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Il-Merill is the ornithological journal of BirdLife Malta. It serves as a medium for the publication of articles and short notes dealing with aspects of ornithology that have a bearing on the Maltese Islands and the Mediterranean. It also carries systematic lists of birds recorded in the Maltese Islands and rarities reports written by the Maltese Rarities and Records Committee, as well as bird-ringing reports prepared by the BirdLife Malta Ringing Scheme.

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The editorial board welcomes articles and short notes for publication that are in line with the ornithological and regional scope of *Il-Merill*. Submissions for consideration should not have been published or be concurrently submitted elsewhere. All contributions will be reviewed by the editorial board and may be sent for peer-review to experts in the field outside of the editorial board. The editorial board reserves the right to reject contributions.

The Maltese Islands have a long history of ornithological studies, and its avifaunal diversity remains well-documented by a sizeable community of birdwatchers and naturalists. While breeding birds are relatively few, they give the opportunity for insular ecological studies, even in a context of the increasing urbanisation of the islands. Malta is moreover home to globally important breeding seabird populations and, in comparison to its terrestrial area, has a large marine zone. The Maltese Islands lie along the Central Mediterranean Flyway between the continents of Europe and Africa. In the same way that Malta geographically acts a stepping stone for birds migrating between the two continents, *Il-Merill* can be a unifying forum for ornithological research across the Mediterranean region.

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At-sea surveys expose pelagic migration of seabirds in the Central Mediterranean

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ABSTRACT

Much of the effort towards monitoring bird migration is centred on migratory landbird or shorebird counts at terrestrial vantage points. However, a proportion of avian passage is not accessible with these methods: the pelagic migration of seabirds. Here we present data from three years of at-sea surveys, conducted a decade apart, around the Maltese Islands in the Central Mediterranean. Surveys were conducted intensively in 2012 and 2013 as part of the LIFE+ Malta Seabird Project carried out by BirdLife Malta, and a less intensive transect set-up carried out from August 2023 to May 2024 for the collection of data for Article 12 reporting under the EU Birds Directive. These at-sea surveys, following ESAS (European Seabirds At Sea) methodology, substantiated our knowledge of the use of the Maltese Fisheries Management Zone for the migration and stopover of Black Terns *Chlidonias niger* in late summer and early autumn, displaying a strong association with fishery and aquaculture infrastructure. Sightings also suggest the active westerly migration of Mediterranean Gulls *Larus melanocephalus* and Scopoli's Shearwaters *Calonectris diomedea* through Maltese waters in autumn, movements of Little Gulls *Hydrocoloeus minutus* in March and December, and connectivity between Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis* populations in the Mediterranean. Low-intensity surveys may not be sufficient to estimate passage population numbers in the open sea, but provide clues into offshore activity for more directed surveying, highlighting species of conservation concern that may require further attention in Maltese waters.

FIL-QOSOR

Il-maġġoranza tal-isforz tal-monitoraġġ tal-passa tal-għasafar huwa ffukat fuq il-passa tal-għasafar tal-art jew tal-ilma minn fuq l-art. Madanakollu, proporzjon ta' passa tal-għasafar mhux aċċessibbli b'dawn il-metodoloġiji: il-passa tal-għasafar tal-baħar fid-dominju pelagiku. Qegħdin nipprezentaw data minn tliet snin ta' servejs li saru minn fuq il-baħar 10 snin minn xulxin fl-ibħra ta' madwar il-Ġzejjer Maltin, fiċ-ċentru tal-Mediterran. Is-servejs saru b'mod intensiv fl-2012 u l-2013 bħala parti mill-LIFE+ Malta Seabird Project immexxi minn BirdLife Malta, u b'mod inqas intensiv bejn Awwissu 2023 u Mejju 2024 għall-għbir ta' data għar-rapportaġġ meħtieġ taht

Artikolu 12 tad-Direttiva dwar l-Għasafar tal-UE. Is-servejs, li twettqu skont il-metodoloġija ESAS (European Seabirds At Sea), žiedu l-għarfien tagħna dwar l-użu taż-Żona ta' Ġestjoni tas-Sajd (FMZ) ta' Malta miċ-Ċirlew Iswed *Chlidonias niger* waqt il-passa tagħhom bejn l-aħħar tas-sajf u l-bidu tal-harifa. Dawn l-għasafar juru assoċjazzjoni qawwija mal-infrastruttura tas-sajd u l-akwakultura. L-osservazzjonijiet li saru juru wkoll il-passa attiva lejn il-punent tal-Gawwi Rasu Sewda *Larus melanocephalus* u ċ-Ċief *Calonectris diomedea* mill-ibħra Maltin fil-harifa, movimenti ta' Gawwi Żgħir *Hydrocoloeus minutus* f'Marzu u Diċembru, u l-konnettività bejn popolazzjonijiet tal-Gawwija Prima *Larus michahellis* fil-Mediterran. Minn servejs ta' intensità baxxa hija improbabbli li jinħarġu stimi tad-daqs tal-popolazzjonijiet li jpassu fil-baħar miftuħ, imma jagħtu hjiel tal-attività li hemm fuq il-baħar u jiggwidaw servejs iktar diretti filwaqt li jindikaw speċi li jieħtieġu konservazzjoni biex jingħataw iktar attenzjoni fl-ibħra Maltin.

Keywords: seabirds, boat-based surveys, ESAS, pelagic, migration, stopover, monitoring

INTRODUCTION

Seabirds are sentinels of the marine environment; species from several taxonomic orders of birds depend, to some extent, on the sea, from the coast to the open oceans, and serve important ecological roles between the marine and terrestrial biomes. Several orders of seabirds are among the most threatened groups of birds in the world, owing to threats at their breeding colonies on land, such as alien invasive predators and human disturbance, as well as threats at sea, such as bycatch risk, pollution, and overexploitation of fish stocks, exacerbated by climate change (Dias, Martin et al., 2019).

Most seabird species are migratory and therefore utilise a broad geographical range over the annual cycle, encompassing breeding colonies and non-breeding areas connected through migratory corridors and stop-over sites (Gatt, Granadeiro et al., 2022). The full extent of their seasonal movements, some of which are pelagic in nature, is not detected by observations from terrestrial observation points, leaving knowledge gaps in the movement ecology of these species. While tracking technologies have greatly advanced our knowledge, population coverage is low in most species, and movements of many species remain understudied.

For this reason, standardised at-sea surveys remain an important tool in the study of bird movements. The European

Seabirds at Sea (ESAS) methodology is an established system of vessel-based transect line counts (Camphuysen & Garthe, 2004). This method has been used to identify marine Important Bird Areas and to propose Marine Special Protection Areas (mSPAs) under the EU's Natura 2000 network (Metzger, Oppel et al., 2015; Zec, Engelen et al., 2023). The integration of behavioural data collection in this methodology provides additional information on the interaction of seabirds with the physical environment, including anthropogenic activities.

Here we present data from three years of at-sea surveys of the Maltese Fisheries Management Zone (FMZ), conducted a decade apart. The Maltese Islands are situated in the Sicilian Channel, a bottleneck for movements between the east Mediterranean basin, Black Sea and Adriatic, and the west Mediterranean basin and the Atlantic Ocean. The Maltese FMZ extends to a 25 nm radius around the Maltese archipelago, and therefore a proportion of bird movements across the Sicilian Channel can be expected to pass through Maltese waters.

METHODS

DATA COLLECTION

At-sea surveys, aboard a sailing vessel (13–14 m), were conducted intensively in 2012 and 2013 as part of the LIFE+ Malta Seabird Project, carried out by BirdLife Malta. A less intensive transect grid was carried out between August 2023 and May 2024 to collect data for Article 12 reporting under the EU Birds Directive.

In 2012 and 2013, 14 transect lines were drawn up, extending perpendicular to the coast of the Maltese Islands out towards the extent of the Maltese FMZ and back towards the coast (Fig.

1A). Each transect was surveyed once per month, between March and October in both years, weather permitting (Metzger, Oppel et al., 2015). Due to inclement weather, only 10 transects were conducted during October 2012 and three of the remaining transects were carried out in the first week of November. For simplicity, the observations from these 13 transects are all considered as being from October 2012.

In 2023 and 2024, five transect lines, between 40 and 50 nm long, were set within the Maltese FMZ, starting and ending off the coast of the Maltese Islands (Fig. 1B). These surveys ran through Malta's marine SPAs as well as known sites of seabird aggregations and oceanographic features, such as fish farms, seamounts, and the Malta Graben. One survey was conducted each month, with each transect repeated twice over the entire period; once between August and December 2023, and again between January and May 2024. Data was also collected on the way to or from transect ends when these were much further from the port.

All surveys followed the ESAS methodology (Camphuysen & Garthe, 2004). In brief, all birds encountered were recorded by at least two observers from a vessel under way along a given compass bearing and moving at a speed of between 5 and 8 knots. Surveys were conducted on days with favourable weather conditions, specifically those without precipitation, sea fog, and a sea state of four or lower on the Beaufort scale. Surveys started in the morning, with the exact hour depending on the distance of the transect starting point from the harbour (Kalkara Marina, Grand Harbour) or overnight anchor point, and lasted between five and ten hours. For the purpose of this study, all seabird observations made are being considered. In 2023 and 2024, the compass directions of birds seen in directional flight, behaviours and associations were also recorded.

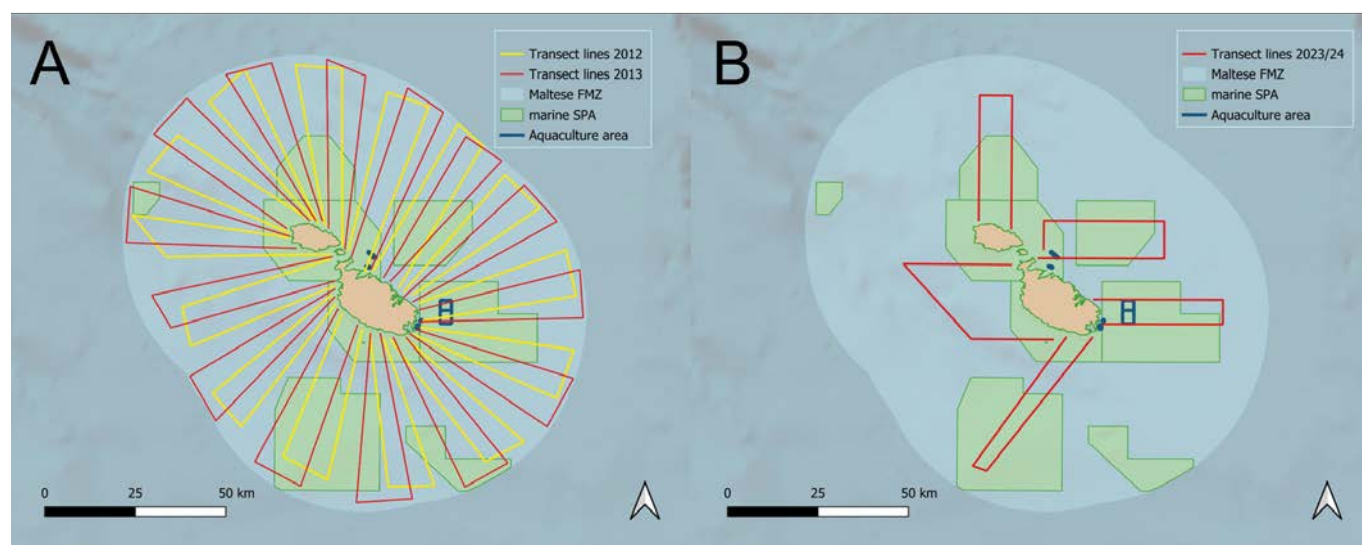


Fig. 1. A: Transect lines set for the vessel-based surveys carried out every month in 2012 (yellow) and 2013 (red), between March and October as part of BirdLife Malta's LIFE+ Malta Seabird Project. **B:** Transect lines set for vessel-based surveys that were each carried out once between August and December 2023 and again between January and May 2024 towards Malta's Article 12 reporting obligation to the European Commission.

