiefja tal-Blat) *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*
In spring, singles at Ċumnija from 16–18 Mar, at Għadira NR on 20 Mar (Fig. 31) and at Majjistral Park on 21 Mar were likely the same bird. 1 at Dahlet Qorrot on 09 Jul was very unseasonal. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 08 Nov.

Collared Sand Martin (Fawwiefja tax-Xtut) *Riparia riparia*
In spring, first sightings on 07th, 09th and 14 Mar, then daily from 19 Mar to 14 May, followed by last sightings on 19th, 22nd and 27 May. Spring counts regularly in high double and low triple figures, with max. 300 at Għadira NR on 29 and 30 Apr. In autumn, sightings on 19 dates from 30 Aug to 13 Oct. Autumn counts all of low single figures, with max. 5 at Buskett on 13 Sep.

112 ringed (all in spring), most (101) at Għadira NR.



Fig. 32. After much anticipation following an influx in Europe, a Pallas's Leaf-warbler finally turned up at Kemmuna on 29 Oct.

Eastern Bonelli's Warbler (Vjolin tal-Lvant) *Phylloscopus orientalis*
Singles at Għadira NR on 22nd and 26 Mar, at Chadwick Lakes on 26 Mar, at Simar NR on 05th and 08 Apr, at Ġnien I-Għarusa tal-Mosta on 05 Apr, at Għadira NR on 09 Apr and at Ġebel Ciantar on 16 Apr.

2 ringed, both in spring.

Western Bonelli's Warbler (Vjolin Bajdani) *Phylloscopus bonelli*
In spring, singles at Foresta 2000 on 01 Apr, at Buskett on 04 Apr, and at Simar NR on 29 Apr, and 1–2 birds at Kemmuna from 16 Apr to 02 May. In autumn, singles at Għadira NR on 01 Sep and at Simar NR on 25 Sep.

6 ringed (4 in spring, 2 in autumn), most (2) at Simar NR.

Wood Warbler (Vjolin Hadrani) *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*
In spring, first sightings on 20 and 24 Mar, then daily from 28 Mar to 17 May and last sighting on 20 May. Spring counts regularly in mid to high double figures, with max. 150 at Buskett and 120 at Għadira NR on 30 Apr. In autumn, sightings on 16 dates from 10 Sep to 16 Oct followed by 1 late bird at Għadira NR on 09 Nov. All autumn counts of 1–2 birds.

1499 ringed (1478 in spring, 21 in autumn), most (445) at Għadira NR.

Yellow-browed Warbler (Vjolin tal-Faxx) *Phylloscopus inornatus*
Regular sightings on 26 dates from 04 Oct to 25 Nov followed by late or wintering birds at Miżieb on 03 Dec, at Ta' Qali on 05 Dec and at Buskett on 31 Dec. All counts of 1–2 birds.

19 ringed (from 04 Oct to 09 Nov), mostly (11) at Buskett.

Pallas's Leaf-warbler (Vjolin tal-Ferq) *Phylloscopus proregulus*
An influx in Europe produced single record of a first-winter bird,

ringed at Kemmuna on 29 Oct, which stayed in the area till 02 Nov (Fig. 32). This is the fifth confirmed record for Malta (previous record was in Apr 2018).

Willow Warbler (Vjolin Safrani) *Phylloscopus trochilus*

In spring, daily sightings from 20 Mar to 09 May, followed by 1 relatively late bird on 18 May. Spring counts regularly in low double figures, with max. 40 at Għadira NR on 11 Apr. In autumn, sightings almost daily from 22 Aug to 18 Oct, followed by relatively late birds on 26th, 27th and 29 Oct. Autumn counts mostly in single figures, with max. 10 at Għadira NR on 18th, 21st, 24th and 25 Sep.

463 ringed (352 in spring, 111 in autumn), most (197) at Għadira NR. 1 ringed in Malta controlled in Norway.

Common Chiffchaff (Vjolin tax-Xitwa) *Phylloscopus collybita*

Sightings practically daily from 01 Jan to 22 Apr, then on 4 dates from 02 to 17 May. Counts commonly in double figures, with max. 50 at Għadira NR on 05 Jan and 28 Feb. Then daily from 09 Oct to 31 Dec, commonly in double figures, with max. 100 at Buskett on 27 Oct.

1876 ringed (498 from Jan–May, 1378 from Oct–Dec), most (567) at Għadira NR. 1 ringed in Hungary controlled.

Siberian Chiffchaff (Vjolin Ćar) *Phylloscopus tristis*

Singles at Simar NR on 10 Mar and 20 Mar, at Wied Ghajn Rihana on 03 Apr, and at Kemmuna and at Buskett on 20 Oct.

Cetti's Warbler (Bufula tal-Għollieq) *Cettia cetti*

Widespread resident breeder recorded throughout year, usually in single and low double figures.

