

il-Huttafa

Numru 184

Settembru - Ottubru 2024



Sula



Hej Huttaf...



Spanjulett
Common Kestrel

mill - editur

Ilbieraħ kont bilqiegħda qed naħseb x'se nikteb ghall-editorjal. Jien u naħseb ħarist mit-tieqa li tagħti għal fuq il-ġnejna tad-dar tiegħi, u rajt gremxula tixxabbat u tipprova titla' ma' ħajt. Xena li nara spiss.

Issa l-gremxul (ghall-inqas l-ispeci ta' pajjiżna) mhux proprju adattat biex jitla' ma' ħitan weqfin, għax m'għandux l-ghodda li għandha pereżempju l-kugina tiegħi l-wiżgħa. Il-wiżgħa għandha s-swaba' u l-pala ta' idejha u saqajha adattati biex jeħlu mal-ħitan u jitilgħuh f'tebqa t'għajnejn.

Il-gremxula le. Il-gremxula tuża biss difrejha u bi tbatija tiggranza u tipprova ttella' lilha nnifisha ftit. ffit.



Assolutament mhix kapaċi daqs il-wiżgħa f'dil-ħażja. U agħar jekk iddur rasha u 'l-isfel! Ghax jekk tagħmel hekk denbha jiddendel 'l-isfel u bit-toqol tiegħi jegħlibha u taqa'. Miskina. Imma ppruvat hux.

Imma mbagħad il-parti naturalista ta' moħhi tieħu over u nibda naħseb: Hmm, tgħid jekk jibqgħu jippruvaw maż-żmien jirfinaw il-kapacità aħjar biex jitilgħu mal-ħitan? Forsi difrejhom jitwalu u jsiru iktar b'saħħithom, forsi l-iskwami ta' żaqqhom u ta' denbhom jiżviluppaw xfar (ridges) biex jgħinuhom jaqbdū mal-ħitan?

Heqq, dan il-bdil jiġi fl-annimali u fil-pjanti kollha, dejjem jiżviluppaw ġisimhom aħjar biex jadattaw għall-ambjent li jkunu fih u jadattaw għal bdil fl-ambjent.

Fix-xjenza dan il-bdil ngħidulu **evoluzzjoni**, u huwa bis-saħħha tal-evoluzzjoni li hawn varjetà kbira ta' hajja fid-dinja.

Insomma, wara li domt kwarta nħares lejn dil-gremxula ghedt naħseb aħjar nieqaf u nara fuq xiex ha nikteb dan l-imbierek editorjal! ;)

Victor

Victor Falzon L-Editur

Sula

Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Is-sula mhix tajra li f'Malta narawha kif ġieb u leħaq. Tghix kważi ħajjitha kollha thuf fil-wesgħat tal-bahar, tistad ghall-hut b'dak il-munqar qisu xabla. F'Malta tidher l-iktar fil-ħarifa u fix-xitwa. F'id tersaq lejn l-art u l-birdwatchers jagħrfuha mill-boġħod għax meta ttir tidher qisha salib abjad!



Ritratt ta' Aron Tanti



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Klabb Huttaf

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

- can attend club activities, like walks, birdwatching, visits to nature reserves, boat trips and work to help nature
- receive *Il-Huttafa* every two months.

Your family too can become member, and you will then get *Bird's Eye View* magazine too. Annual subscription is €10 for Klabb Huttaf and €20 for Family.