DATA ANALYSIS

Data was analysed on R Statistical Software v. 4.2.2 (R Core Team, 2022).

Data was collected over 236 days at sea; 945 hours (112 days, covering 6386 nm) in 2012, 887 hours (112 days, covering 6139 nm) in 2013, and 107 hours (12 days, covering 494 nm) between 2023 and 2024. Records of landbirds, observed migrating between the European and African continents, were removed from the dataset for the purpose of this study. The retained species belong to the families Hydrobatidae, Procellariidae, Sulidae, Phalacrocoracidae, Laridae, and Stercorariidae.

We assessed the species composition and spatial distribution per month of surveys and identified the following species for which substantial numbers were seen outside the breeding season and which are of conservation or management concern: Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*, Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*, Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*, Scopoli's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*, and Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*.

For each of these, we mapped the location of observations and examined the behavioural data to further qualify the nature of the movements recorded in Maltese waters. Flight directionality was assessed through the Rayleigh test for unimodal circular data (function `rayleigh.test`, library 'circular').

RESULTS

SPECIES RICHNESS OVER THE ANNUAL CYCLE

Over the whole dataset, 17 seabird species were observed (Table 1). Between April and July, observations almost exclusively pertained to the four breeding seabird species; Scopoli's Shearwater, Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*, Mediterranean Storm-petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus melitensis*, and Yellow-legged Gull. The highest species richness was recorded in October, with an average of 10.7 species over the three years of data (range: 7–13 species), followed by March with an average of 9.0 species (range: 7–11 species). Between six and nine species were recorded each month from November 2023 to February 2024.

Black tern *Chlidonias niger*

Black Tern sightings spanned from July to October, with a clear peak in August (Table 1). Sightings were distributed across the FMZ, recorded in 14 of 14 surveys in August 2012 and 11 of 12 surveys in August 2013 (Fig. 2). In August 2023, 201 of 297 birds seen were associated with floating platforms, 200 of which were at the tuna pens east of southern Malta, while one individual was

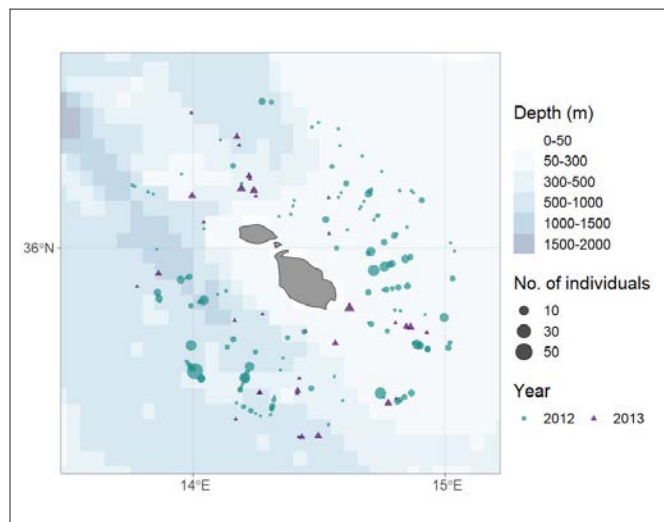


Fig. 2. Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* observations during August 2012 (green circles) and August 2013 (purple triangles). The size of points reflects the number of individuals observed at a given location.

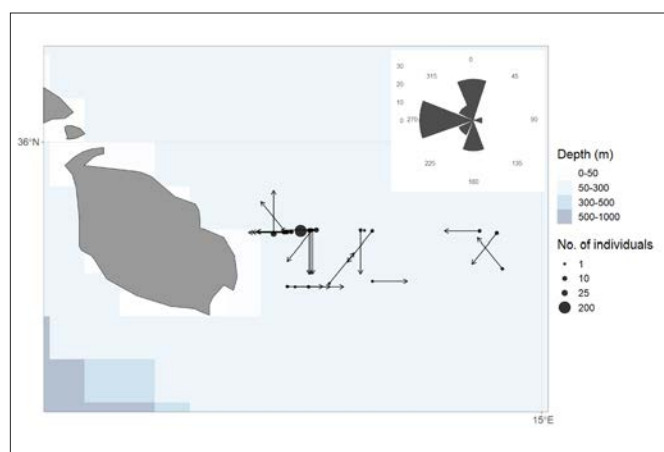


Fig. 3. Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* sightings during a boat-based survey on 11 August 2023. The size of points reflects the number of individuals observed at a given location, and arrows denote the bearing of birds seen in directional flight. Inlay: The distribution of directions of birds seen in flight.

observed standing on the back of a Loggerhead Turtle *Caretta caretta*. 205 birds were recorded to be foraging, including the flock associated with the tuna pens. During surveys in 2012 and 2013 Black Terns were also often seen sitting on the floats of fish aggregating devices (FADs) used primarily in dolphinfish ("lampuki") *Coryphaena hippurus* fisheries.

Of the 94 Black Terns observed in directional flight in August 2023, there was a significant westward directionality ($r = 0.556$, $p < 0.001$; Fig. 3).

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Little Gulls were observed in high numbers during March of 2012 and during the December survey of 2023. In 2012, the vast majority ($n = 115$) were seen on 14 March, with 16

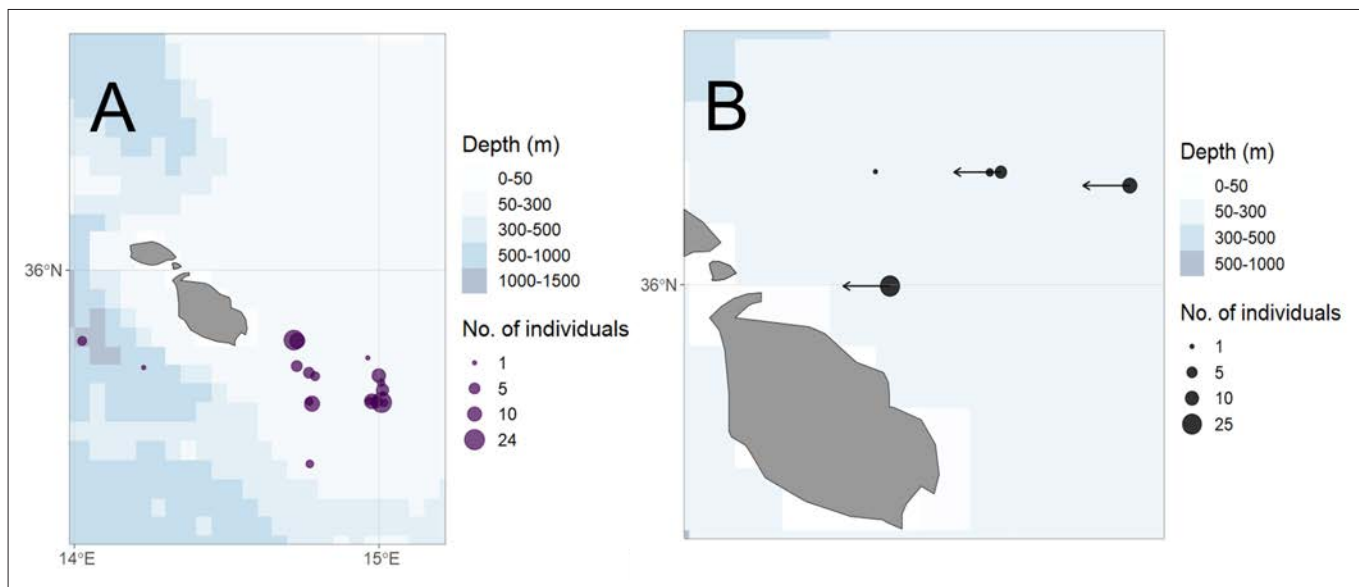


Fig. 4. A: Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus* observations during four out of 14 surveys in March 2012. The size of points reflects the number of individuals observed at a given location. **B:** Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus* sightings during a boat-based survey on 8 December 2023. The size of points reflects the number of individuals observed at a given location, and arrows denote the bearing of birds seen in directional flight.

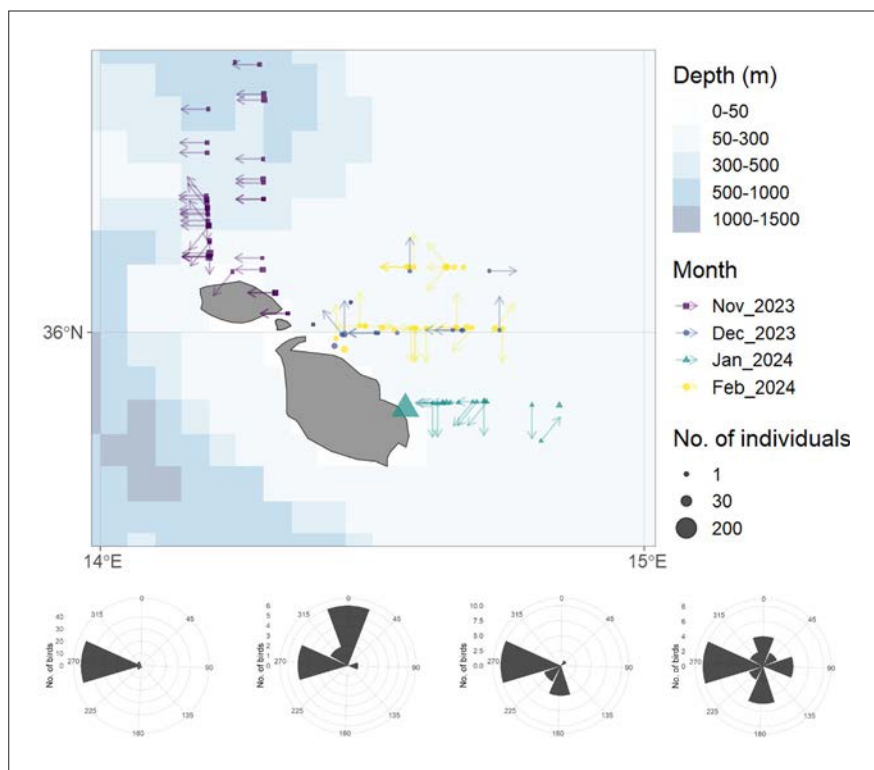


Fig. 5. Top: Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* sightings between November 2023 and February 2024. Observations from different surveys are denoted in different colours and shapes. The size of points reflects the number of individuals observed at a given location, and arrows denote the bearing of birds seen in directional flight. **Bottom:** The distribution of compass directions by Mediterranean Gulls in November, December, January, and February, left to right.

individuals seen the following day and smaller numbers on two subsequent days (Fig. 4A). On 8 December 2023 the survey covered an area north of the island of Malta. Of the 48 Little Gulls seen, 45 were actively flying west and the remaining three were feeding on the water's surface (Fig. 4B).

