

il-**Ħ**uttafa

Numru **190**

Settembru – Ottubru 2025

**Seġer tal-
Ħannieqa**



Suċċess fis-Salina

Das-sajf fir-riserva naturali tas-Salina, par **monakell** (*little ringed plover*) bejtu u biedu erba' bajdiet. Minnhom faqqsu erba' flieles helwin qishom blaten tas-suf bis-saqajn.

Il-ġenituri tagħhom indukrawhom u għamlu ġimgħat jiġru magħhom biex ibieghduhom mill-periklu u biex filgħaxija jdahhluhom jorqdu taħt ġwinhajhom. L-erba' frieh kibru u tgħallmu jtiru.

Dan kien rekord ġdid fil-istorja tal-ghasafar f'Malta. Għaliex?

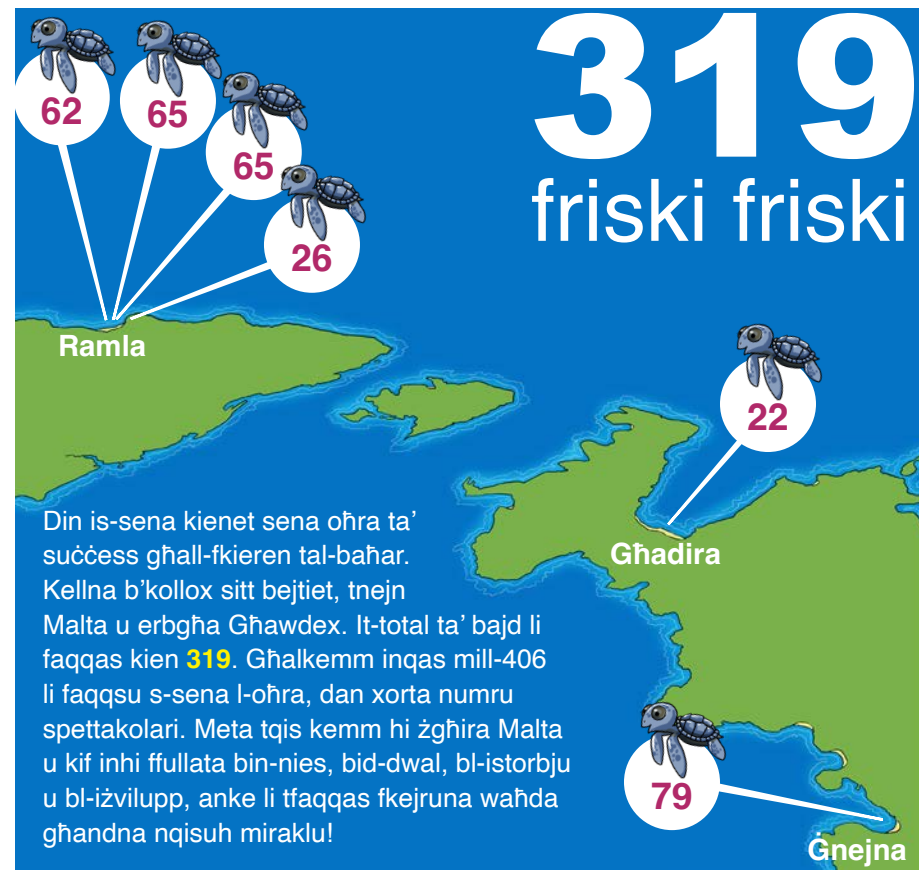
Il-monakella ilha 30 sena tbejjet b'suċċess fir-riserva naturali tal-Ghadira, imma mkien iktar f'Malta. Din kienet l-ewwel darba li l-monakella nafu li bejtet b'suċċess f'post li mhux l-Ghadira.



Il-fellus tal-monakella jkun qisu ballun suf bis-sajajn!

Il-BirdLife trid tkun biex toħloq l-ambjent u s-sigurtà xierqa biex ahna l-ghasafar insibu fejn inbejtu bla tfixkil.

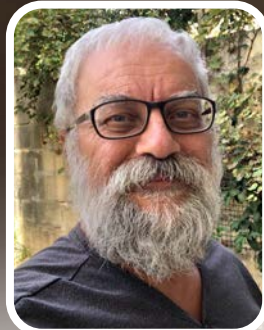
Straight fire!



Premju!