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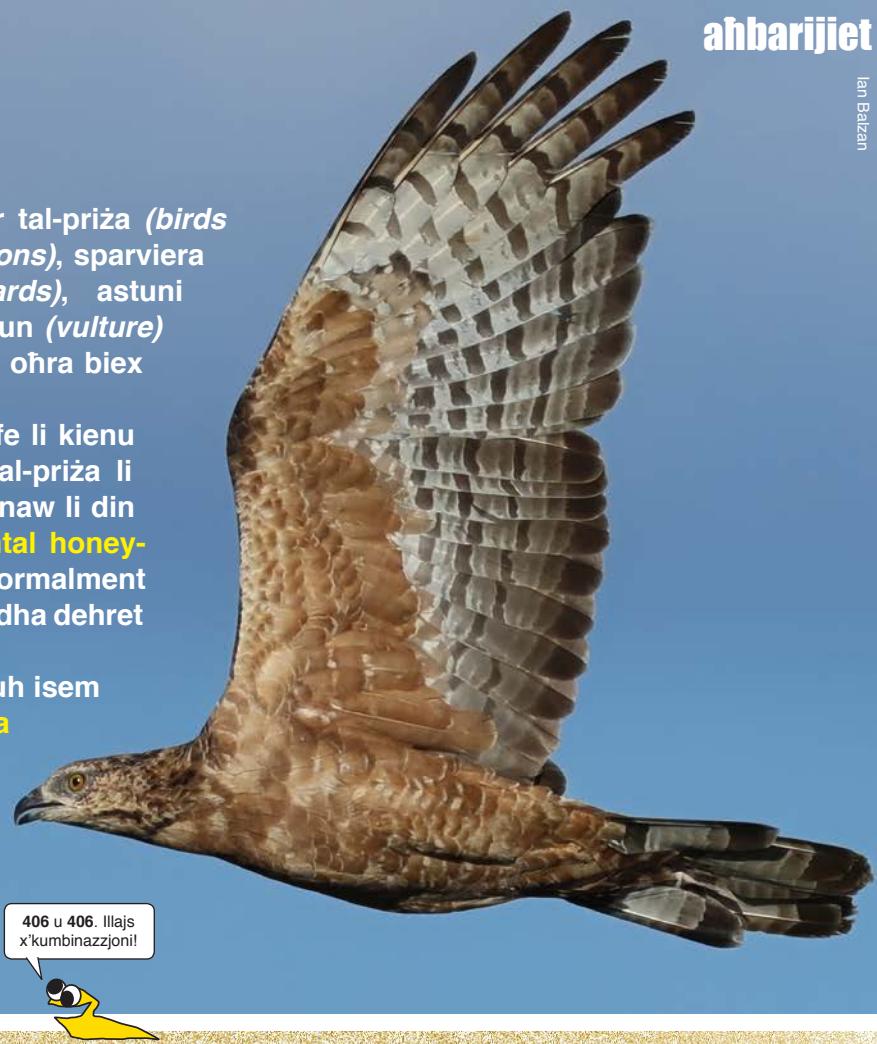
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Numru 406

Minn Malta jgħaddu diversi speċi ta' tajr tal-priżza (birds of prey), fosthom ajkli (eagles) u isqra (falcons), sparviera (sparrowhawks) u kuċċard (honey-buzzards), astuni (kites) u bghadan (harriers), kultant xi avultun (vulture) ukoll. Dawn ikunu qed ipassu minn art għal oħra biex jaħarbu temp kiesaħ jew nieħef wisq.

Fl-24 Settembru I-birdwatchers tal-BirdLife li kienu I-Buskett igawdu u jiddokumentaw it-tajr tal-priżza li jgħaddi raw kuċċarda 'stramba'. Malajr indunaw li din kienet speċi differenti – fil-fatt kienet **Oriental honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus***. Din speċi li normalment tgħix fil-Lvant imbiegħed. Qatt ma kienet għadha dehret Malta, u anke fl-Ewropa rarissma!

Kif jiġri meta jitfaċċa għasfur ġdid, nagħtuh isem bil-Malti. Din I-ispeċi semmejnieha **kuċċarda tal-Lvant**. Skont il-lista tal-BirdLife, din hija speċi numru **406**.



... u numru 406!

Dan huwa t-total ta' fkieren tal-baħar li faqqsu dis-sena mix-xtut Maltin. Inkredibbli! Hawn huma d-dettalji...

| Ramla | Data li biedu | Data li faqqsu | Bajd fil-bejta | Kemm faqqsu |
|--------|------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1 1 | Il-Mixquqa | 15 Gunju | 11 Awwissu | 68 44 |
| 2 2 | Il-Mixquqa* | 1 Lulju | 20 Awwissu | 74 60 |
| 3 3 | Ir-Ramla l-Hamra | 13 Lulju | 28 Awwissu | 88 81 |
| 4 4 | Il-Mixquqa* | 16 July | 6 Settembru | 64 46 |
| 5 5 | Il-Ġnejna | 18 Lulju | 6 Settembru | 75 47 |
| 6 6 | Ir-Ramla l-Hamra | 28 Lulju | 10 Settembru | 93 61 |
| 7 7 | Il-Mixquqa | 2 Awwissu | (ma faqqsus) | 56 0 |
| 8 8 | Ir-Ramla l-Hamra | 8 Awwissu | 26 Settembru | 76 67 |

*Dawn iż-żeġw bejtiet kienu originarjament fir-Ramla ta' Ghajnej Tuffieha imma l-bajd gie mċaqlaq għall-Mixquqa minhabba kundizzjonijiet ahjar

Grazzi lil Angelique Lofaro tat-tagħrif u d-dettalji

Għaliex xi annimali jtiru?