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Mediterranean Gulls were recorded between October and April (Table 1). Across 2023 and 2024, 141 of 425 individuals observed were seen in flight. Another 263 were observed

probably foraging in association with a front in the water not far offshore on 19 January 2024.

Birds in flight displayed varying degrees of directionality. Observations carried out on 1 November 2023 were marked by observations of Mediterranean Gulls in active westerly flight ($r = 0.887$, $N = 59$, $p < 0.001$; Fig. 5) throughout the day. Directionality was significant, but lower in December 2023 ($r = 0.850$, $N = 14$, $p < 0.001$) and January 2024 ($r = 0.603$, $N = 19$, $p < 0.001$), and Mediterranean Gulls did not display significant directional preferences in February 2024 ($r = 0.379$, $N = 27$, $p = 0.019$).

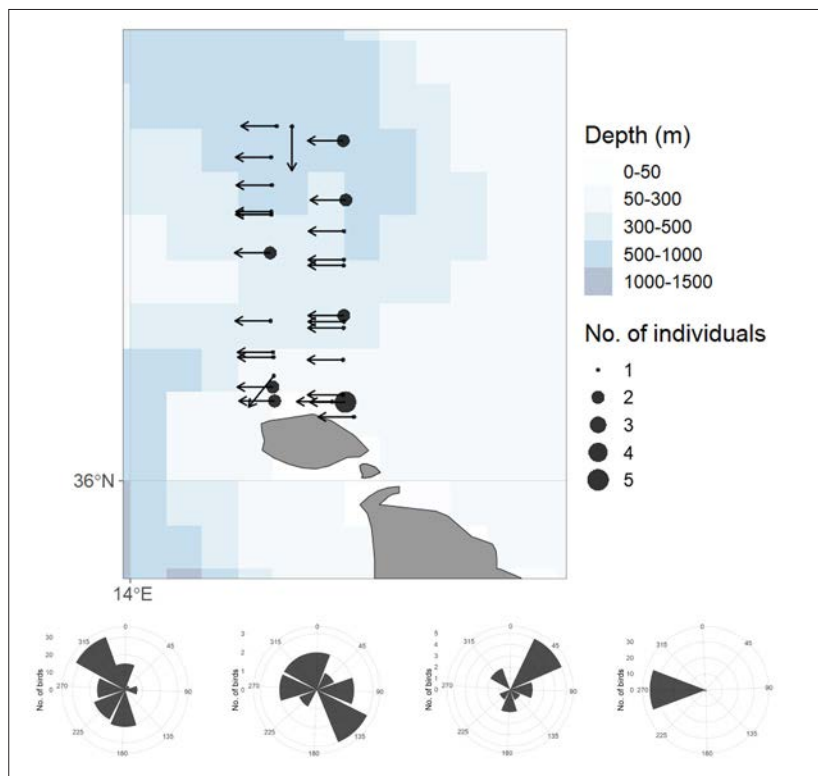


Fig. 6. Top: Scopoli's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* sightings from a survey on 1 November 2023. The size of points reflects the number of individuals observed at a given location, and arrows denote the bearing of birds seen in directional flight. Bottom: Distribution of directions of Scopoli's Shearwaters seen in flight in August, September, October, and November 2023, from left to right.

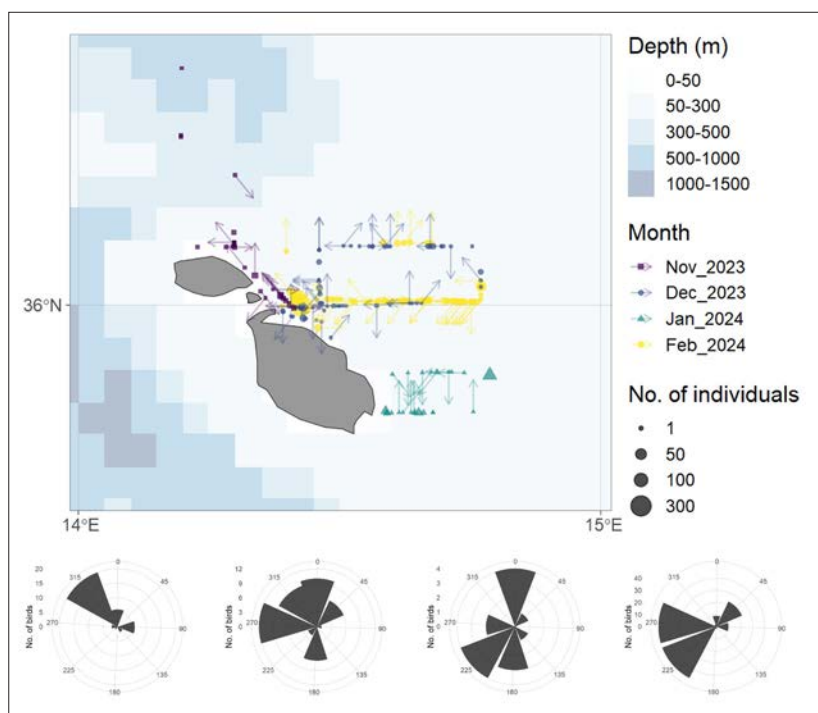


Fig. 7. Top: Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis* sightings between November 2023 and February 2024. Observations from different surveys are denoted in different colours and shapes. The size of points reflects the number of individuals observed at a given location, and arrows denote the bearing of birds seen in directional flight. Bottom: The distribution of compass directions by Yellow-legged Gull in November, December, January, and February, left to right.

Scopoli's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

Scopoli's Shearwater was the most common species observed, with sightings recorded between March and November. Sightings noticeably dipped in May, a pattern evident in 2012 and 2013 when survey effort was highest.

The survey carried out on 1 November 2023 picked out significant westerly movements of Scopoli's Shearwaters ($r = 0.949$, $N = 37$, $p < 0.001$; Fig. 6) throughout the day, which differ from the activity seen in the preceding months (August: r

$= 0.388$, $N = 114$, $p < 0.001$; September: $r = 0.298$, $N = 13$, $p = 0.321$; October: $r = 0.403$, $N = 13$, $p = 0.121$; Figure 6).

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

During the breeding season, Yellow-legged Gull sightings had high densities around breeding colonies and known aggregation spots, such as fish farms. Across all years of data, Yellow-legged Gulls displayed more offshore distributions from autumn, persisting over winter and into early spring.

Year	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2013	2013	2013	2013
month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Number of days at sea	14	14	12	16	14	14	15	13	13	12	15	16
<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	26	16	31	23	8	28	1	2	3	0	27	12
<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	1753	1790	975	1306	1776	2134	2232	1433	1287	1648	585	1261
<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>	381	342	100	75	10	0	2	244	136	573	368	850
<i>Morus bassanus</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0
<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	134	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	0	0	0
<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	61	2	0	0	0	0	3	69	41	0	0	0
<i>Larus audouinii</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0
<i>Larus fuscus</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0
<i>Larus michahellis</i>	66	81	27	19	47	13	61	202	137	27	51	60
<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	0	0	0	0	25	492	45	2	0	0	0	0
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	0	2	0
<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0
<i>Catharacta skua</i>	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0

Table 1. Total observations per species per month during at-sea observations carried out in 2012, 2013, 2023 and 2024. The survey effort (number of days at sea per month) is also indicated.

Table continues on page 7

Near-shore movements on 1 November 2023 showed a significant north-westerly directionality ($r = 0.692$, $p < 0.001$, $N = 37$). Birds seen in flight were much less directional in December ($r = 0.580$, $p < 0.001$, $N = 47$) and January ($r = 0.505$, $p = 0.019$, $N = 15$). Notably, in February 2024 a significant proportion of Yellow-legged Gulls seen in flight offshore were on a west or south-westerly bearing towards the Maltese Islands ($r = 0.601$, $p < 0.001$, $N = 142$; Fig. 7).

DISCUSSION

Surveys carried out at sea expose bird movements that would be underestimated or overlooked entirely by coastal observations alone. Behavioural details help to understand the movement ecology of avian communities that make use of the pelagic realm. Our data illustrate parts of the annual cycle of bird movements in the Maltese FMZ and provide insights into non-breeding movements through our waters, including by some less well-studied species.

The temporal and spatial distributions of sightings reflect greater species richness and offshore activity during passage and non-

breeding periods. In months during which most species are at their breeding grounds, observations are almost exclusively of the four breeding seabirds in the Maltese Islands. Outside the breeding season, species diversity increases as species on passage and wintering species start appearing.

Black Terns (Fig. 8) are flagship trigger species for protected area designation; they are listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive, Appendix II of the Bern Convention, Appendix II of the Convention of Migratory Species, and are acknowledged in the Agreement on the Conservation of Afro-European Waterbirds (AEWA). They breed across the northern hemisphere, but global population sizes have a high degree of uncertainty. Within Europe, only between 149,000 and 308,000 mature individuals are estimated to form part of the breeding population, and the overall population trend is decreasing (BirdLife International, 2025). Relatively little is known about their movement ecology. Two tracking studies following breeding adults from southern Sweden and the Netherlands over the annual cycle expose a southbound passage along the coast of western Europe to West Africa, with northbound passage crossing the western Mediterranean in the Dutch population (Alerstam, Bäckman et al., 2025; Winden, Fijn et al., 2014).