Il-BirdLife ghadna kemm irbahna **Environment Stewardship Award**. Dan il-premju, mogħti mill-ERA, hadnieh għax-xogħol li għamilna fir-riserva naturali tas-Salina. Kien hemm roqgħa art mitluqa mimlija skart u terrapien. Wara hafna studju, u b'hafna galbu, bdilna l-post f'genna tal-art żghira b'ghadajjar, kanali u ruxxmata arbuxelli godda. L-ghasafar indunaw bil-bidla u bdew iżuru regolari, u l-bufula tal-qasab bejtet fil-pront. Mhux ta' b'xejn imbissmin Mark Gauci, Mark Sultana u Manuel Mallia fir-ritratt!

Ha nara kemm tifhem: dak merill raġel jew mara?
Le, dak għasfur!
Tubal!



Hej Hbieb Huttaf...

Għandi merill!

Le, mhux ġo gaġġa, u ajma ma tarawx! Dan huwa merill li minn xi ġimgħat ilu tfaċċa fl-inħawi fejn ngħix u kuljum qed jintefa' fuq il-bjut tad-djar jgħanni.

U mhuwix waħdu, għax dil-ġimgħa rajt ukoll merill mara fuq il-bejt tad-dar ta' faċċata, u lbieraħ stess rajt merill raġel jiġri wara merill iehor, aktarx biex ikeċċih.

Jien ktibt li "għandi" merill sintendi mhux għax vera huwa tiegħi. Ghedt hekk għax jien u nikteb dan l-editorjal qed nisimgħu jgħanni proprju fuq il-bejt tad-dar tiegħi.

Xi ġmief! Il-merill magħruf għall-għanja sabiħa tiegħu. Fil-fatt dari

kienu jinqabdu hafna merilli (jew jinsterqulhom il-frieħ mill-bejta) biex imsieken jitrabbew maqfulin f'gaġġa halli joqogħdu jgħannu. Trid tkun vera egoist biex tagħmel hekk.

B'xorti tajba fl-1970 il-merill inħatar l-ghasfur nazzjonali ta' Malta u bis-saħħa t'hekk ġie protett bil-liġi. Minn dak iż-żmien, id-drawwa kerha li jaqbdueh bdiet tinqata' u llum kważi spiċċat għal kollox.

Il-merill issa jista' jimraħ fejn irid għax ftit ha jfixkluh nies. U mid-dehra xi merilli qed jibdew jersqu lejn l-abitat tal-bniedem. Qed ikollna rapporti ta' merilli mir-Rabat, mill-Mosta, minn Htal Gharghur, minn H'Attard, Hāz-Żebbuġ, mill-Belt u diversi bliet u rhula oħrajn.

Intom smajtu jew rajtu xi merill fl-inħawi fejn tgħixu intom? Jekk iva, **iktbu għidulna**. Forsi hadtulu ritratt ukoll? Ibagħtuhuli ha ngibuh fil-maġazin.

U issa ha nħallikom halli nitla' fuq il-bejt forsi nara lil sieħbi l-merill u noħodlu ritratt.

Jekk tkunu b'xortikom, forsi niġi nagħmel kunċert fuq il-bejt tagħkom. Biljetti b'xejn.

Victor

Victor Falzon
L-Editor



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People who wrote ...

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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.

Contacts...

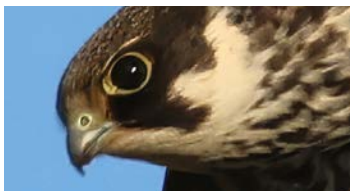
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Ritratt ta' Ian Balzan

Servizz ta' grooming b'xejn!



Jinqdew b'haddiehor

Kull fejn hemm il-ħajja, se ssib annimali li jinqdew b'annimali oħrajn. Dawn ngħidulhom **parassiti**. Fost parassiti li jinqdew b'annimali kbar insibu qurdien (ticks), briegħed (fleas), xi dubbien, eċċ. Dawn il-parassiti jixorbu d-demem tal-annimal li jgħixu fuqu u b'hekk jieħdu n-nutrijenti kollha li għandhom b'żonn... bla ma jagħtu xejn lura, ħlief xi marda!

Anke l-pets...

Minħabba li huma żgħar, il-parassiti kapaċi jinħbew qalb is-suf tal-annimali, tant li l-annimal b'lekkem jinduna bihom. Anke l-klieb u l-qtates li nrabbu fid-dar tagħna jdurru għalihom parassiti bħal briegħed. Dawn sintendi nieħdu ħsiebhom bi sprejs u mediċina biex inneħħulhom il-parassiti. Inkella jistgħu jimirdulna.

Bla swaba'!