112 ringed throughout year, most (30) at Simar NR.

Eurasian Blackcap (Kapinera) *Sylvia atricapilla*

Sightings daily from 01 Jan to 18 Apr, then more sporadically on 6 dates from 21 Apr to 05 May. Counts regularly in double figures, with max. 50 at Wied Għollieqa on 17 Jan and at Buskett on 22 Jan. 1 ♀ ringed at Buskett on 02 Jun was followed by a singing ♂ present on 15–16 Jul, but no breeding confirmed. Then in autumn, first birds on 11 Sep then practically daily from 17 Sep till end of year. Most counts in single figures, with max. 40 at Buskett on 30 Oct and 20 Dec.

986 ringed (434 from Jan–May, 1 in Jun, 561 from Sep–Dec), most (284) at Buskett. 1 ringed in Hungary controlled, while 1 ringed in Malta controlled in Hungary.

Garden Warbler (Bekkafik) *Sylvia borin*

In spring, 1 early bird on 05 Mar at Mtaħleb, then practically daily from 11 Apr to 02 Jun. Spring counts regularly in double figures, with max. 200 at Kemmuna on 02nd and 03 May. In autumn, practically daily from 11 Aug to 22 Oct, followed by relatively late birds on 30th and 31 Oct and 02 Nov. Autumn counts also regularly in double figures, with max. 100 at Buskett on 01 Sep.

Nicholas Galea



Fig. 33. The sixth Barred Warbler for Malta, ringed at Kemmuna on 30 Apr

2190 ringed (1220 in spring, 970 in autumn), most (727) at Buskett. Singles ringed in Finland, Slovenia and Italy controlled.

Barred Warbler (Bekkafik tal-Istrixxi) *Curruca nisoria*

1 second-year ♂ ringed at Kemmuna on 30 Apr (Fig. 33). This is the sixth confirmed record for Malta (previous record was in Sep 2014).

Lesser Whitethroat (Bekkafik Irmiedi) *Curruca curruca*

A poor year with single sighting at Kemmuna on 18 Oct.

Sardinian Warbler (Bifula Sewda) *Curruca melanocephala*

Widespread resident breeder recorded throughout year, usually in single and low double figures up to 30.

603 ringed throughout year, most (188) at Buskett.

Subalpine Warbler (Bifula Passajra) *Curruca cantillans*

In spring, sightings almost daily from 09 Mar to 04 May, and 1 relatively late bird on 11 May. Spring counts generally in low

Raymond Galea



Fig. 34. This Moltoni's Warbler ringed at Kemmuna on 24 Apr contributed to an apparently increasing sightings of this species

Aron Tanti



Fig. 35. Spring 2022 was an exceptional year for Rüppell's Warblers, the first found of which was this ♂ at Ġnien tal-Bombi on 21 Mar

single figures, with max. 15 at Ħal Far on 23 Mar and 14 at Qammieħ on 21 Mar. In autumn, almost daily from 23 Jul to 16 Oct, with last birds on 20th and 23 Oct. Autumn counts generally in low single figures, with max. 10 at Buskett on several dates in Aug at Ġhadira NR on two dates in Sep. The subspecies occurring in Malta are *cantillans* and *albistriata* (also known as Eastern Subalpine Warbler), but one bird of the subspecies *inornata* (also known as Western Subalpine Warbler) was ringed at Kemmuna on 20 Apr.

288 ringed (68 in spring, 220 in autumn), most (100) at Buskett.

Moltoni's Warbler (Bifula ta' Sardenja) *Curruca subalpina*

In spring, 1 ♂ at Ġnien l-Għarusa tal-Mosta from 03–05 Apr, one at Ġhadira NR on 23 Apr and 1 second-year ♂ ringed at Kemmuna on 24 Apr (Fig. 34). In autumn, 1 ♂ at Ġhadira NR from 21–25 Sep. Sightings of this species are on the increase, most likely due to increased awareness.

Rüppell's Warbler (Bifula tal-Pavalor) *Curruca ruppeli*

Persistent and strong easterly winds in March resulted in an exceptional spring for this very rare species. 1 ♂ at Ġnien tal-Bombi on 21 Mar (Fig. 35), up to 3 (2 ♂♂ and 1 ♀) at Ħal Far from 22–26 Mar, 1 ♂ at Tal-Ħamrija on 22 Mar and 1 ♂ at Bingemma on 24 Mar.

Common Whitethroat (Bekkafik Aħmar) *Curruca communis*

In spring, first sighting on 30 Mar, then practically daily from 05 Apr to 18 May followed by 1 relatively late bird on 26 May. Regular counts in double figures, with max. 100 at Kemmuna on 22 Apr and from 01–03 May. In autumn, singles on 8 dates from 01 Sep to 02 Oct.

982 ringed (974 in spring, 8 in autumn), most (527) at Kemmuna.