2013	2013	2013	2013	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024
Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
16	12	14	14	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
61	4	57	5	355	4	126	3	0	0	0	3	6	46
3040	2425	1557	1325	275	46	39	37	0	0	0	59	3092	753
17	0	7	57	0	0	4	34	22	9	21	22	14	37
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	165	0	44	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	603	870	702	1328	0	0	0
0	0	0	12	0	0	1	63	23	241	33	53	11	0
1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	5	0	0	0	2	6	1	3	0	0	0
46	25	118	205	16	6	74	50	150	123	749	77	225	28
0	0	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	64	30	23	293	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	3	1	12	0	0	6	0	0	1	0	1	13	0
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Counts within Maltese waters have determined the presence of up to 2000 individuals together, particularly concentrating at offshore tuna pens (Sultana, 2010; pers. comm. M. Austad & N. Galea). However, ESAS surveys confirm the presence of Black Terns across the marine territory, often further than would be visible from land, implying that total numbers likely far exceed this figure. If the observed Black Terns were to pertain to European breeding populations, numbers in Maltese waters would amount to a substantial percentage of these populations. Associations with floating matter, such as FDAs, observations of active foraging, and the mixed directionality of birds seen in 2023 suggest that Black Terns do not simply migrate through Maltese waters, but take the opportunity to forage and rest along their way, in agreement with data collected in northeastern Italy (Zenatello, Serra et al., 2002). However, average stopover time and the overall importance of Maltese waters as a stopover area require further assessment. There may be merit to include the Black Tern as a trigger species in at least some of Malta's SPAs. Currently, the only SPAs in the Mediterranean for this species are the Camargue and Petit Camargue in France.

Another species of conservation concern observed in Maltese waters in higher than expected numbers is the Little Gull. European populations are estimated to comprise fewer than

100,000 mature individuals and the species is listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive, Appendix II of the Bern Convention, and is acknowledged in the AEWA (BirdLife International, 2025). Sightings of over 100 individuals at sea in 2012 were notable, given that the species was previously known only from occasional, single-figure sightings from land (Bonavia, Borg et al., 2005). The temporal punctuality of sightings in 2012, together with the strong directionality of observations in December 2023 may suggest that Little Gull sightings in Maltese waters pertain to translocations, such as active migration between wintering sites or, possibly, compensation of wind-drift movements during winter. While Little Gulls have been recorded wintering in large numbers in the Gulf of Taranto, north of the Maltese Islands (Liuzzi, Bellomo et al., 2025), the phenology and direction of movement of our sightings suggest that observations from Malta are separate from this wintering population.

The Mediterranean Gull is also listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive, Appendix II of the Bern Convention, Appendix II of the Convention of Migratory Species, and is acknowledged in the Agreement on the Conservation of Afro-European Waterbirds (AEWA), while populations are in decline (BirdLife International, 2025). The temporal distribution of sightings of Mediterranean Gulls reflect their status as a wintering species around the



Fig. 8. Black Terns *Chlidonias niger* resting on the edge of a tuna ranching pen in the Maltese FMZ.

Maltese Islands. However, it appears that Maltese waters also host the passage of Mediterranean Gulls, as evidenced in observations of westward movements offshore, north of Gozo, in autumn.

Sightings of Scopoli's Shearwaters followed the expected occurrence of the breeding population in local waters. The low numbers seen in Maltese waters in May correspond with the pre-laying period, during which both females and males undertake long absences on distant foraging trips (Gatt, Lago et al., 2026). The Scopoli's Shearwater is an obligate migrant, wintering in upwelling zones off Western Africa in the Atlantic Ocean. The timing of observed movements of Scopoli's Shearwaters, in early November, corresponds to known post-breeding migration phenology of this species (Müller, Massa et al., 2014; Metzger, Oppel et al., 2015). These individuals are likely from breeding populations in the Adriatic, Ionian, and Aegean, making their way west via the Sicilian Channel through Maltese waters.

While the Yellow-legged Gull is often considered resident in the Maltese Islands, evidence of large-ranging seasonal movements is increasing through ring recoveries (Sultana, Borg et al., 2011) and tracking data (pers. comm. M. Gauci, M. Mallia). High offshore activity outside the breeding season, and especially the strong directionality of movements in late spring, suggest largescale connectivity between populations and, potentially, prospecting behaviour. Better understanding of this population connectivity is both of ecological interest and may also have implications for the transmission of highly infectious avian pathogens, such as avian influenza, that could be a threat to other species. This is of particular concern in

this species due to the apparently high potential of mixing with other populations during the annual cycle and the possibility of contact with many different avian communities due to its wide ecological niche.

At-sea surveys frequently form part of environmental monitoring for marine spatial planning in the wake of increasing blue growth. This is particularly the case for offshore aquaculture and the recent push towards offshore floating wind farms throughout Europe. We advocate for the need of more regular and complete monitoring of the Maltese marine territory to be better able to understand the year-round spatial use by seabirds, especially identifying potentially important migratory routes and stopover sites in the Mediterranean and looking beyond our breeding seabirds.

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Preliminary findings of bioacoustic monitoring of nocturnal bird migration in Malta

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ABSTRACT

The nocturnal migration of birds in the Maltese Islands has not previously been studied. This article presents the preliminary findings of the first efforts to record nocturnal bird migration over Malta, through the passive recording of nocturnal flight calls (NFCs). Sampling was carried out in a non-standardised manner from eight stations across 11 migration seasons (spring 2020 – spring 2025). The NFCs of 78 species and 1 genus were recorded. Tree Pipits *Anthus trivialis* were by far the most frequently and abundantly recorded nocturnal migrants, while Black-crowned Night-heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*, Common Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*, Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*, Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* and European Robin *Erithacus rubecula* were also prominently recorded. Notable occurrences included the regular overland migration of Garganeys *Spatula querquedula* and other water birds, indicating that nocturnal route choices may differ from known diurnal ones. Multiple species were detected more frequently and abundantly than expected from current knowledge based on diurnal observations, highlighting the importance of this technique as part of migration studies. In terms of the timing of migration, for most taxa the passage over Malta tended to peak later during the night in autumn than in spring. Passerine passage tended to peak later at night than wader and heron migration in both seasons. However, further dedicated and standardised efforts are required to improve understanding of seasonal and spatial differences in nocturnal migration phenology. Studying nocturnal migration over the Maltese Islands can help to inform conservation decisions in relation to light pollution, hunting and trapping. This study serves as a point of departure for further standardised and long-term NFC monitoring efforts in Malta.

FIL-QOSOR

Il-passa tal-ghasafar ta' bil-lejl f'Malta s'issa ma kinitx studjata. Dan l-artiklu jipprezenta r-riżultati preliminari tal-ewwel sforzi biex tiġi rreġistrata l-passa tal-ghasafar ta' bil-lejl f'Malta, permezz ta' rikordjar passiv tal-ghajjat tal-ghasafar waqt li jtiru bil-lejl (NFCs). It-teħid tal-kampjuni sar b'mod mhux standardizzat minn tmien stazzjonijiet matul 11-il staġun tal-passa bejn ir-rebbiegħa tal-2020 u r-rebbiegħa tal-2025. B'kollox ġew irreġistrati NFCs ta' 78 speċi u ġeneru wieħed. Id-

Dizz *Anthus trivialis* kien ferm l-aktar ghasfur tal-passa frekwenti u abbondanti bil-lejl, filwaqt li l-Kwakka *Nycticorax nycticorax*, ir-Russett tas-Siġar *Ixobrychus minutus*, il-Gallozz Iswed *Gallinula chloropus*, il-Malvizz *Turdus philomelos* u l-Pitirross *Erithacus rubecula* ukoll kienu prominenti. Osservazzjonijiet notevoli inkludew il-passa regolari fuq l-art tas-Sarsella Ħamra *Spatula querquedula* u ghasafar tal-ilma oħrajn. Dan jindika li l-ghażla tar-rotot ta' bil-lejl tista' tvarja minn dik ta' binhar. Diversi speċi kienu aktar frekwenti u abbondanti milli konna naħsbu s'issa abbażi ta' osservazzjonijiet binhar, u dan jenfasizza l-importanza ta' din it-teknika bħala parti mill-istudji fuq il-passa. Fir-rigward tal-ħin tal-passa, għall-maġġoranza tal-gruppi l-passa fuq Malta kellha tendenza tilhaq il-quċċata aktar tard bil-lejl fil-ħarifa milli fir-rebbiegħa. Il-passa tal-ghasafar żgħar (Passerines) kellha tendenza tilhaq il-quċċata aktar tard bil-lejl minn dik tal-ghasafar tal-plajja u tal-irsieset fiż-żewġ staġuni. Madankollu, hemm bżonn aktar sforzi ddedikati u standardizzati biex jiġu studjati d-differenzi staġionali u spazjali fil-fenoloġija tal-passa ta' bil-lejl. L-istudju fuq il-passa ta' bil-lejl fil-Gżejjer Maltin jista' jinforma deċiżjonijiet ta' konservazzjoni fir-rigward tat-tniġġis mid-dawl, il-kaċċa u l-insib. Dan l-istudju jservi bħala punt ta' tluq għal aktar sforzi ta' monitoraġġ tal-NFC standardizzati u fit-tul.

Keywords

bioacoustic monitoring; nocturnal migration; nocturnal flight calls; NFCs; nocmig; Malta

INTRODUCTION

It has been widely known since at least the late 19th century that a significant proportion of bird migration occurs at night (Bartell & Moore, 2013). However, the inability to directly visually observe most of such migration long presented a number of challenges for studying the nocturnal migration of birds and other taxa, including bats and insects (Shamoun-Baranes, Farnsworth et al., 2016). A number of bird taxa produce vocalisations during their nocturnal flights, including several species of herons (Ardeidae), waders (Charadriiformes), thrushes (Turdidae), wagtails and pipits (Motacillidae) and chats (Muscicapidae) as well as various individual species (Farnsworth, 2005). These vocalisations, often referred to as nocturnal flight calls (NFCs), constituted important evidence, which led to the discovery of the occurrence and extent of nocturnal migration. An overview of the history of bird migration studies based on NFCs is provided by Farnsworth (2005). The recording of NFCs through a technique colloquially called 'nocmigging' has recently become more popular and widely accessible (Robb & The Sound

Approach, 2018). This technique essentially involves leaving a microphone and recorder running passively overnight, and subsequently analysing the resulting recording to detect and identify NFCs.

Besides NFC recording, other techniques used to monitor nocturnal migration include radar, ceilometers, thermal imaging cameras, moon-watching and tracking of individual birds using movement telemetry. Each technique presents its own advantages and limitations. The principal advantage of NFC recording is its high taxonomic resolution, wherein detected birds can usually be identified to species level, as opposed to most other techniques (Osterhaus, Van Doren et al., 2025). While movement telemetry does provide species-specific information, it does not allow for generalisations beyond small numbers of individuals (Winger, Weeks et al., 2019). Nevertheless, NFC recording has a number of limitations, including limited range of detection, high dependence on environmental conditions, and being unsuitable for taxa which do not produce NFCs, such as most Palearctic warblers (Farnsworth, 2005). Furthermore, NFC recording does not allow for straightforward quantification of the number of birds migrating. Béasse, Sallé et al. (2025) tested the effectiveness of different NFC-derived measurements to quantify migration intensity, finding nocturnal flight passage rate to be the most effective metric, but still only explained a fraction of bird numbers detected by radar. A single nocturnal flight passage is defined as the recording of NFCs of an individual or flock that are separated by other NFCs of conspecific individuals or flocks by a sufficiently long interval to indicate distinctness (Béasse, Sallé et al., 2025). Moreover, such methods are less effective in the Palearctic compared to the Nearctic, in view that in the latter a much higher proportion of migrating birds produce NFCs (Farnsworth, 2005). Nevertheless, NFC recording can be a useful tool to predict migration volumes of those taxa which do produce NFCs, particularly if data from multiple recording sites is used (Béasse, Sallé et al., 2025).