Ħafna annimali li jgħixu fis-savanna tal-Afrika – bħall-bufli, ippopotami, rinoċeronti, antilopi, żebri u ġiraffi – ikollhom parassiti

fuq ġisimhom. Dawn il-bhejjem ma tantx ikunu jistgħu jehilsu mill-parassiti għax m'għandhomx swaba' bħal tagħna biex jaqbduhom u jneħħuhom.

U sintendi lanqas m'għandhom sidien li jieħdu ħsieb inehħulhom il-parassiti.

Imma għandhom ħabib iehor li jagħtihom das-servizz: l-**oxpecker**, għasfur daqs sturnell!

Kaċċatur eċċellenti

L-oxpecker huwa għasfur ²endemiku għall-Afrika (minn taħt is-Saħara 'l isfel). Hemm żewġ speċi: ir-**red-billed oxpecker** u l-**yellow-billed oxpecker**.

L-oxpeckers huma kaċċaturi eċċellenti tal-parassiti. L-ikel favorit tagħhom huwa proprju l-qurdien, u għalhekk issibhom kull fejn ikun hemm annimali li jkollhom il-qurdien.

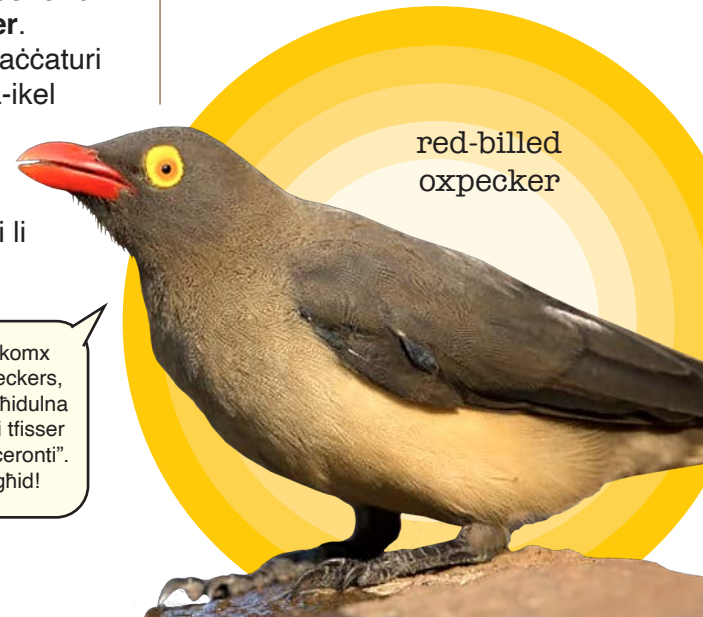
Bil-Malti m'għandkomx isem għalina l-oxpeckers, imma bis-Swahili jgħidulna **askari wa kifar**, li tfisser "l-ghassies tar-rinoċeronti". Min jaf għaliex tghid!

Anke f'widnejhom

Ħafna drabi meta tara ritratti ta' bufli, baqar jew bhejjem oħrajn kbar fl-Afrika, tarahom bl-oxpeckers fuq daharhom, għonqhom, rashom, eċċ. Xi drabi jidhulhom anke jfittxu go widnejhom ħalli jsibu l-parassiti li jinħbew fit-tidwir tal-ġilda.

U b'hekk kulhadd jieħu xi ħaġa: l-oxpecker għandu sors ta' ikel faċli, u l-bhejjem il-kbar għandhom servizz ta' "grooming" effiċjenti u b'xejn. Kull qalb trid oħra!

¹savanna. Wesgħat kbar miksijin bil-haxix, b'xi siġar 'l hawn u 'l hemm.
²endemiku. Jinsab hemm u mkien iktar



red-billed oxpecker

L-Ghasafar KOLLHA ta' Malta

F'Malta s'issa dehru **408 speċi** ta' għasafar. Xi speċi huma komuni, oħrajn rari, uħud iżuruna ftit ġranet fis-sena, oħrajn jgħixu magħna s-sena kollha. F'dis-sensiela qed inġibu l-lista kollha: dawn huma numri **211** sa **220**.