Denis Cachia



Fin-natura tiġri dik li ngħidulha **evoluzzjoni**. Din tkun bidla li sseħħ (fuq tul ta' żmien) f'ġisem ta' annimal jew pjanta biex jadattaw aħjar għall-ambjent fejn jgħixu. L-evoluzzjoni hija r-raġuni għaliex jeżistu tant tipi differenti ta' annimali u pjanti. Bis-saħħha tal-evoluzzjoni nsibu ħlejjaq fil-habitati kollha tad-dinja: min fil-baħar u min fuq l-art, min jissaporti s-shana u min jiflaħ għall-kesħa... u min kapaċi jtir!

Forom differenti

Ix-xjenzati jgħidulna li l-ewwel ħajja fid-din ja kienet tip ta' bakterja tgħix fil-ilma. Fuq medda ta' miljuni ta'sni dawn inbidlu, ħadu forom differenti u kibru fid-daqs. Bis-saħħha tal-evoluzzjoni l-affarrijiet ħajjin bdew jinfirxu mill-habitat tagħhom għal-ħabitati ġoddha. Pereżempju, xi annimali tal-baħar žviluppaw pulmun biex setgħu jgħixu barra mill-ilma.

Tiffranka l-mixi!

Waħda minn dawn il-bidliet kienet l-evoluzzjoni tal-ġwienah. Bil-ġwienah, annimal seta' jaħrab minn predator li ma jtirx. Seta wkoll jiġi b'heffa wara l-prija, jew jgħażżejjen iktar biex jaqsam minn post għal ieħor. Il-ġwienah jiffrankawlek li tmur kullimkien bil-mixi. Meta ttir tevita l-ħafna predatori li jkun hemm moħbiżi fl-art lesti għalik.

Kienet success!

L-ewwel annimali li kienu jtiru kienu insetti, speċjalment razza ġganta ta' **mazzarelli** (dragonflies) li għexu 350 miljun sena ilu.

L-ewwel vertebrati li kienu jtiru kienu **l-pterożawri**, rettili li għexu xi 220 miljun sena ilu, jiġifieri ħafna qabel

ma tfaċċaw l-għasafar. Il-pterożawri žviluppaw ġilda rqqa bejn wieħed minn subghajhom (li maż-żmien twal ħafna) u saqajhom – daqsxejn bħall-friet il-lejl.

Din l-evoluzzjoni jidher li kienet success għax maż-żmien evolvew ħafna speċi ta' pterożawri, uħud iż-ġgħad minn ħamiema, oħrajn ta' daqs kolossal, bħall-Quetzalcoatlus!

U waslu l-birdies!

L-ewwel għasafar ma kinux itru sew. Bil-ġwienah setgħu biss jiggħajnej minn siġra għal oħra, kif jagħmlu l-*flying squirrels* illum (li aħjar semmewhom *gliding squirrels*!). Hekk kien jagħmel il-famuz **Archaeopteryx**, li għex xi 150 miljun sena ilu. Veru kien ikun aħjar kieku kien jaf itir sew, imma l-fatt li ma kienx ikollu għalfejn jinżel fl-art kien diġà vantaġġ kbir għalih.

Biż-żmien il-muskoli u l-ġħad-dam ta' sider l-għasafar kibru u ssaħħew. B'dawn il-muskoli l-għasafar setgħu issa jaqdu dirgħajhom, itru iktar 'il bogħod u jikkontrollaw id-direzzjoni. Saru *masters of the air*!

Bis-saħħha tal-ġwienah rebħu ħabitat ġdid: il-ħabitat tal-arja, mimli insetti bnini x'jaqbdū!

Is-sultan sekond (lesser emperor) għandu wingspan ta' xi 10cm u huwa wieħed mill-ikbar mazzarelli li naraw.

Imma l-antennati tiegħu li għexu fil-preistorja kellhom wingspan ta' 70cm!