Spectacled Warbler (Bifula Ħamra) *Curruca conspicillata*

Resident breeder recorded throughout year in suitable areas, with counts mostly in low single figures, with max. 12 on the west coast of Gozo on 11 Mar.

3 ringed in Aug at Tal-Bardan.

Benjamin Metzger



Fig. 36. This ♂ Marmora's Warbler at Ta' Ċenċ on 04 Dec was very skulking and was only seen by a handful of birders.

Marmora's Warbler (Bufula Grīza) *Curruca sarda*

1 first-year bird at Ta' Ċenċ on 01st and 04 Dec (Fig. 36) – the 12th confirmed record for Malta (previous record was in Jan–Feb 2017).

Dartford Warbler (Bufula tax-Xagħri) *Curruca undata*

1 ♂ wintering at Majjistral Park was last seen on 06 Feb, then other ♂♂ at Qammieħ on 06 Feb and at Miġra l-Ferħa on 13 Mar.

Northern Wren (Bumistur) *Troglodytes troglodytes*

An exceptional year for this species: 1 at Buskett from 04–12 Feb, 1 at Manoel Island on 11 Feb, increasing to 2 from 18 Feb to 08 Mar (Fig. 37), both ringed, of which 1 stayed till 11 Mar.

Common Starling (Sturnell) *Sturnus vulgaris*

Sightings daily from 01 Jan to 02 Apr, with counts regularly in triple figures, with max. 1000 and 800 at Għadira NR on 02 Jan and 04 Feb respectively. Then regular sightings of low single figures of up to 6 birds throughout Apr till mid-Sep, mainly at Għadira NR. Then sporadically from 19 Sep to 25 Sep and daily from 03 Oct till end of year. Regular autumn counts in high triple and quadruple figures, with max. 2000 at Kemmuna and Għadira NR on 22 Oct and at Kemmuna on 10 Nov.

16 ringed (excl. confiscated and rehabilitated birds), all in autumn. Most (11) at Għadira NR.

Mistle Thrush (Malvizzun Prim) *Turdus viscivorus*

Relatively good autumn. Singles at Buskett on 20 Oct and 26 Oct, at Dwejra (M) on 26 Oct, then 2 at Buskett on 07 Nov, and again singles at Kemmuna on 08 Nov, at Majjistral Park on 10 Nov, at Buskett from 14–25 Nov and at L-Aħrax on 16 Nov.

Song Thrush (Malvizz) *Turdus philomelos*

Sightings practically daily from 01 Jan to 02 Apr, then sporadically on 7 dates from 08 to 24 Apr. Mostly single figures but 40 at Birkirkara on 20 Mar*. Sightings at Għadira NR from May to Aug referred to released birds. Then again daily from 06 Oct till end of year, regularly in double figures, with max. 80 at

Aon Tanti



Fig. 37. Early 2022 produced 3 Northern Wrens, including this one at Manoel Island on 12 Feb

Kemmuna on 20 Oct.

142 ringed (excl. confiscated and/or rehabilitated birds), most (65) at Kemmuna.

Redwing (Malvizz Aħmar) *Turdus iliacus*

1–2 at Buskett from 01 Jan to 10 Feb and 1 at Tigné Point on 25 Nov.

Eurasian Blackbird (Malvizz Iswed) *Turdus merula*

Sightings on most dates from 01 Jan to 26 Feb, then on 4 dates from 01 to 26 Mar. Most sightings of singles, with max. 3 at Buskett on 02nd and 23 Jan and at Kemmuna on 11 Feb. Then sightings on 17 dates from 20 Oct till end of year, always of 1–2 birds.

14 ringed (excl. confiscated and/or rehabilitated birds), 7 in Jan–Feb and 7 in Oct–Nov; most (9) at Kemmuna.

Eyebrowed Thrush (Malvizz Nordiku) *Turdus obscurus*

1 second-year ♀ ringed at Kemmuna on 19 Apr (Fig. 38). This is the eighth confirmed record for Malta (previous record was

Raymond Galea



Fig. 38. The eighth Eyebrowed Thrush for Malta, ringed at Kemmuna on 19 Apr – probably the most exceptional record of the year



Fig. 39. This Balearic Spotted Flycatcher ringed at Kemmuna on 24 Apr is the second record of this sub-species in Malta

in Nov 2015). This record is exceptional not only for its rarity as a species and for being the first recorded by birders, but also due to the date, since most Siberian vagrants in Malta and the wider Western Palearctic are recorded in autumn.

Fieldfare (Malvizz tal-Qtajja') *Turdus pilaris*

1 on 16 Jan at Buskett.

Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin (Rożinjol tax-Xagħri) *Cercotrichas galactotes*

1 unusually early bird at Qammieħ on 26 Mar, followed by singles on 18 Apr at Żonqor and on 24 Apr at Kemmuna and at Miżieb.