211		Isem Malti Daqquqa tat-Toppu Isem Ingliz Common Hoopoe Isem xjentifiku <i>Upupa epops</i>	216		Isem Malti Bulebbiet Isem Ingliz Eurasian Wryneck Isem xjentifiku <i>Jynx torquilla</i>
212		Isem Malti Qerd in-Naħal Aħdar Isem Ingliz Blue-cheeked Bee-eater Isem xjentifiku <i>Merops persicus</i>	217		Isem Malti Spanjulett Sekond Isem Ingliz Lesser Kestrel Isem xjentifiku <i>Falco naumanni</i>
213		Isem Malti Qerd in-Naħal Isem Ingliz European Bee-eater Isem xjentifiku <i>Merops apiaster</i>	218		Isem Malti Spanjulett Isem Ingliz Common Kestrel Isem xjentifiku <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
214		Isem Malti Farruġ Isem Ingliz European Roller Isem xjentifiku <i>Coracias garrulus</i>	219		Isem Malti Spanjulett Amerikan Isem Ingliz American Kestrel Isem xjentifiku <i>Falco sparverius</i>
215		Isem Malti Għasfur ta' San Martin Isem Ingliz Common Kingfisher Isem xjentifiku <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	220		Isem Malti Żumbrell Isem Ingliz Red-footed Falcon Isem xjentifiku <i>Falco vespertinus</i>

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

Aħbarijiet sbieħ mid-dinja?



Nifs għad-dinja



Għall-ewwel darba fl-istorja, il-produzzjoni **dinjija** ta' enerġija minn sorsi rinovabbli (riħ, xemx, xmajjar, eċċ.) qabżet il-produzzjoni ta' enerġija minn faħam u żejt. Minkejja l-manija tal-president Amerikan biex ikompli jifgghuna bil-ħruq tal-faħam, il-pass lejn enerġija nadifa baqa' għaddej.



Nifs għall-Ġganti



Erbghin sena ilu ħafna nies pajjiżi waqfu jistadu għall-baleni, imma l-**Iżlanda** baqgħet taqbadhom. Però ħafna nies m'għadhomx jieklu laħam tal-baleni, għalhekk is-sajjieda mhux isibu lil min ibighuh. Fil-fatt is-sena l-oħra l-Iżlanda waqfu jistadu għall-fin whales. Dis-sena ha jagħmlu l-istess. J'Alla s-suq għall-baleni jistaxxa għal kollox.



Nifs għall-ghasafar



Wara snin ta' sforzi minn għaqdiet ambjentali, il-Gvern tar-**Renju Unit** qabel li jinqata' l-użu ta' ċomb fl-iskrata tal-kaċċa fl-Ingilterra, l-Iskozja u Wales. Iċ-ċomb huwa metall velenuż, u huwa stmat li fir-Renju Unit 100,000 tajra tal-ilma kull sena tmut ivvelenata biċ-ċomb li jaqa' fl-ilma tax-xmajjar u l-għadajjar. Tghid Malta tasal xi darba?

Special Protection Areas



Have you ever heard of Special Protection Areas?

Special Protection Areas are areas designated under the European Union Birds Directive in order to protect vulnerable bird species as well as migratory birds. This means that activities that could harm the birds or their habitats may be restricted or controlled to make sure the birds and their habitats remain safe.

The four sites below are examples of areas within Malta and Gozo which have been given this designation by the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA).



Is-Simar

Located in Xemxija, Simar is known for being a wetland habitat that serves as a safe home to both local birds and those that stop to rest during their long migrations.

After a period of neglect, a restoration project in 1992 transformed the area into a thriving habitat with new trees, restored pools and canals, ensuring its continued importance for birdlife.

Irdumijiet ta' Malta: Ix-Xaqqa sa Wied Moqbol

This protected coastal area is a significant SPA due to its steep cliffs and boulder screes, which provide important nesting sites for seabirds.



L-Inħawi tal-Għadira

Located in Mellieħa, this area supports a wide variety of habitats, such as; a saltmarsh, a brackish wetland, sand dunes, garrigue, steppe, a small valley, and agricultural land.

The wetland area is a crucial breeding ground for a number of bird species and serves as a crucial stopover for migratory birds.



Filfla u l-Gzejjer ta' Madwarha

This set of offshore rocky islands are found off the southwestern coast of Malta.

Because of their isolation, Filfla is an ideal breeding site for several seabird species, including the European Storm-Petrel and Yelkouan Shearwater.

Nothing to see! Just a pile of pebbles...

Ah but look closely . . .

Are you sure those are all pebbles?

Well . . . did you see it?

It's right there, and it's not a pebble.

It's a master of camouflage.