Mela kien qisu nemusa hdejhom!

L-istess proċess aktarx ġara bil-friet il-lejl, l-uniċi mammiferi li jtiru veru.

Tiffranka l-hin!

Li tkun ittir huwa tajjeb ukoll għaxxara kemm tiffranka hin. Imma ġiġi naħla ttir minn fjura għal-oħra biex tiġib il-polin u n-nektar. Li ma kellhiex ġwienah kien ikollha toggħod tinżel u titla' bejn fjura u oħra. Iktar tagħmel ħin timxi mill-tixrob.

Ara vera kienu tassew idea tajba l-ġwienah ta'



B'medda ġwienah ta' 11-il metru, il-Quetzalcoatlus kien l-ikbar annimal itir li qed iż-żejt!

L-Ghasafar KOLLHA ta' Malta

F'Malta s'issa dehru ftit **iktar minn 400 speci** ta' għasafar. Xi speċi huma komuni, oħrajn rari, uhud iżuruna ftit ġranet fis-sena, oħrajn jgħixu magħna s-sena kollha. F'dis-sensiela qed ingibbu l-lista kollha! Dawn huma **Numri 151 sa 160...**

| | |
|---|--|
|  <p>151 Isem Malti Gawwija tal-Ingilterra Isem Ingliz Black-legged Kittiwake Isem xjentifiku <i>Rissa tridactyla</i></p> |  <p>156 Isem Malti Gawwija Rasha Sewda Isem Ingliz Mediterranean Gull Isem xjentifiku <i>Larus melanocephalus</i></p> |
|  <p>152 Isem Malti Gawwija Amerikana Isem Ingliz Bonaparte's Gull Isem xjentifiku <i>Larus philadelphia</i></p> |  <p>157 Isem Malti Gawwija Munqarha Aħmar Isem Ingliz Audouin's Gull Isem xjentifiku <i>Larus audouinii</i></p> |
|  <p>153 Isem Malti Gawwija Munqarha Riq Isem Ingliz Slender-billed Gull Isem xjentifiku <i>Larus genei</i></p> |  <p>158 Isem Malti Gawwija Sekonda Isem Ingliz Mew Gull Isem xjentifiku <i>Larus canus</i></p> |
|  <p>154 Isem Malti Gawwija Rasha Kannella Isem Ingliz Black-headed Gull Isem xjentifiku <i>Larus ridibundus</i></p> |  <p>159 Isem Malti Gawwija Dahrha Iswed Isem Ingliz Lesser Black-backed Gull Isem xjentifiku <i>Larus fuscus</i></p> |
|  <p>155 Isem Malti Gawwija Imperjali Isem Ingliz Pallas's Gull Isem xjentifiku <i>Larus ichthyaetus</i></p> |  <p>160 Isem Malti Gawwija Saqajha Roža Isem Ingliz European Herring Gull Isem xjentifiku <i>Larus argentatus</i></p> |

Lista approvata minn BirdLife Malta. Għalkemm xi speċi magħrufin b'iktar minn isem wieħed, dawn huma l-ismijiet uffiċjali bil-Malti li tuża BirdLife Malta. L-ismijiet bl-Ingliz u xjentifiki huma dawk li tuża BirdLife International (www.birdlife.org)

Aħbarijiet sbieħ mid-dinja?



L-Ingilterra kienet l-ewwel pajjiż li bena power station li taħdem bil-faħam. Għall-ewwel kulħadd beda jibni minnhom imma maż-żmien indunaw li l-faħam iħammeġ wiqsg l-arja. Hafna pajjiżi bdew jaqlbu għal sistemi iktar nodfa. Ftit ġimġħat ilu proprio l-Ingilterra għalqet mil-lista ta' *Endangered species*.



Sa ftit ilu l-linċa ta' Spanja (*Iberian lynx*) kienet meqjusa *Endangered species* għax kien baqa' biss 94 minnhom. Bis-saħħha ta' 20 sena ta' studju u protezzjoni, il-popolazzjoni ta' linċi ta' **Spanja** u **l-Portugall** reġgħet telghet għal 2,021. L-ispeċi fil-fatt issa tneħħiet mil-lista ta' *Endangered species*.