Spotted Flycatcher (Żanzarell tat-Tikek) *Muscicapa striata*

In spring, sightings daily from 14 Apr to 03 Jun, generally in single to low double figures. Highest spring counts of 50 at Kemmuna on 28th, 29th and 30 Apr and on 01st and 03 May and at Dwejra (M) on 04 May. Breeding birds present throughout June to August at multiple sites, with highest numbers at the species strongholds at Ta' Qali and Buskett.

In autumn, sightings on most dates from 23 Aug to 12 Oct, always in low single figures, with max. 6 at Ghadira NR on 26 Sep. Ongoing research on the local breeding population indicate it is predominantly the subspecies *tyrrhenica* with introgression from *striata* of the North African genetic clade. 1 bird of the subspecies *balearica* was ringed on Kemmuna on 24 Apr (Fig. 39).

298 ringed (265 in spring, 33 in summer/autumn), most (97) at Kemmuna.

European Robin (Pitirross)

Erithacus rubecula

Sightings practically daily throughout year. Regularly in double figures from Jan to early Apr, then low single figures at various sites

through summer till early Oct. Then regularly in double figures till end of year. Highest counts during autumn migration of 200 at Kemmuna on 20th and 21 Oct.

3647 ringed (380 from Jan–May, 37 from Jun–Sep, 3230 from Oct–Dec), most (1232) at Kemmuna.

Bluethroat (Rożinjol Ikħal)

Cyanecula svecica

1 red-spotted (*svecica*) ♂ at Ballut ta' Marsaxlokk from 03 Jan to 13 Feb (Fig. 40), 1 at Salina NR on 04 Jan, 1 at Rabat on 16 Jan, 1 at Burmarrad on 06 Feb, 1 at Simar NR from 20 Feb to 26 Mar, 1 white-spotted (*cyaneula*) ♂ at Wied Ghajn Rihana from 28 Feb to 09 Mar, 1 ♀ at Wied Ghajn Rihana on 06 Mar and 1 red-spotted (*svecica*) ♂ at Munxar (G) on 22 Apr. Then in autumn, singles

at Ġżira on 23 Sep (found dead), at Mtaħleb on 25 Sep and 16 Oct, 1–2 at Simar NR from 20 Oct to 11 Nov, 1 at Wied is-Sewda on 21 Oct, 1 at Mtaħleb on 03 Nov and 1 at Ghadira NR on 26 Nov.

7 ringed (1 in spring, 6 in autumn), most (4) at Simar NR.

Common Nightingale (Rożinjol) *Luscinia megarhynchos*

In spring, sightings almost daily from 22 Mar to 02 May followed by singles on 12th and 20 May. All counts in single figures but 10 at Kemmuna on 22 Apr. In autumn, sightings on 8 dates from 28 Aug to 25 Oct, all singles.

30 ringed (26 in spring, 4 in autumn), most (15) at Kemmuna.

Red-breasted Flycatcher (Żanzarell Żghir) *Ficedula parva*

Exceptional spring, with 3 records involving singles on 01 May at Kemmuna (Fig. 41, p. 29), on 03 May at Majjistral Park and from 06–07 May at Salina NR. Followed by poor autumn, with only singles at Manikata on 02 Oct (ringed), Wied Ħarq Ħamiem from 05–06 Oct (ringed) and Żebbiegħ on 15 Oct.



Fig. 40. This wintering red-spotted Bluethroat at il-Ballut ta' Marsaxlokk on 13 Feb was popular with many birders and photographers



Fig. 41. Spring produced three records of the usually autumn-exclusive Red-breasted Flycatcher, including this one at Kemmuna on 01 May

Semi-collared Flycatcher (Żanzarell tal-Lvant) *Ficedula semitorquata*
1–2 ♂♂ at Wied Ghajn Rihana from 21–25 Mar and single ♂♂ at Chadwick Lakes from 26–27 Mar, at Binġemma on 02 Apr and 1 ♀ at Salina NR on 16 Apr.

European Pied Flycatcher (Żanzarell Iswed) *Ficedula hypoleuca*
In spring, daily sightings from 02 Apr to 08 May, then sporadically till 16 May. 1 late bird at Ghadira NR from 05–11 Jun. Counts generally in single to low double figures but 100 at Kemmuna on 22 Apr, 02 May and 03 May. Then in autumn, singles on 6 dates from 30 Aug to 16 Sep followed by 1 late bird at Kemmuna on 23 Oct.

296 ringed (292 in spring, 4 in autumn), most (126) at Kemmuna.

Collared Flycatcher (Żanzarell tal-Kullar) *Ficedula albicollis*

Relatively poor year. First sightings on 04th and 06 Apr, then daily from 09 Apr to 01 May. All counts in low single figures, with max. 6 at Simar NR on 13 Apr and at Ghadira NR on 17 Apr.