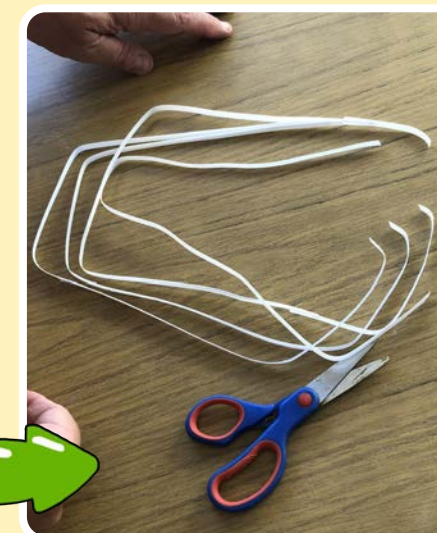
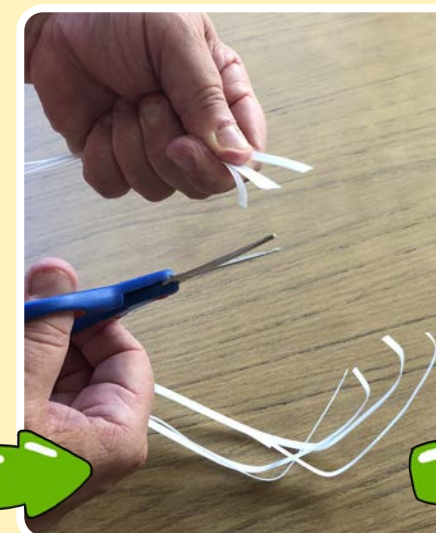
Yup, it's a cute little cuttlefish (siċċa)

sitting quietly on the white pebble,

and looking just like a pebble herself.

Photo taken in very shallow water by Mark-Anthony Falzon at Dahlet il-Fekruna

It's a trap!



So many things we buy nowadays come packed in plastic straps, like the ones in the pictures (these were wrapped around a stack of paper bags). When we throw them away, they sometimes end up by mistake in the countryside, or in the sea. Curious animals pick them up and get their head, their neck or their body tangled in the loops. When this happens the animals almost always die. So **make it a habit: before throwing plastic loops in the recycling bin, take a pair of scissors and cut them up first.** That way they won't become a trap for wildlife.

Kokka tax-Xagħri

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*



THREATENED ELASMOBRANCHS IN MALTA



MALTA NATIONAL
AQUARIUM



Bull Ray - *Aetomylaeus bovinus*

A breathtaking visitor to our waters, with electric-blue stripes as unique as your own fingerprints! But here in the Maltese Islands, these ocean treasures have had almost no protection. Overfishing, habitat loss, and human disturbance are pushing them towards extinction.



Shortfin Mako - *Isurus oxyrinchus*

One of the fastest sharks in the sea, it lives in the Mediterranean and many other oceans. But scientists say its numbers have fallen by more than 80% in the last 75 years mainly because of fishing! Makos are often caught by accident in nets and long lines meant for other fish, and some are hunted for their meat and fins. Because they grow slowly and have very few babies, their population struggles to recover.



Blue Shark - *Prionace glauca*

A sleek, open-sea shark found across the Mediterranean and many other oceans. It swims from the surface to about 1000 meters, often migrating long distances between warmer and cooler waters. It feed on fish, squid, and occasionally birds. In the Mediterranean, numbers are decreasing due to overfishing and bycatch in longline and drift fisheries. Despite having many pups, the fishing rate is so high that populations cannot recover.



Maltese Skate - *Leucoraja melitensis*

A rare skate found in the Mediterranean, including Maltese waters. It has a flat, diamond-shaped body and swims using its pectoral fins in a wavy motion, often resting on sandy or muddy sea floors. Its habitat overlaps with bottom trawlers and net fisheries, which damage the seabed and catch the skate accidentally (bycatch), making this its major threat. As a result, its numbers have declined sharply, and its range has become much smaller.

The Mediterranean is full of extraordinary creatures, from speedy sharks to mysterious rays and clever reef fish. Sadly, many of them are facing serious threats, mostly because of human actions like overfishing, pollution, and habitat loss. But the good news is that every small change we make can help them!

We are one of their biggest threats... but we can also be their greatest hope.

GIVE THEM SPACE AND RESPECT THEIR HOMES;

SUPPORT STRONGER FISHING REGULATIONS AND CHOOSE SUSTAINABLY CAUGHT SEAFOOD;

BE THEIR VOICE, SPEAK UP FOR THEIR PROTECTION.

At the Malta National Aquarium, you can learn more about how to protect them. By learning, caring, safeguarding them, and taking action together, we also protect the balance and health of our oceans for generations to come.

*all conservation status apply for the Mediterranean sea

Colour
me...



Little Ringed Plover



Are you a wildlife artist?
Send us your nature drawings!

victor.falzon@birdlifemalta.org

Gallozz Iswed
Mila Voronova 9



HAPPINESS IS...



... seeing a bee on
the flower you planted.