Sa ftit snin ilu ż-żu ta' Buenos Aires fl-**Arġentina** kien zu bħall-oħrajn. Imma n-nies ma baqqħetx togħġibhom l-idea li żżomm annimal imsakkar biex tagħmel il-flus minnu. Waqfu jżuru ż-żu, u spiċċa biex għalaq u l-annimali tqassmu f'santwarji. Illum il-post sar eco-park u ċentru biex islavaw animali mill-estinzjoni, fosthom il-kondor.

Bats as Pollinators

Over 500 plant species around the world rely on bats for pollination, including some popular tropical plants such as mango, banana, durian, guava, and agave.



Although locally we don't have any such species of bats, it is interesting to note that flowers pollinated by bats don't usually have bright colours like those flowers pollinated by bees. Bats are most intrigued by flowers which tend to be pale and open at night, making them more visible under the moon light. These night-blooming flowers are often large and shaped like bells, with the sweet nectar hidden deep inside. Bats that act as pollinators are adapted to obtain their energy from nectar, and also sometimes from pollen. To do this, they have evolved extremely well-adapted characteristics, such as long tongues.

Unfortunately these nocturnal creatures are often threatened due to deforestation and agricultural practices which reduce their food source and destroy their roosting habitats.

Fun Facts

1

Bats Have Incredibly Large Tongues:

The tube-lipped nectar bat from Ecuador, has an incredibly long tongue of around 8.5 centimeters. That might not seem like much, but for a bat the size of a mouse, it's quite remarkable! This special adaptation allows them to reach the nectar deep within these unique flowers, ensuring successful pollination.



2

Bats are Attracted to a Rotten Smell:

While most flowers usually have a lovely smell, flowers that attract bats have evolved to bear an unpleasant smell, despite their beautiful appearance.



3

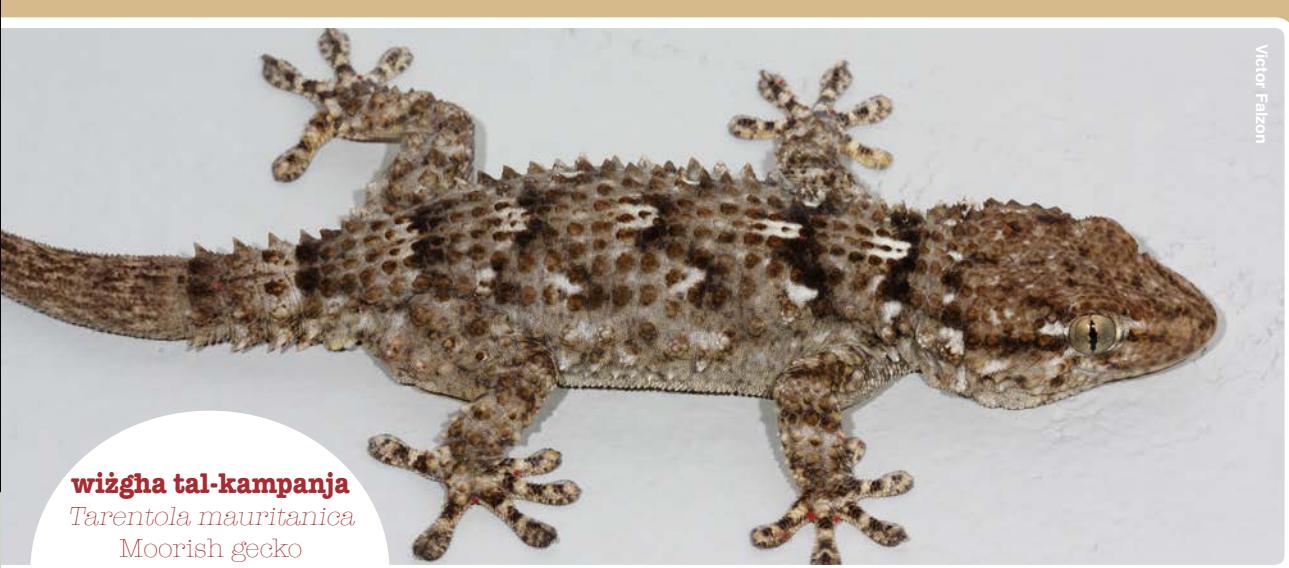
Bats are Vital for the Health of Rainforests:

Since bats can fly long distances, pollen is easily dispersed on widely spaced trees.