40 ringed (all in spring), most (13) at Simar NR.

Black Redstart (Fjamma Sewda) *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Daily sightings from 01 Jan to 30 Mar, followed by late birds on 05th, 09th and 18 Apr. Max. 20 at Sa Maison on 20 Feb, at Majjistral Park on 01 Mar, at Prajjet on 20 Mar and at Tal-Hamrija on 22 Mar. Then daily sightings from 16 Oct till end of year, with max. 30 at Kemmuna on 10 Nov and 25 at Salina NR on 14 Nov.

124 ringed (25 from Jan–Mar, 99 from Oct–Dec), most (49) at Kemmuna.

Common Redstart (Fjamma) *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

In spring, first sighting on 14 Mar then almost daily from 18 Mar to 08 May followed by last sighting on 14 May. Most counts in low single figures, with max. 20 at Kemmuna on 22nd, 25th and 28 Apr. In autumn, first sporadic sightings on 5 dates from 28 Aug to 08 Sep, then almost daily from 13 Sep to 26 Oct followed by 1 late bird on 04 Nov. All counts in single figures but 15 at Kemmuna on 20 Oct.

178 ringed (102 in spring, 76 in autumn), most (48) at Kemmuna.

Rufous-tailed Rock-thrush (Ġanbublu) *Monticola saxatilis*

1 at Tas-Silġ on 29 Mar, 1 at Tal-Bardan on 04 Apr, 1 at Ġebel Ciantar on 05 Apr, 2 at Ġebel Ciantar on 16 Apr, 1 at Majjistral Park on 18 Apr (Fig. 42) and 1 at Kemmuna on 23 Apr.

Blue Rock-thrush (Merill) *Monticola solitarius*

Widespread resident breeder recorded throughout year, usually in single and low double figures mostly in coastal cliffs, but also regularly in urban areas.

126 ringed throughout year, most (30) at Ta' Ġenc.

Whinchat (Buċaqq tas-Silla) *Saxicola rubetra*

In spring, sightings almost daily from 20 Mar to 16 May, mostly in single figures, with max. 40 on 25 Apr, 30 on 17th and on 29 Apr at Kemmuna, and 30 on 22 Apr at Majjistral Park. In autumn, singles on 7 dates from 13 Sep to 18 Oct.

115 ringed (114 in spring, 1 in autumn), most (65) at Kemmuna.

Common Stonechat (Buċaqq tax-Xitwa) *Saxicola torquatus*
Sightings almost daily from 01 Jan to 25 Mar, then again almost daily from 03 Oct to 31 Dec. Counts mostly in single figures,



Fig. 42. Spring 2022 was fairly good for Rufous-tailed Rock-thrushes, including this ♂ at Majjistral Park on 18 Apr



Fig. 43. Spring 2022 was exceptional for Isabelline Wheatears. This one was at Luqa Airport on 23 Mar.

with max. 15 at Għadira NR on 07 Jan and at Wied Għajn Riĥana on 05 Mar.

72 ringed (12 from Jan–Mar, 60 from Oct–Nov), most (19) at Għadira NR.

Northern Wheatear (Kuda) *Oenanthe oenanthe*

In spring, sightings daily from 11 Mar to 30 Apr, then sporadically till 10 May. Spring counts mostly in single figures, with max. 30 and 25 on 20 Mar at Prajjet and Ċumnija respectively, 25 at Għajn Tuffieħa on 22 Mar and 25 at Hal Far on 19 Apr. In autumn, sightings almost daily from 22 Aug to 06 Oct, then relatively late individuals on 12th and 22 Oct. Highest autumn count 10 at Tal-Bardan on 06 Sep.

37 ringed (16 in spring, 21 in autumn), most (14) at Tal-Bardan.

Isabelline Wheatear (Kuda Ramlija)

Oenanthe isabellina

Persistent and strong easterly winds in March resulted in an exceptional spring for this usually relatively infrequent species, which was also noted elsewhere in the central Mediterranean. Sightings on 27 dates from 09 Mar to 08 Apr (Fig. 43), with exceptional counts including 14 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 22 Mar, 12 at Majjistral Park on 21st, 23rd, 26th and 27 Mar, and 11 at Luqa Airport on 20 Mar.

2 ringed (in Mar) at Tal-Bardan.

Desert Wheatear (Kuda tad-Deżert)

Oenanthe deserti

1 ♂ at Majjistral Park on 26 Mar (Fig. 44).

Black-eared Wheatear (Kuda Dumnikana) *Oenanthe hispanica*

In spring, regular sightings on 33 dates from 16 Mar to 13 May. Mostly singles, with max. 3 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 20 Mar and at Majjistral Park on 26 Mar. In autumn, sightings on 4 dates from 31 Aug to 22 Sep, always singles but 2 at Manoel Island on 13 Sep. 3 ringed, all in spring.