Would you like to help BirdLife Malta
protect birds and nature?

You can use this QR code to make
an online donation. Thanks!



Still not a member of Klabb Huttaf?!

- Would you like to join the club?
- Would you like to renew?
- Would you like your family to join?

You can use this QR code
to do all this. Thanks.



n Days! Club Days! Fun Days! Cl Days!



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!



Spedizzjoni lejn Sqallija

“Fit-23 Lulju 2025 grupp nies minn BirdLife Malta tlejna Sqallija. Ma tlejnie x għal vaganza, imma tlejna għax kellna magħna tliet “passiġġieri” importanti.

Dawn kienu żewġ **kuċċardiet** (*European honey-buzzard*) u **żumbrell** (*red-footed falcon*), u kienu fi triqthom lejn il-helsien.

Dawn it-tliet għasafar kienu sparaw fuqhom kaċċaturi s-sena l-oħra u kienu waqgħu feruti fl-art, waħda minnhom fil-ġonna tas-Seminarju fir-Rabat. Hemmhekk sabu hom nies twajba, li malajr ċemplu lill-BirdLife u morna niġbru hom halli nikkurawhom u forsi nfejquhom.

Wara hafna xhur ta’ kura, it-tliet għasafar flequ mill-ġriehi u reġgħu hađu saħhithom. Wasal iż-żmien li jerġgħu jintelqu fis-selvaġġ. Imma bżajna li jekk nitilquhom Malta jerġgħu jisparaw lhom il-kaċċaturi.

Għalhekk ġibna permess mill-ERA biex insifruhom lejn Sqallija, u permess mill-ISPRA (fl-Italja) biex nitilquhom fil-Parco dell’Etna, park naturali madwar il-vulkan famuż.

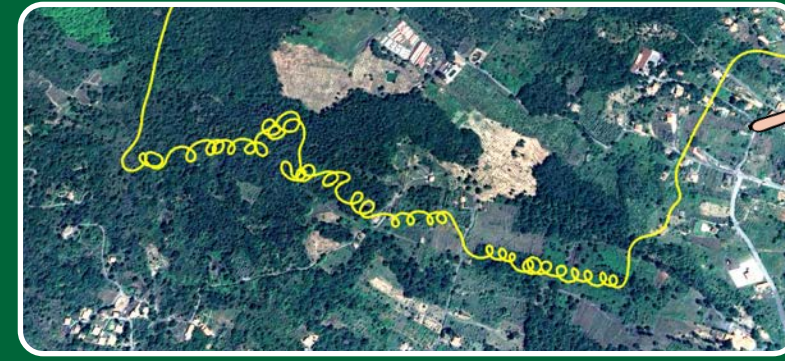
Bl-ghajnuna tal-LIPU (il-BirdLife fl-Italja) u tan-nies li jieħdu hsieb il-park, tlaqna dawn it-tliet tajriet fil-park u awgurajnielhom hajja twila.”



Grazzi lil **Antonia Micallef** u **Nik Barbara** tat-tagħrif u r-ritratti, lil **Nick Galea** tal-computer images, u lil **Francesco DalColle** u t-tim tiegħu li hađu hsieb il-kura u l-fejtan ta’ dawn l-ghasafar.

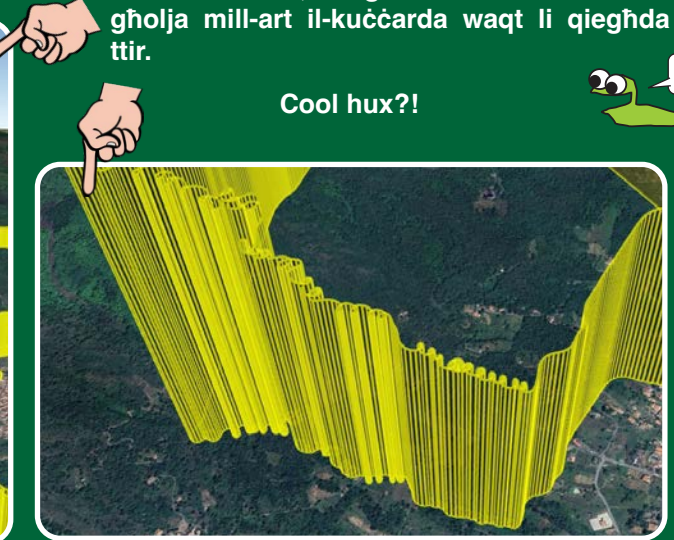
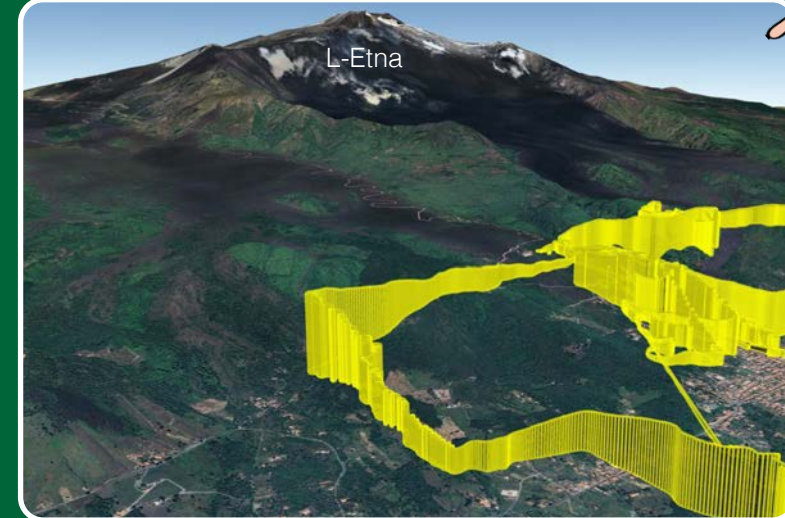