Erbarrettili

Harsa mill-qrib
lejn erbgħa
mid-disa' speċi
ta' rettili (tal-
art) Maltin



Russett Ahmar

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*





OVERDEVELOPMENT IS A CONCRETE THREAT



What happens above the waves also impacts what happens in the underwater world, especially in coastal areas. What happens when we build too much too fast near the sea? Who does it impact and what can we do about it?

WHAT IS OVERDEVELOPMENT?

It is basically the process of building too much in an area. Not only it removes green and blue areas but it also pollutes the air, land and water.



Unfortunately, this problem is happening all over Malta and Gozo too. Look outside your window: how many cranes can you count?

IS IT BAD FOR OUR HEALTH TOO?

Yes! Overdevelopment and the pollution it brings are linked to mental health issues due to lower life quality, respiratory issues (like asthma), cancer and Alzheimer's.

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

To protect our seas from overdevelopment and greed, we need to safeguard natural spaces, build less and with more sustainable materials and methods, support ocean-friendly laws and keep our green areas alive so that the blue can remain healthy too!



Is this what you ever imagined a paradisiac place like the Maldives would actually look like?

HOW DOES IT IMPACT THE OCEAN?

Coastal development involves activities such as the creation of harbors, hotels, resorts, stabilization of shorelines and aquaculture. These involve the destruction of marine habitats such as mangroves, coral reefs and seagrass beds. They may also cause the run-off of sediments into coastal habitats, which can smother areas that protect the shore like corals or seaweeds, and reduce the amount of light available for photosynthesis. Tall buildings also create shade and block sunlight from reaching the sea, and bacterial contamination from sewage leaks tend to become more common.



Sticky Fleabane

The sticky fleabane (*tulliera* in Maltese) is a lovely plant that makes loads of yellow flowers – it's full of them now in autumn. Rub your fingers on its sticky leaves and sniff the strong scented oils. Some people like it, others not so much. Find one and try it!



Colour it!



Art Gallery



Flamingo and shearwater
Arthur Bajada 6

Tixtieq tagħti donazzjoni lil BirdLife Malta?

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

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



**Send us your nature drawings
so we can publish them here!**

victor.falzon@birdlifemalta.org

Għadek m'intix membru fi Klabb Huttaf?

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

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



n Days! Club Days! Fun Days!

Klabb Huttaf



www.birdlifemalta.org/events

In Klabb Huttaf we do lots of fun activities and adventures for you and your family. Check out our website for our next exciting activity!



My patch!



Hi again!

I'm Zak Spiteri. I'm 15 and have been birding for four years.

One great thing about birding is that you can do it almost everywhere. Even

in a country with little natural spaces, like Malta, you still find patches in your local area that can hold some birds. I live in Mosta, a place not really known for its nature, but I have my own "patches" that I like to visit.

Gnien 1-Gharusa is a nice garden situated on a cliff overlooking the north of Malta. It has a decent area of woodland, ideal for migrant passerines such as **warblers** and **flycatchers**, or wintering birds like **goldcrests** and **finches**. A trail at the end of the garden leads down to **Wied il-Ghasel**, another great spot. This deep valley with steep rocky sides is perfect for **blue rock-thrushes**, and a visit there will surely reward you with this lovely bird. The dry vegetation here is also great for migrant and breeding birds.

Two other good spots are **Chadwick lakes** and **Wied Ghajn**

Rihana. These valleys are among the best sites in Malta, with dense reedbeds and freshwater pools making perfect habitat for many species. Breeding birds such as **reed-warblers** and **moorhens** nest in the reedbeds, while **kingfishers** and **herons** wait around the pools for a meal. Rare, secretive birds like **craques**, **snipes** and **bluethroats** hide and feed among the reeds, while **harriers**, **turtle-doves**, **kestrels**, **hoopoes** and **hirundines** can be seen in the surrounding fields: a birder's paradise if it weren't for the swarm by hunters giving both birds and birders a hard time. They shoot the birds and let their dogs run through the reedbeds and canals, disturbing birds and other wildlife. It's a shame that such wonderful places with so much potential are ruined by these selfish individuals.