Goldcrest (Bufula tal-Qamar) *Regulus regulus*

Sightings on 24 dates from 01 Jan to 12 Mar, then on 22 dates from 30 Oct to 29 Dec. All counts in single figures, with max. 5 at Buskett on 02 Jan, 07 Nov and 11 Nov.

21 ringed (3 in Jan, 18 in Oct–Nov), most (12) at Buskett.



Fig. 44. ♂ Desert Wheatear at Majjistral Park on 26 Mar

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Fig. 45. Ta' Qali has become a good site for wintering Olive-backed Pipits, such as this one on 28 Nov

Common Firecrest (Bifula tax-Xemx) *Regulus ignicapilla*

Sightings on 11 dates from 01 Jan to 23 Mar. 1 slightly unseasonal bird at Dwejra (M) on 22 Apr. Then sightings on 14 dates from 10 Oct to 23 Dec. All counts in single figures, with max. 6 at Gajdoru on 20 Feb and 4 at Buskett on 15 Jan.

11 ringed (4 in Feb–Mar, 7 in Oct–Dec), most (8) at Buskett.

Dunnock (Żiemel) *Prunella modularis*

Sightings daily from 01 Jan to 13 Mar, then more sporadically till 24 Mar. Then almost daily from 17 Oct till end of year. Counts generally in single figures, with max. 30 at Buskett on 28 Oct and 25 at Kemmuna on 08 Nov.

397 ringed (58 from Jan–Mar, 339 from Oct–Dec), most (150) at Mtaħleb. 1 ringed in Sweden controlled.

Spanish Sparrow (Għasfur tal-Bejt) *Passer hispaniolensis*

Widespread resident breeder recorded throughout year, usually in double and triple figures. As usual, a few apparent migrants were also regularly noted during migration periods, such as 9 ringed at Kemmuna on 12 Nov.

1347 ringed throughout year, most (313) at Għadira NR.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (Għaġġaħ) *Passer montanus*

Relatively widespread resident breeder recorded throughout year, usually in single and low double figures, with max. 30 at Buskett on 15 and 24 Jul.

159 ringed throughout year, most (73) at Buskett.

Tree Pipit (Dizz) *Anthus trivialis*

In spring, first sighting on 11 Mar then almost daily from 18 Mar to 13 May. Regular spring counts in double figures, with max. 200 at Foresta 2000 on

01 Apr and 200 at Prajjet on 16 Apr. In autumn, sightings on most days from 08 Sep to 17 Oct followed by 1 late bird on 08 Nov at Għadira NR. Highest autumn count 55 at Dwejra (G) on 23 Sep.

554 ringed (522 in spring, 32 in autumn), most (275) at Mtaħleb.

Olive-backed Pipit (Dizz tal-Lvant) *Anthus hodgsoni*

4 at Ta' Qali from 01–29 Jan and 1 at Wied Ghollieqa from 06–26 Jan. Then 2 at Buskett on 24 Mar, 1 at Mtaħleb on 31 Oct (ringed) and 1 at Kemmuna on 04 Nov. Then 2 again at Ta' Qali from 07 Nov to 08 Dec (Fig. 45).

Red-throated Pipit (Dizz Aħmar) *Anthus cervinus*

1 at Għadira NR on 29–30 Jan. In spring, sightings on 30 dates from 07 Mar to 06 May. Then in autumn, sightings on 21 dates from 08 Oct to 08 Dec. All counts in single figures but 15 at Tal-Bardan on 04 Apr and 38 at Burmarrad on 06 May.

4 ringed (excl. confiscated and/or rehabilitated birds), all in Apr at Mtaħleb.

Meadow Pipit (Pespus) *Anthus pratensis*

Sightings daily from 01 Jan to 07 Apr, then sporadically till 25 Apr. First autumn bird on 14 Oct then daily from 19 Oct till end of year. Counts regularly in double figures, with max. 200 at Luqa Airport on 13 Nov and 130 at Mtaħleb on 29 Oct.

440 ringed (74 from Jan–Mar, 366 from Oct–Dec), most (167) at Mtaħleb.

Water Pipit (Dizz tal-Ilma) *Anthus spinoletta*

Singles from 06–09 Dec (Fig. 46) and on 18 Dec at Ballut ta' Marsaxlokk, and at Għadira NR from 24–26 Dec.



Fig. 46. Water Pipit at Ballut ta' Marsaxlokk on 09 Dec

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Fig. 47. 1 of 3 Richard's Pipits at Luqa Airport on 12 Dec

Richard's Pipit (Bilblun Prim) *Anthus richardi*

Up to 3 at Luqa Airport from 07 Nov to 14 Dec (Fig. 47).