Qabel intelqu, iż-żewġ kuċċardiet itteggjajniehom b’apparat GPS halli nkunu nistgħu nseguw x’ikunu qed jagħmlu u fejn imorru. Dawn l-immaġni juru proprju x’naraw fuq il-kompjuter.



Dan ir-ritratt mis-satellita juri r-rotta (il-linja s-safra) li hađet waħda mill-kuċċard li kellha l-apparat GPS. Dawk il-hafna “nokkli” juru fejn il-kuċċarda bdiet tissaqqar (soaring) biex mill-baxx titla’ fl-gholi.

Dawn ukoll ritratti mis-satellita imma l-kompjuter dawwarhom biex jidhru 3D. Minħabba li 3D, nistgħu naraw kemm kienet għolja mill-art il-kuċċarda waqt li qiegħda ttir.



Cool hux?!

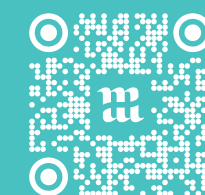


Student Passport IL-PASSAPORT TAL-ISTUDENTI

Bil-Passaport tal-Istidenti ta’ Heritage Malta tmur lura fiż-żmien! Hałlih jieħdok f’għerien u katakombi ta’ eluf ta’ snin ilu, binjiet li nbnew qabel ma bdiet tinkiteb l-istorja, palazzi, fortizzi u habsijiet. Bih fil-but għandek garanzija ta’ hafna magħija!

Tixtieq tesplora?

Skennja l-QR code għal aktar tagħrif:



Ix-Xita!

Għeżiež tfal 😊

Kif intom? Nispera li tajbin! Bdiet tqattar ix-xita! X'gost 😊 Jien it-temp Xitwi vera jogħgobni għax nieħu gost noqgħod nitgeddes ma' shabi.

Imma tafu minn fejn tiġi x-xita? Jien dejjem affaxinatni. Għax qisha tiġi minn imkien. Bħall-magija hux. Filli bnazzi u filli jibda jingabar is-shab u tibda tqattar. Vera nieħu gost inħossha fuq ir-rix u ċert li intom ukoll (ovvjament naf li ma għandkomx rix, imma fuq il-gilda tagħkom 😊).

Wara Sajf kiefer ix-xita terġa' tagħti l-ħajja lin-natura ta' madwarna. Nieħu gost noqgħod nara l-ħaxix li jibdel kuluru minn kannella għal dak l-aħdar sabiħ. U r-riħa ta' wara x-xita vera togħgobni. Qisha x-xita tibdel dak kollu li tmiss. Tagħmlu aħjar, isbaħ u tagħti l-ħajja.

Sfortunatament minħabba t-tibdil fit-temperaturi u t-tniġġis ix-xita f'Malta qiegħda ssir aktar rari jew meta tagħmel, tagħmel ħafna f'daqqa. Ir-riskju huwa doppju. Jew li Malta bil-mod il-mod tibda tinbidel f'deżert jew inkella billi tagħmel ħafna xita f'daqqa din tikkawża aktar ħsara milli ġid.

Għalhekk jekk irridu nkomplu ngawdu x-xita, irridu nieħdu ħsieb aktar l-ambjent ta' madwarna. Ftakru li n-natura, bħax-xita hija ċiklu u kollox jaffettwa kollox.