Due to its geographical location in the central Mediterranean between the main European and African landmasses, the Maltese Islands offer a good opportunity to study bird migration across the Mediterranean Sea, which acts as an ecological barrier, at least for landbirds. Billions of birds migrate between Europe and Africa twice annually. Hahn, Bauer and Liechti (2009) estimated that around 2.1 billion long-distance migrant passerine and near-passerine birds migrate between Europe and sub-Saharan Africa annually. This figure excludes non-passerines and short-distance migrants migrating to North Africa, probably amounting to millions of additional birds. Most bird migration studies in Malta are based on diurnal migration, such as that of ducks in spring through the Kemmuna Channel (e.g.

Coleiro, 2024) or that of birds of prey in autumn from the high ground of the Buskett area (e.g. Sammut & Bonavia, 2004). Others are based on non-standardised anecdotal observations or are potentially outdated. Since 2022, standardised diurnal migration counts have been carried out pursuant to the obligations of the EU Birds Directive. An indication of the degree of nocturnal migration during the previous night can be given by the number of birds present the following morning, however this excludes those transiting through without stopping when migration conditions are favourable. Thus, although there is a fair degree of research and effort on diurnal migration through the Maltese Islands, studies on nocturnal migration are lacking, constituting a considerable knowledge gap. An ambitious attempt at moonwatching was made from 2012 to 2014, however results were limited, also bearing in mind the limitations of this technique (Iunaves, 2013). Moreover, bird monitoring using bioacoustic techniques in Malta has so far been limited to monitoring of seabird colonies using Automatic Sound Recorders (ARUs) (Metzger & Austad, 2021).

As a result of the aforementioned growing global popularity of 'nocmigging', the authors and a few other local birdwatchers started monitoring NFCs from spring 2020 onwards. These efforts have been mostly non-standardised and informal in nature thus far. Nevertheless, the aim of this article is to present the preliminary results of these NFC recording efforts. In pursuit of this aim, this study will address the following objectives:

- Compile a list of species that migrate over Malta at night
- Highlight notable observations or phenomena
- Determine which are the most frequently and abundantly recorded species that migrate over Malta at night
- Explore the seasonality and any temporal and spatial variation of the nocturnal migration of different species
- Discuss any pertinent conservation implications
- Discuss the future of NFC monitoring in Malta.

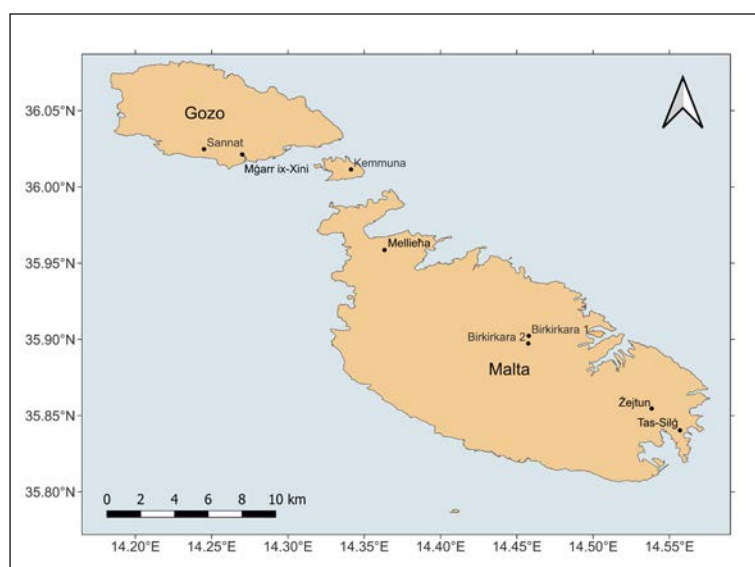


Fig. 1. Sampling locations used in this study

Season	Station	Start date	End date	Number of nights	Start time	End time
Spring 2020	Birkirkara 1	05 Mar	14 May	54	~sunset	~sunrise
	Kemmuna	13 Mar	04 May	15	~sunset	~sunrise
Autumn 2020	Birkirkara 2	26 Nov	27 Nov	2	~sunset	~sunrise
Spring 2021	Birkirkara 2	11 Feb	21 May	57	~sunset	~sunrise
	Mellieħa	01 Mar	26 Apr	35	~sunset	~sunrise
	Mġarr ix-Xini	27 Feb	05 Apr	–	~sunset	~sunrise
Autumn 2021	Birkirkara 2	01 Jul	26 Nov	114	civil dusk	civil dawn
Spring 2022	Birkirkara 2	15 Feb	25 Mar	39	civil dusk	civil dawn
Autumn 2022	Birkirkara 2	04 Oct	11 Oct	–	~sunset	~sunrise
Spring 2023	Birkirkara 2	15 Feb	28 Apr	–	civil dusk	civil dawn
Autumn 2023	Birkirkara 2	21 Aug	04 Sep	–	sunset	sunrise
Spring 2024	Żejtun	28 Feb	15 Jun	83	21.00	05.30
Autumn 2024	Żejtun	16 Jun	31 Dec	209	21.00	05.30
	Sannat	11 Aug	27 Aug	17	~sunset	~sunrise
Spring 2025	Kemmuna	01 Feb	21 May	110	21.00	05.00 (01 Feb – 22 Apr) 04.00 (23 Apr – 21 May)
	Żejtun	01 Jan	20 May	150	21.00	05.30
	Tas-Silġ	17 Feb	14 Jun	112	21.00	06.00

Table 1. Overview of sampling effort for this study. Dashes (–) indicate unavailability of information.

Station	Equipment
Birkirkara 1	Dodotronic Hi-Sound Stereo AOL + Zoom 5 handy recorder
Kemmuna	(2020) Dodotronic Hi-Sound Stereo AOL + Zoom 5 handy recorder (2024–2025) Wildlife Acoustics Song Meter Mini 2
Birkirkara 2	Telinga STEREO MK3 microphone with a PRO-X V.2 handle + 22" Telinga V2 foldable dish + Tascam DR-100MKIII recorder
Mellieħa	Telinga STEREO MK3 microphone with a PRO-X V.2 handle + 22" Telinga V2 foldable dish + Tascam DR-100MKIII recorder
Sannat	Telinga STEREO MK3 microphone with a PRO-X V.2 handle + 22" Telinga V2 foldable dish + Tascam DR-100MKIII recorder
Żejtun	Wildlife Acoustics Song Meter Mini 2 Acoustic Recorder + homemade metal parabola
Tas-Silġ	Wildlife Acoustics Song Meter SM4 Acoustic Recorder
Mġarr ix-Xini	Dodotronic Hi-Sound Stereo AOL + Zoom H4n Pro recorder

Table 2. Recording equipment used in the eight stations

METHODS

NFC recording was carried out at 8 stations - “Birkirkara 1”, “Birkirkara 2”, “Kemmuna”, “Mellieħa”, “Mġarr ix-Xini”, “Sannat”, “Tas-Silġ”, and “Żejtun” (Fig. 1). The migration seasons covered, start and end dates, actual number of nights when monitoring was carried out, and start and end times used by each station are summarised in Table 1. For this study, spring was defined as from 1 January to 14 June and autumn was defined as from 15 June to 31 December. Not all information was available for each station and season.

Recording was entirely passive, with no use of lures or other disturbance to migrants. The equipment used is detailed in Table 2.

Setups involving parabolic microphones and sound recorders offer less background noise and better NFC isolation and quality. However, such setups are more cumbersome, not weatherproof and require almost daily setting up and dismantling. Automated recorders pick up more background noise, however recordings are generally still of sufficient quality to allow for NFC identification and are comparatively very low maintenance.

All recordings were analysed manually using different versions of Audacity, depending on the most recent version at time of analysis (Audacity Team, 2024). This was done by manually scrolling through the spectrogram of each night’s recording, detecting NFCs visually, and listening to the recorded NFCs. For each instance of NFCs (i.e. nocturnal flight passage sensu Béasse, Sallé et al., 2025) recorded, the corresponding taxon

and time were recorded. Identification was carried out to the lowest possible taxonomic unit, using resources such as xeno-canto.org or soundapproach.co.uk as required. Expert advice from Magnus Robb was also sought where required.

Data for the following variables were collated to create a single dataset for this study: station, season, species, number of nights per season when that species was recorded (frequency), and number of instances of that species per season (abundance). Only taxa identified to the species level were used, except for crest sp. (i.e. Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* / Common Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*).

Due to the non-standardised nature of the collected data, simple qualitative and descriptive analyses were carried out. These included compilation of an overall species list and eliciting occurrences considered to be notable in the context of current knowledge of bird migration over Malta. In order to analyse overall frequency and abundance of different species, data was aggregated across all stations and seasons. For this study, the frequency of a taxon was defined as the number of nights with ≥ 1 NFC instances (i.e. nocturnal flight passage sensu Béasse, Sallé et al., 2025) of that taxon, whereas the abundance was defined as the number of instances of NFCs of that taxon. Separation between instances was judged depending on the taxon in question, since intervals between distinct flight passages can vary from a few seconds up to five minutes (Béasse, Sallé et al., 2025). For example, longer intervals apply to slow flying species such as herons. To investigate any seasonal patterns, frequency and abundance data was aggregated overall across stations for spring and autumn. Since all NFCs were considered independently without correcting for overlaps between stations recording simultaneously, aggregated frequency results may be inflated. This is most likely the case in spring 2025, wherein three stations were recording simultaneously. This concern may also apply for aggregated abundance, however the effect on frequency is thought to be larger. In order to carry out an inter-station comparison, the spring 2025 data from Kemmuna and Żejtun was used, as the two most comparable and concurrent sampling seasons. The date range 1 February to 20 May was used, since sampling was carried out within this date range at both stations.

For an analysis on the timing of nocturnal migration, a separate dataset was created with the time of each NFC instance, where available (all sampling sessions except Birkirkara 1 Spring 2020, Kemmuna Spring 2020 and Mgarr ix-Xini Spring 2021). In order to account for changes in night time and duration (due to the angle of the sun and daylight savings time), the number of hours elapsed since sunset was calculated for each instance. Sunset times for each date for Valletta, Malta (Central European Time) were sourced using the Sun Calculator available at www.timeanddate.com. A descriptive analysis of this data was carried

out using histograms and boxplots of the data of four selected representative species of passerines, waders and herons, based on sample size and occurrence in both seasons. The selected passerine species were European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*, Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*, Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* and Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*. The selected heron species were Common Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*, Black-crowned Night-heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*, Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* and Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*. The selected wader species were Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*, Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*, Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* and Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*.