Tawny Pipit (Bilblun) *Anthus campestris*

Sightings in spring almost daily from 19 Mar to 07 May, then more sporadically till 21 May. Almost all counts in single figures but 10 at Ta' Ċenċ on 08 Apr, 12 at Għarb on 22 Apr and 10 at Kemmuna on 01 May. Then in autumn, sightings on 16 dates from 30 Aug to 04 Oct. Highest autumn count 6 at Dwejra (G) on 23 Sep.

Western Yellow Wagtail (Isfar) *Motacilla flava*

1 unseasonal bird at Salina NR on 10 Jan. Then on most days in spring from 06 Mar to 20 May. Late bird at Għadira NR on 21

Jun. Regular counts in double and triple figures, with max. 500 at Luqa Airport on 17 Apr. Then again on most days in autumn from 05 Aug to 19 Oct. 1 late bird at Għadira NR on 11 Nov. Highest autumn counts 350 at Mtaħleb on 23 Sep and 350 at Buskett on 25 Sep.

152 ringed (80 in spring, 72 in autumn), most (82) at Mtaħleb.

Grey Wagtail (Zakak tad-Dell) *Motacilla cinerea*

Motacilla cinerea

Sightings on most dates from 01 Jan to 19 Mar. 1 at Salina NR on 11 Apr. 1–2 regularly at Marsa from 04 Jul to 07 Aug, where breeding confirmed with at least 1 fledged juv. seen. 1 at Burmarrad on 21 Aug. Then again on most dates from 24 Sep to 25 Dec. All counts of low

single figures, with max. 5 at Buskett on 08 Oct, 4 at Lunzjata Valley on 21 Jan and 4 at Buskett on 11 Oct.

10 ringed (4 in Jan, 6 from Oct–Dec).

Citrine Wagtail (Zakak tal-Lvant) *Motacilla citreola*

A first-winter bird at Burmarrad from 24–25 Sep (Fig. 48). This is the 10th confirmed record for Malta (previous record was in Apr 2021).

Eastern Yellow Wagtail (Isfar tas-Siberja) *Motacilla tschutschensis*

1 adult ♂ at Bidnija from 22–25 Jan (Fig. 49, p. 33) and 1 first-winter ♂ at Ballut ta' Marsaxlokk from 04–20 Dec. These are the third and fourth confirmed records for Malta respectively (previous record was in Oct 2020 – Feb 2021).

Aron Tanti



Fig. 48. First-winter Citrine Wagtail at Burmarrad on 24 Sep



Fig. 49. This adult ♂ Eastern Yellow Wagtail at Bidnija on 23 Jan was the third record for Malta

White Wagtail (Zakak Abjad) *Motacilla alba*

Sightings daily from 01 Jan to 29 Apr. 1–3 lingered at Salina NR on several dates in May. 1 unseasonal bird on 14 Jul at Għadira NR. The again daily from 27 Sep till end of year. 13,007 counted at annual roost count in Valletta on 22 Jan, with other high counts of birds heading to roost including 800 on 15 Jan from Santa Venera. Otherwise regularly in double figures at various sites.

69 ringed (55 from Jan to early Apr, and 14 from Oct–Dec), most (44) at Lunzjata Valley.

Note on finches

Due to the widespread pastime of keeping and breeding finches in Malta, it is probable that a significant share of sightings in the wild refer to escapees, particularly away from autumn and winter.

Common Chaffinch (Sponsun) *Fringilla coelebs*

Sightings on most dates from 01 Jan to 06 May, then more sporadically on 39 dates from 11 May to 21 Sep, followed by sightings on most dates from 26 Sep to 30 Dec. Most counts of low single figures. Highest counts during autumn migration of 60 at Buskett on 07 Nov, 40 at Kemmuna on 08 Nov, and 30 at Buskett on 11th, 18th and 28 Nov. A pair of probably released confiscated birds apparently bred successfully at Għadira NR area, where 1 fledged juv. was ringed on 07 Aug.

15 ringed (excl. confiscated and/or rehabilitated birds).

Brambling (Sponsun Selvaġġ) *Fringilla montifringilla*

Singles at Buskett on 01 Jan and at Sa Maison Garden on 28 Jan and 17 Feb.

Hawfinch (Taž-Żebbuġ)

Coccothraustes coccothraustes

Singles at Sa Maison Garden on 17 Feb, at Buskett on 04 Oct, and at Manoel Island on 11 Oct, 2 at Manoel Island on 19 Oct and 1 at Buskett on 15 Dec.

Trumpeter Finch (Trumbettier)

Bucanetes githagineus

1 (trapped by trapper) at Sannat on 25 Nov.

European Greenfinch (Verdun)

Chloris chloris

Sightings on 37 dates from 04 Jan to 18 May and on 20 dates from 21 Sep to 13 Dec. Most counts of singles with high counts of 5 at Attard on 06 Jan and 5 at Buskett on 16 Nov.

1 ringed (excl. confiscated and/or rehabilitated birds), in Nov at Buskett.