Petitu

(l-ghasfur tal-bejt)

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F A T T I F A W N A

F'xi kotba ha ssib il-vespertin bħala farfett il-lejl widnet il-gurdien jew anke farfett il-lejl tal-ghabex widnet il-gurdien. Ahna nhossu li dawn l-ismijiet twal wisq, u dal-povru animal kien jixraqqu isem qasir u Prattiku... pereżempju **vespertin**!



il-Vespertin

Il-vespertin huwa wiehed mill-friefet il-lejl ta' pajjiżna. Bl-Ingliż jismu **Maghrebian bat** u l-isem xjentifiku tiegħu huwa **Myotis punicus**.

Il-friefet il-lejl huma l-uniċi mammiferi fid-dinja li jtiru fil-veru sens tal-kelma. Annimali bħal **sugar gliders** u **flying squirrels** ma jtirux imma jigglajdjaw.

F'Malta għad m'hawnx qbil fuq kemm għandna speċi ta' friefet il-lejl: hawn min jgħid seba' speċi, hawn min jgħid 11 u hawn min jgħid anke 15-il speċi. Sa ftit snin ilu, anke l-vespertin stess kienu jaħsbu speċi oħra. Hemm bżonn ta' iktar studju.

Bħal friefet il-lejl oħrajn, il-vespertin jorqod binhar u joħroġ ma' nżul ix-xemx ifittex l-ikel.

Il-friefet il-lejl ta' Malta huma kollha insettivori, jiġifieri jieklu biss insetti. L-ikel tal-vespertin jikkonsisti f'nemus, baħrijiet u insetti oħrajn li jtiru bil-lejl. Dawn jaqbadhom bit-tattika tal-**echolocation**, li bih juża iktar widnejh milli għajnejh. Il-vespertin mhuwiex ta' periklu għall-bniedem.

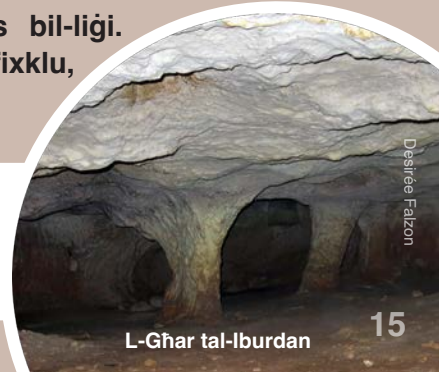
Il-vespertin għandu **wingspan** ta' xi 35cm. Huwa wiehed mill-ikbar friefet il-lejl ta' pajjiżna.

Il-vespertin jorqod f'għerien, xeltrijiet, kantini, katakombi u bini qadim, basta jkunu mudlama u bla tfixkil. Postijiet bħal dawn għandhom jingħataw protezzjoni sħiħa, għax mingħajrhom il-vespertin jista' jgħib għal kollox minn Malta.

Il-vespertini jkollhom ferħ wiehed biss fis-sena. Minħabba f'hekk il-popolazzjoni tagħhom iddum biex tirkupra jekk b'xi vandalizmu jew żvilupp tintilef parti minnha.

Il-vespertin imħares bil-liġi. Hadd ma jista' jfixklu, jaqbd u jew joqtlu.

Dan wiehed mis-siti fejn jistkenn il-vespertin. Minkejja li protett, dan l-ghar imiss ma' barriera! Id-dwal, l-istorbju u t-trabijiet huma theddid għall-ghar u l-friefet il-lejl li jistkennu fih.



L-Ghar tal-Iburdan

Matthew Borg Cardona

Destinee Fazon

Estint

Il-gurlin geddumu rqiġ (*slender-billed curlew*) għadu kemm ġie ddikjarat estint, jiġifieri nqered għal kollox mid-dinja. Dari kien komuni, u anke f'Malta kien jidher regolarment. Imma mbagħad beda skarsa, sar rarissmu u minn xi 50 sena 'l hawn ma deher imkien iktar¹. Għalhekk ix-xjenzati issa qablu li din l-ispeċi nqerdet mid-dinja.

Meta nitkellmu fuq għasafar estinti naħsbu fid-dodo. Imma barra d-dodo hemm mijiet ta' speċi oħrajn ta' għasafar li wkoll għebu mid-dinja – ħafna minnhom minħabba fina l-bnedmin. U bit-telfa tal-gurlin geddumu rqiġ, id-dinja issa saret ftit iktar fqira.

¹ L-aħħar li deher Malta l-gurlin geddumu rqiġ kien fl-1977