In addition, we assessed the statistical significance of the main effects of season (spring/autumn) and group (passerines, waders, herons), as well as their interaction, on nocturnal migration timing relative to sunset. The response variable (Time) was analysed using generalised linear models (GLMs). GLMs were fitted under a null hypothesis (H_0) and an alternative hypothesis (H_1). The null model included only the intercept and relevant covariates, whereas the alternative model included the predictors of interest (Season, Group, and their interaction). Model assumptions were evaluated using residuals versus fitted values and quantile–quantile plots. Hypothesis testing was performed by comparing nested models using analyses of deviance. When significant effects of Group were detected, pairwise comparisons among group levels were conducted using Tukey's HSD post-hoc tests. All analyses and graphical representations were performed in R v4.4.2 (R Core Team, 2021), using the *emmeans* package for post-hoc tests (Lenth & Piaskowski, 2025).

RESULTS

Species recorded

In total, 78 species and 1 genus (*Regulus* spp.), classified within 27 families, were recorded across all stations and seasons. The most represented families were Scolopacidae (13 species), Muscicapidae (8 species), Ardeidae (7 species) and Motacillidae (7 species). A full list of taxa recorded is provided in Annex I.

Notable occurrences

- Garganeys (Fig. 2a) were found to be a relatively frequently and abundantly recorded nocturnal migrant, not only from stations near the coast, but also from inland stations such as at Birkirkara and Żejtun. Across all seasons and sites, Garganeys were recorded on 48 instances across 18 nights. When eliminating records from Kemmuna, which falls within the known Kemmuna Channel bottleneck, Garganeys were recorded on 20 instances across 13 nights.

Species	Aggregated frequency (number of nights)	Aggregated abundance (number of instances)	Seasons	Stations
Eurasian Oystercatcher	5	5	Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2024, Spring 2025	Kemmuna, Mellieha, Żejtun, Tas-Silġ
Pied Avocet	1	1	Spring 2025	Kemmuna
Whimbrel	22	35	Spring 2020, Spring 2022, Spring 2024, Autumn 2024, Spring 2025	Kemmuna, Birkirkara 1, Birkirkara 2, Żejtun, Tas-Silġ
Eurasian Curlew	13	16	Spring 2021, Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Autumn 2024, Spring 2025	Kemmuna, Mellieha, Birkirkara 2, Żejtun, Tas-Silġ
Black-tailed Godwit	1	1	Spring 2025	Żejtun
Ruddy Turnstone	1	1	Spring 2021	Birkirkara 2
Black-headed Gull	1	1	Spring 2025	Kemmuna
Mediterranean Gull	1	1	Spring 2021	Mellieha
Slender-billed Gull	1	1	Spring 2020	Kemmuna
Common Gull-billed Tern	1	1	Spring 2025	Tas-Simġ
Sandwich Tern	1	1	Autumn 2024	Żejtun

Table 3. Aggregated overview of recorded overland nocturnal migration of typically coastal waders, gulls and terns

- Similarly, multiple wader, gull and tern species were found to migrate over land at night. These included Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*, Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* (Fig. 2b), Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*, Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*, Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*, Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei*, Common Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon niloticus*, and Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis* (Fig. 2c). These are summarised in Table 3.
- The NFCs of Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis* (Fig. 2d) and Mediterranean Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* ssp. *tyrrhenica* were recorded, and identified with the assistance of Magnus Robb. These NFCs are still poorly known and merit further studies.
- The NFCs of multiple finch species were recorded, including Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* (Fig. 2e), Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*, Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* and Eurasian Siskin *Spinus spinus*. These are summarised in Table 4.

Species	Aggregated frequency (number of nights)	Aggregated abundance (number of instances)	Seasons	Stations
Common Chaffinch	5	9	Spring 2020, Spring 2022, Autumn 2024	Birkirkara 1, Birkirkara 2, Żejtun
Brambling	6	6	Autumn 2024, Spring 2025	Żejtun
Hawfinch	4	5	Spring 2020, Autumn 2021, Autumn 2024	Birkirkara 1, Birkirkara 2, Żejtun
Eurasian Siskin	1	1	Spring 2024	Żejtun

Table 4. Aggregated overview of recorded nocturnal migration of typically diurnal finches

- A number of locally rare or scarce species were recorded, including Ortolan Buntings *Emberiza hortulana* from Birkirkara on 4 and 5 April 2020, a Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* from Birkirkara on 09 March 2023 (Fig. 2f), and multiple Bramblings from Żejtun in autumn 2024 and spring 2025.

Overall Frequency

The most frequently recorded species, in terms of aggregated number of nights across all seasons and stations (i.e. including overlaps between stations operating concurrently), were Tree Pipit, Black-crowned Night-heron, Song Thrush, Common Little Bittern and Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* (Fig. 3). Certain species were more frequently recorded than expected from diurnal observations. These include Common Moorhen, Eurasian Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* (Fig. 2g), Common Little Bittern, Eurasian Thick-knee *Burhinus oedipnemos* (Fig. 2h), Eurasian Dotterel *Eudromias morinellus*, and Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* (Fig. 4). Short-distance migrants such as Common Moorhen and Song Thrush, which are typically associated with autumn migration, were also recorded in spring, albeit at lower levels of frequency and abundance (Table 5).

Overall Abundance

The most abundantly recorded species, in terms of aggregated number of instances across all seasons and stations, were Tree Pipit, Song Thrush, Black-crowned Night-heron, European Robin, and Common Little Bittern. Tree Pipit was by far the most abundant (Fig. 5). As with frequency, certain species, such as Common Moorhen and Eurasian Bittern, were more abundantly recorded than expected based on diurnal observations (Fig. 4).

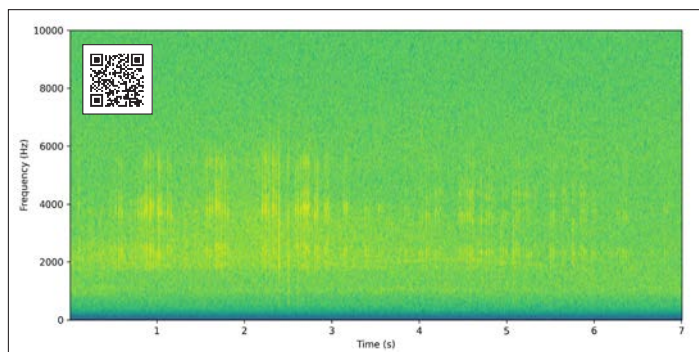


Fig. 2a. Flock of Garganeys recorded migrating over station Birkirkara 2 at 03:00 on 11/03/2022. <https://xeno-canto.org/1067454>

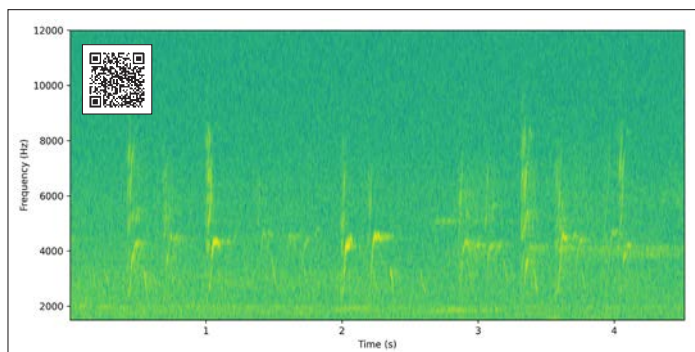


Fig. 2e. Flock of Common Chaffinch recorded migrating over station Birkirkara 1 at 04:00 on 12/03/2020. <https://xeno-canto.org/1067430>

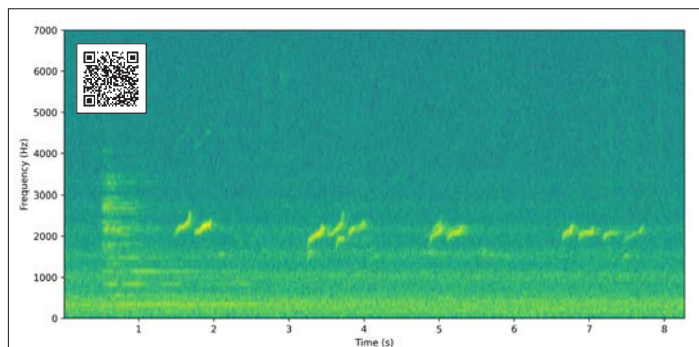


Fig. 2b. Flock of Eurasian Curlew recorded migrating over station Birkirkara 2 at 01:58 on 21/03/2023. <https://xeno-canto.org/1067439>

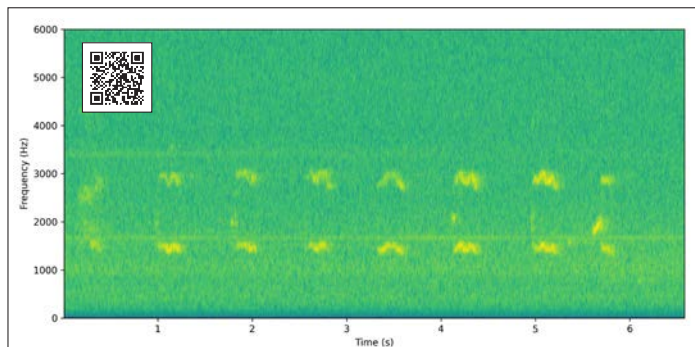


Fig. 2f. Great Spotted Cuckoo recorded migrating over station Birkirkara 2 at 02:00 on 09/03/2023. <https://xeno-canto.org/1067463>

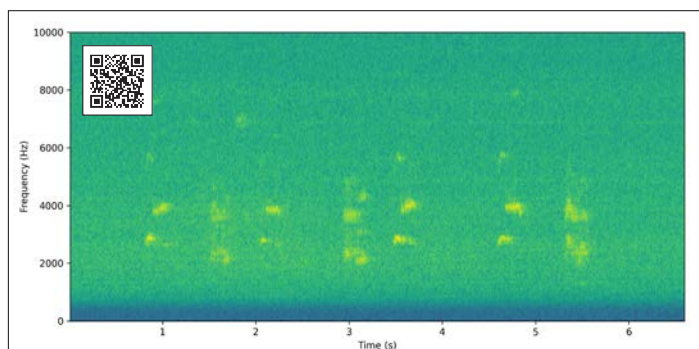


Fig. 2c. Adult and juvenile Sandwich Terns migrating over station Żejtun at 23:46 on 23/08/2024. <https://xeno-canto.org/1067465>