Mount St Joseph is another area with great birding. It's a retreat centre on the outskirts of Mosta, with a nice woodland garden and fields, perfect for migrating and wintering **passerines**. The area also



Wied il-Ghasel



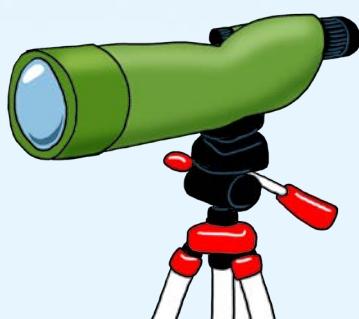
Photos on this page by Zak Spiteri



Baillon's Crake

has a good view of the north of the island, which is ideal to spot migrating birds like **herons** and **birds of prey** fly in. BirdLife Malta also ring birds here, adding value to this small patch of nature, and educating any curious passers-by who happen to be enjoying the garden!

So go on, don't spend all day indoors: grab those binoculars, go out and find your own local patch!



Mid-Djarju...

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

Mid-Djarju ta' Koronilla

Kitba ta' Gianluca Schembri Yr 6.5

It-Tlieta, 8pm

Għażeż Djarju,

Illum għaddew ħafna tfal minn ħdejja u qagħdu jammirawni. Jiena għandi l-fjuri sbieħ qishom imqass. Illum kienet shana u meta ġie l-ġardinar isaqqini ħassejtni tlajt il-ġenna. Imma l-ġurnata ma kinitx kollha tajba għax xi tfal ġew jghaffgu fuq il-pjanti. Bdejt naħseb li forsi xi nies ma jirrispettawinx biżżejjed. Lili ma rifsunx imma l-ħabiba tiegħi Erika, li hija l-iż-ġħar pjanta li għandna, bdiet tinkwieta ħafna li ser jirfsuha. Jiena u Erika nhobbu npaċċu matul il-ġurnata. Għandi aktar ħbieb, fosthom Widnet il-Baħar, Rummien, Ċistu Roža u Erika.

Illum rajt ħażja traġika. Daqs kemm kien riħ, il-petali kollha ta' Ċistu Roža taru u damet siegħha sħiħa tibki. Qed nitlob li jerġgħu jikbrulha.

Illum kienet ġurnata sabiħa u nispera li għada tkun ukoll. Issa ser norqod biex inkun lesta għal għada.

Koronilla



Il-fjuri tal-koronilla jifthu f'bukkett forma ta' kuruna.

Victor Falzon

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

Why is it called...



The **storm petrel** is a cute bird but most people don't even know it exists! Well, that's because it's small and shy and spends most of its life out at sea fishing. We get this bird around Malta too. It nests on the lovely little island of Filfla – in fact this bird's Maltese name is **kanġu ta' Filfla**. But what about its English name? What does **petrel** mean?

Well, if you look at the picture at the top of this page you see a storm petrel busy looking for food at the surface of the sea. While it hovers just over the water it likes to dangle its legs, with its feet just touching the surface. It looks almost as if it's walking on water!

When fishermen noticed this bird while out fishing on their boats, it reminded them of a famous story in the Bible, where Jesus calls Peter out of his boat and tells him to walk on water (he did, for a bit!). Fishermen liked Peter because he too was a fisherman. So they called the bird Saint Peter's bird, or petrel for short. There, mystery solved!

Petrels don't really walk on water of course, they're actually flying. In fact they can hardly stand up on land because their legs are very weak!



A painting of St Peter walking on water, by Francois Boucher



X'ikunu Bee Hotels?

Kif aħna tfal? Illum nixtieq inkellemkom ftit fuq progett ġdid fjamat li se jagħmel il-BOV flimkien mal-Foundation for the Conservation of the Maltese Honey Bee u l-Universitā ta' Malta. Illallu qtajt nifsi biex ktibtha dik is-sentenza!

Parti importanti mill-biodiversità ta' madwarna huma n-naħal u shabhom li jgħinu lill-ambjent ikompli jiddakkar u jikber. Permezz ta' dan il-progett ġewwa l-Universitā ha nsiru nafu ftit aħjar lil dawn shabna li tant huma importanti biex ikollna ħajja aħjar. Infatti se jibnulhom postijiet apposta fejn joqogħdu li jissejħu Bee Hotels. Lanqas kont naf x'kien qabel jien! Għalhekk ha nurikom stampa tagħhom hawn taħt:



Xi ħlew hux! Hotel tal-5 Stile! Aħjar jibnuli waħda lili wkoll 😊 Issa nipprova nagħmel ħbieb magħhom. Hekk jew b'hekk jien inħobb indur intir fejn l-Universitā - fadal ftit ħdura hemm. Ghad-darba li jmiss għeżeż!