Common Linnet (Gojġin) *Linaria cannabina*

Sightings on 31 dates from 02 Jan to 27 May, singles on 26 Aug and 20 Sep, then sightings on 24 dates from 02 Oct to 08 Dec. Most counts of low single figures, with max. 14 at Girgenti on 08 Jan and 9 at Mtaħleb on 16 Oct.

European Goldfinch (Gardell) *Carduelis carduelis*

Sightings on 11 dates from 09 Jan to 11 Mar, then on 4 sporadic dates from 06 May to 02 Oct. All sightings of singles but 3 at Wied il-Għasel on 09 Jan and 2 at Għadira NR on 22 Feb.

European Serin (Apparell) *Serinus serinus*

Sightings on 9 dates from 15 Jan to 03 Apr, on 3 dates from 16 June to 23 Aug, and on 13 dates from 22 Sep till end of year. All counts in low single figures, with max. 4 at Manoel Island on 12 Feb and 01 Mar.

1 ringed (excl. confiscated and/or rehabilitated birds), in Oct at Kemmuna.

Eurasian Siskin (Ekru) *Spinus spinus*

Sightings on 22 dates from 01 Jan to 24 Mar, followed by sightings on 3 dates in Jun and on 17 dates from 20 Sep till end of year. All counts in single figures, with max. 5 at Buskett on different dates in Jan and 6 on 19 Oct at Manoel Island.

Corn Bunting (Durrajsa) *Emberiza calandra*

Sightings on 42 dates from 01 Jan to 01 May, singles on 26 Aug and 24 Sep, then sightings on 5 dates from 05 Apr to 24 Sep, and on 8 dates from 21 Oct to 18 Dec. Counts mostly of low single figures, with max. 8 at Majjistral Park on 17 Feb, 10 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 13 Mar and 8 at Lippija on 28 Nov. While wintering records seem to be on the increase, again there were



Fig. 50. Little Bunting ringed at Mtaħleb on 30 Oct

no confirmed breeding records in 2022, suggesting this species is almost (if not already) extinct as a local breeding bird.

Ortolan Bunting (Ortolan) *Emberiza hortulana*

Singles at Luqa Airport on 02 Apr, at Tal-Bardan on 04 Apr, at Kemmuna on 23 Apr, and at Manoel Island on 11 Oct.

Reed Bunting (Durrajsa tal-Qasab) *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Sightings on 7 dates from 02 Jan to 06 Mar and on 12 dates

from 20 Oct to 30 Dec, mostly singles, with max. 4 at Simar NR on 16 Nov and 3 at Wied Ghajn Rihana on 25 and 30 Dec. 4 ringed (in Nov), most (3) at Ghadira.

Little Bunting (Durrajsa Qerqija) *Emberiza pusilla*

Singles at Għarb (trapped by trapper) on 10 Oct and at Mtaħleb (ringed) on 30 Oct (Fig. 50).

Contributors to the sightings in this systematic list

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Information on past records of rarities provided by Edward Bonavia.

Bahar iċ-Ċagħaq	30	L-Athrax	18	Ta' Ċenċ	15
Ballut ta' Marsaxlokk	60	Lippija	32	Ta' Gajdoru	6
Buskett	54	Luqa Airport	57	Ta' Gianpula	48
Chadwick Lakes	39	Majjistral Park	25	Tal-Bardan	14
Ċirkewwa	17	Mgarr ix-Xini	16	Tal-Hamrija	62
Ċurnija	21	Miġra l-Ferha	46	Ta' Qali	40
Dahlet Qorrot	12	Mistra	24	Tas-Safra	28
Delimara	63	Mizieb	26	Tas-Slig	58
Dwejra (G)	7	Mtaleb	47	Ta' Xhajma	13
Dwejra (M)	38	Prajjet	23	Tigné Point	42
Fomm ir-Rih	36	Qammieh	20	Wied Blandun	50
Foresta 2000	19	Qbajjar	3	Wied Ghajin Rihana	34
Gebel Ċiantar	56	Ramla Dam	11	Wied Għolliqa	41
Ġnejna	33	Ramla l-Hamra	4	Wied Harq Hamiem	35
Ġnien l-Gharusa tal-Mosta	37	Ras il-Gzira	53	Wied il-Mielah	1
Ġnien tal-Bombi	44	Salina NR	29	Wied is-Sewda	49
Giggenti	55	Sa Maison	43	Wied Sara	9
Għadira NR	22	San Blas	5	Wied ta' Żejta	10
Għajn Tuffieħa	31	Simar NR	27	Xrobb l-Għagin	59
Għar Ilma	8	South-East Aquaculture Zone	45	Xwejni	2
Għar Lapsi	61	Ta' Barkat	51	Żonqor	52



The Maltese Islands

with sites and locations mentioned in the systematic list