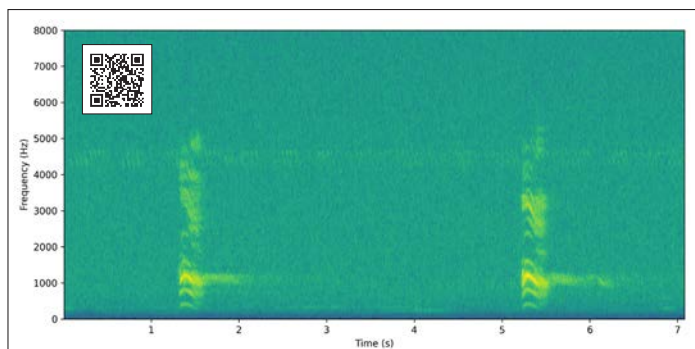


Fig. 2g. Eurasian Bittern migrating over station Kemmuna at 23:22 on 04/04/2025. <https://xeno-canto.org/1067491>

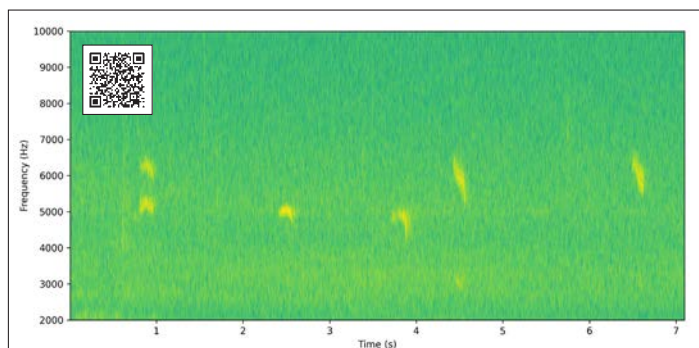


Fig. 2d. Collared Flycatcher and Tree Pipit recorded migrating over station Birkirkara 1 at 04:00 on 18/04/2020. <https://xeno-canto.org/1067434>

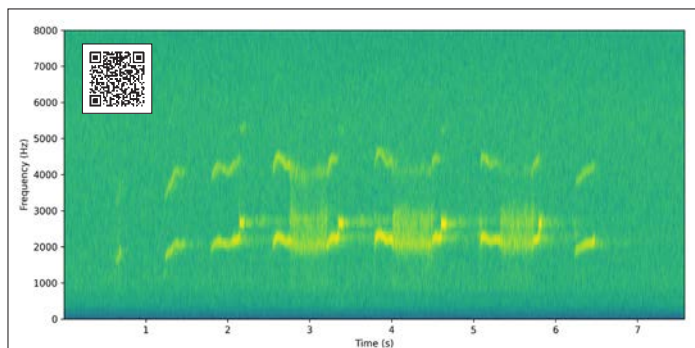


Fig. 2h. Eurasian Thick-knee recorded migrating over station Kemmuna at 02:00 on 10/04/2020. <https://xeno-canto.org/1067432>

Species	Aggregated frequency (number of nights)	Aggregated abundance (number of instances)	Seasons	Stations
Common Moorhen	71	94	Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025	Kemmuna, Birkirkara 1, Birkirkara 2, Mellieħa, Mġarr ix-Xini, Żejtun, Tas-Silġ
Eurasian Golden Plover	10	12	Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2025	Kemmuna, Birkirkara 2, Mellieħa, Żejtun, Tas-Silġ
Black-headed Gull	1	1	Spring 2025	Kemmuna
Mediterranean Gull	1	1	Spring 2021	Mellieħa
Eurasian Skylark	5	5	Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2025	Kemmuna, Birkirkara 1, Mellieħa, Tas-Silġ
Common Chiffchaff	1	2	Spring 2021	Mġarr ix-Xini
Song Thrush	40	96	Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2024, Spring 2025	Kemmuna, Birkirkara 1, Birkirkara 2, Mellieħa, Żejtun, Tas-Silġ
European Robin	6	6	Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2023, Spring 2025	Birkirkara 1, Birkirkara 2, Mellieħa, Żejtun
Black Redstart	3	3	Spring 2025	Żejtun
crest sp.	1	1	Spring 2025	Żejtun
Duncock	1	1	Spring 2025	Żejtun
Meadow Pipit	3	9	Spring 2020, Spring 2021	Birkirkara 1, Mellieħa
White Wagtail	2	2	Spring 2020, Spring 2025	Kemmuna, Birkirkara 1
Common Chaffinch	4	8	Spring 2020, Spring 2022	Birkirkara 1, Birkirkara 2
Brambling	4	4	Spring 2025	Żejtun
Hawfinch	1	1	Spring 2020	Birkirkara 1
Eurasian Siskin	1	1	Spring 2024	Żejtun

Table 5. Aggregated overview of recorded nocturnal migration in spring of short-distance migrants.

Seasonality

Whilst acknowledging an uneven sampling effort between spring and autumn (Table 1), certain seasonal differences merit being highlighted. 35 species were recorded exclusively in spring, while 8 species were recorded exclusively in autumn (Annex I). Of the 36 remaining species, 22 were more frequently recorded in spring, 12 were more frequently recorded in autumn, and 2 were equally frequently recorded (Fig. 6). In terms of abundance, 23 were more abundantly recorded in spring, 10 were more abundantly recorded in autumn, and 3 were equally abundantly recorded (Fig. 7).

Migration timing

Based on the data for the representative species mentioned in the Method, on average, most passerine migration was recorded 7.27 ± 2.16 SD hours after sunset ($n = 562$) in spring and 8.33 ± 2.31 SD hours after sunset ($n = 418$) in autumn. Most wader migration was recorded 6.17 ± 2.51 SD hours after sunset ($n = 85$) in spring and 6.52 ± 2.15 SD hours after sunset ($n = 103$) in autumn. Most heron migration was recorded 6.33 ± 2.51 SD hours after sunset ($n = 211$) in spring and 5.58 ± 2.17 SD hours after sunset ($n = 99$) in autumn. The boxplots in Fig. 8 and histograms in Fig. 9 illustrate these results at the species level.

Hypothesis testing using GLMs found a significant interaction effect between Group and Season on the timing of nocturnal migration ($p < 0.001$). When controlling for Group, Season was found to have a significant main effect ($p < 0.001$). When controlling for Season, Group was also found to have a significant main effect ($p < 0.001$). These results are summarised in Table 6.

Predictor	F-value	Effect degrees of freedom	Residual degrees of freedom	p-value
Season: Group	17.14	2	1471	$4.39 \times 10^{-8***}$
Season	25.87	1	1473	$4.12 \times 10^{-7***}$
Group	71.43	2	1473	$2.2 \times 10^{-16***}$

Table 6. Results of hypothesis testing using GLMs to compare alternative models including main and interaction effects of Group and Season on the timing of nocturnal migration relative to sunset with null models excluding these effects.

A post-hoc Tukey's HSD test found that the timing of nocturnal migration in passerines (Estimated Marginal Mean = 7.80 ± 0.14 SE hours), was significantly different than in waders (EMM = 6.35 ± 0.17 SE hours), mean difference = 1.45, 95% CI [1.02, 1.88], $p < 0.001$, and in herons (EMM = 5.96 ± 0.17 SE hours), mean difference = 1.84, 95% CI [1.47, 2.21], $p < 0.001$. No significant difference was observed between herons

and waders, mean difference = 0.39, 95% CI [-0.12, 0.90], $p = 0.166$.

Inter-site variation

From 01 Feb 2025 to 20 May 2025, the NFCs of 31 species were recorded from Żejtun, while those of 26 species were recorded from Kemmuna. Species unique to Żejtun included Common Teal *Anas crecca*, Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*, Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*, Black-tailed Godwit, Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*, European Robin, Black Redstart, Crest sp., Dunnock, Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*, Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* and Brambling. Species unique to Kemmuna included Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*, Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca penelope*, Common Crane *Grus grus*, Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*, Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*, Eurasian Oystercatcher, Pied Avocet, Eurasian Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Little Stint *Calidris minuta*, Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*, Black-headed Gull, European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*, Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*, Spotted Flycatcher, Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* and White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*. 18 species were recorded from both stations. Herons and Eurasian Thick-knee in particular were generally more frequently and abundantly recorded from Kemmuna, however Tree Pipits and Western Yellow Wagtails *Motacilla flava* were considerably more abundantly recorded from Żejtun. Garganeys were equally frequently and abundantly recorded at both stations (Fig. 10).

DISCUSSION

This study confirmed that several species migrate over the Maltese Islands at night. The taxa recorded largely correspond with earlier studies in terms of which species vocalise in flight during migration, with certain families being more represented than others (Farnsworth, 2005). For example, Scolopacidae, Ardeidae and Motacillidae were well represented, while others such as Phylloscopidae were poorly represented, and others such as Sylviidae and Acrocephalidae not being represented whatsoever, despite being common migrants. This highlights that NFC recording is only suitable for monitoring the migration of certain taxa which produce NFCs while migrating. The

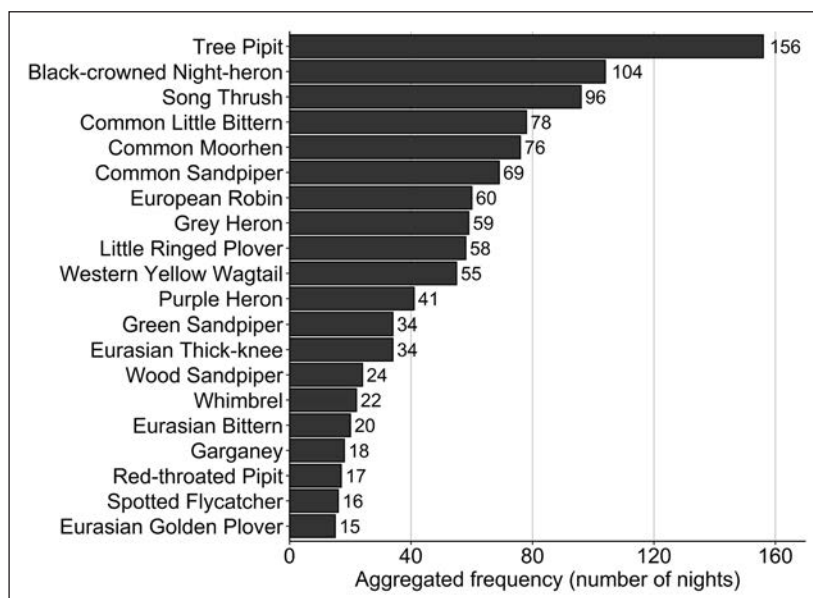


Fig. 3. 20 most frequently recorded species aggregated across all stations and seasons. Overlaps between simultaneously operating stations may occur.