Petitu

(l-ghasfur tal-bejt)





id-Debba tax-Xitan



Victor Falzon

Id-debba tax-xitan hija waħda mill-ikbar insetti li naraw Malta. Tikber sa xi 7cm.

Bl-Ingliz jisimha *praying mantis* għax tħobb iż-żomm l-ewwel par saqajn flimkien, qisha qiegħda titlob!

Id-debba tax-xitan m'għandha x'taqsam xejn mad-dimonju! Missirijietna semmewha hekk minħabba l-forma stramba tagħha.

F'Malta għandna tliet speci ta' debba tax-xitan, u din tar-ritratt hija l-ikbar waħda. Fil-fatt l-isem sħiħ tagħha huwa **debba tax-xitan kbira**.

Id-debba tax-xitan hija predatur eċċellenti. Bis-saħħha tal-kamuflaxx tinħeba fil-pjanti qalb il-fjuri, u taqbad diversi insetti, minn dubbien sa ġurati u anke dbieb tax-xitan oħrajn!

Taqbad il-priżza bl-ewwel par saqajn, li huma armati b'ringiela snien ħalli l-vittma żgur ma taħarbilhiex.

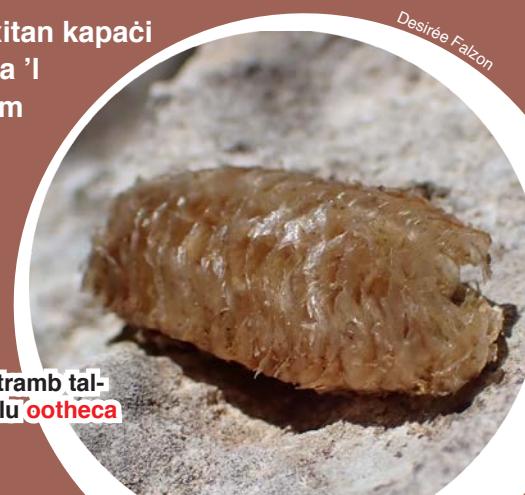
Id-debba raġel irid joqgħod attent ħafna meta jipprova jinnamra mad-debba mara, għax bħal xejn iddur għaliex ukoll... u tieklu! Miskin!

Id-debba tħid mijiet ta' bajd fi speċi ta' pakkett ragħwa, li meta jinxef jibqa' mwaħħal mal-ġebla. Il-frieħ ikunu kopji żgħar tal-ġenituri.

Minkejja d-dehra forsi xi ftit tal-biża', id-debba tax-xitan mhix perikoluża għall-bniedem.

Id-debba tax-xitan kapaċi ddawwar rasha 'i hawn u 'i hemm fuq għonqha – tixbahna ftit f'din! Ftit insetti jafuh dat-trikk.

Il-pakkett stramb tal-bajd jghidulu **ootheca**



Desirée Falzon

It-tibdil fil-klima hu waħda mill-akbar problemi li qed tiffaċċja d-dinja llum. Wieħed irid jifhem li d-dinja għaddiet minn hafna minn dawn il-bidliet, iżda dik li qegħdin niffaċċjaw illum hija differenti għax qed isseħħ b'rata hafna aktar mghaż-ġġla minn dawk ta' qabilha. Din il-bidla fil-klima qed toħloq tibdil fl-imġiba ta' hafna ħlejjaq, inkluż l-ghasafar. Dan kollu qed isehħ minħabba l-impatt negattiv tal-bniedem. Kif nafu x'ċara fil-passat, u l-effetti li kellhom dawn il-bidliet fil-klima? Proprju mill-kollezzjonijiet miġbura f'diversi mużewijiet madwar id-dinja, studjuži u riċerkaturi jkejlu u janalizzaw speċi ta' ħlejjaq differenti li għexu mill-juni ta' snin ilu sa dawk aktar riċenti fil-bidu tal-Ħoloċennju (10,000 sena ilu). Mill-fossili u minn eżemplari aktar riċenti, ix-xjenzati jinterpretaw l-impatti ta' dawn l-avvenimenti kif ukoll ibassru kif dak li qed isehħ se jaffettwa n-natura, inkluż lill-bniedem.