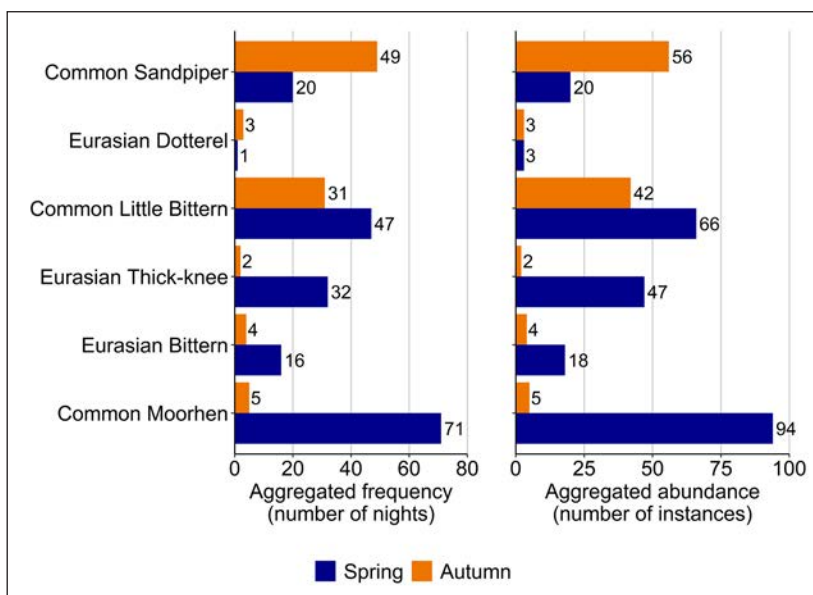


Fig. 4. Overview of aggregated frequency and abundance across all stations and seasons of selected species which were more common than diurnal observations would suggest. Overlaps between simultaneously operating stations may occur.

species recorded included several which are locally scarce or rare, such as Oortolan Buntings and Bramblings. Moreover, a number of species which are known to be regular migrants were found to occur at higher levels of frequency and abundance than current knowledge based on diurnal observations would suggest, based on the authors' extensive birdwatching experience. These included Eurasian Bittern, Common Little Bittern, and Eurasian Dotterel (Sultana, 2001). This highlights that NFC recording may be a useful tool to better understand the local occurrence and status of such species.

The results also revealed that the modality of nocturnal migration of certain species may differ from what is currently known based on diurnal migration. For example, Garganeys

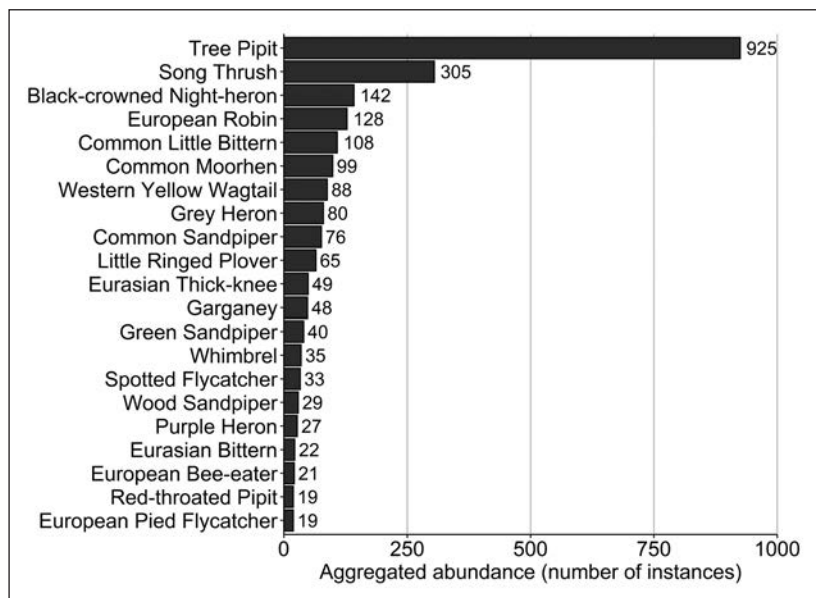


Fig. 5. 20 most abundant species aggregated across all stations and seasons.

were found to regularly cross over inland areas, whereas during the day they are practically exclusively recorded at sea, mostly in the Kemmuna channel bottleneck in spring (Coleiro, 2024). Various other species typically associated with coastal areas in Malta were also recorded migrating over land at night, such as Whimbrel and Eurasian Curlew. The underlying reasons for such differences are unclear. However, a parallel can perhaps be drawn with the well-documented overland migration of Common Scoters *Melanitta nigra* in Great Britain. Once considered to be a largely coastal migrant, NFC recording revealed significant movements of Common Scoters along distinct routes across the width of Great Britain in spring, summer and late autumn (Metcalf, Bradnum et al., 2022). Given that sea ducks such as Common Scoters are capable of making overland crossings of hundreds of kilometres, it is unsurprising that Garganeys and other water birds which breed in inland freshwater bodies would not hesitate to cross over Malta's relatively minute land area. Nevertheless, the reasons for shifting migration route between day and night remain unclear. Perhaps such birds migrate at higher altitudes at night than during the day, thus the high cliffs on either side of the Kemmuna channel bottleneck would pose less of an obstacle for northward migration (Falzon, 1995). Furthermore, the NFCs of certain species which are typically considered to be predominantly diurnal migrants, such as multiple finch species, were also recorded. This highlights that NFC recording may also reveal previously unknown or poorly understood nocturnal migration phenologies.

Tree Pipits were found to be by far the most frequently and abundantly recorded nocturnal migrant, with an aggregated frequency of 156 nights and an aggregated abundance of 925 instances across all sampling seasons and stations. This corresponds to diurnal observations of this common species, which is regularly observed in large numbers (e.g.

Miceli, 2025). Other frequently and abundantly recorded species included Black-crowned Night-heron, Common Little Bittern, Common Moorhen, Song Thrush and European Robin. Short-distance migrants such as Meadow Pipit and Song Thrush, which are typically associated with autumn migration, were also recorded in spring. The spring migration of such short-distance migrants is not otherwise straightforward to detect through diurnal observations, due to the presence of wintering individuals of such species. NFC monitoring is therefore a useful technique to detect this phenomenon.

Some inferences on seasonality can also be made, although these should be interpreted with caution due to the uneven sampling effort between spring and autumn. For example, the

fact that 35 species were recorded exclusively in spring, while only 8 species were recorded exclusively in autumn, and the fact that more species were more frequently and abundantly recorded in spring than in autumn can likely be explained by such uneven sampling. Future efforts should ensure a balanced representation of different migration periods.

In terms of timing of nocturnal migration, the results suggest that the overall tendency for most taxa is for nocturnal migration to peak later relative to sunset in autumn than in spring. Statistical analysis confirmed that Season has a significant effect on migration timing, although a significant interaction effect with Group was also found. This result is contrary to what was expected, in view of the longer sea crossing between the North African coast and Malta which birds must make in spring, than the sea crossing between Sicily and Malta which birds must make in autumn. Thus, nocturnal migrants departing the North African coast after sunset in spring were expected to take longer to reach Malta than those departing Sicily in autumn. However, it is likely that a proportion of autumn migrants depart from further away than Sicily prior to arriving over Malta, such as from mainland Italy or the Balkans. Thus, birds may be leapfrogging over the Mediterranean in a NE to SW direction in autumn. Multiple studies involving movement telemetry have shown a wide range of migration strategies and routes of nocturnal migrants across the Mediterranean. For example, Tapia-Harris, Izang and Cresswell (2022) showed that Common Whitethroats *Curruca communis* migrate in a predominantly south-westerly direction in autumn to cross the Mediterranean Sea and Sahara Desert to reach wintering grounds in the Sahel. Moreover, differences in migration speeds between spring and autumn may also be a contributing factor. Spring migration is generally known to be faster than autumn migration, in terms of flight speeds, stopover duration, and total speed and duration

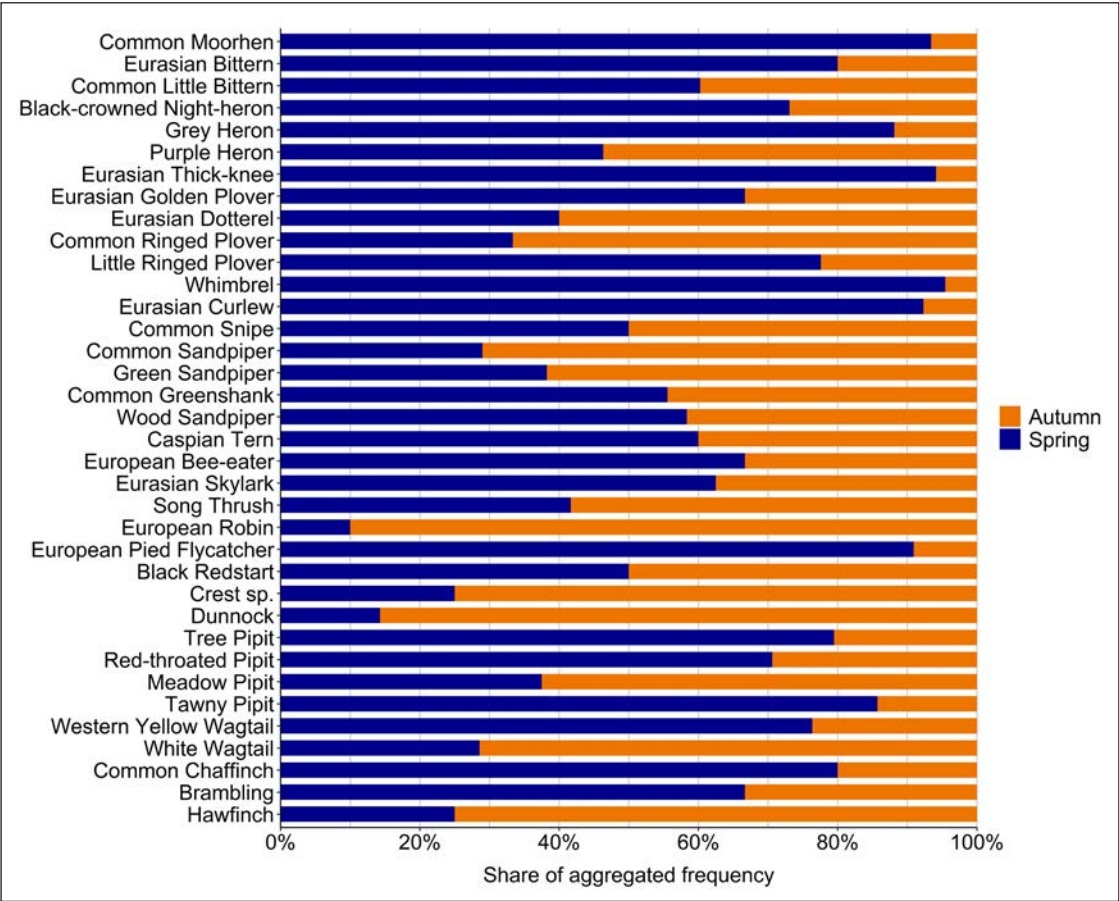


Fig. 6. Seasonal share of aggregated frequency across all stations and seasons, for species recorded in both seasons. Overlaps between simultaneously operating stations may occur.

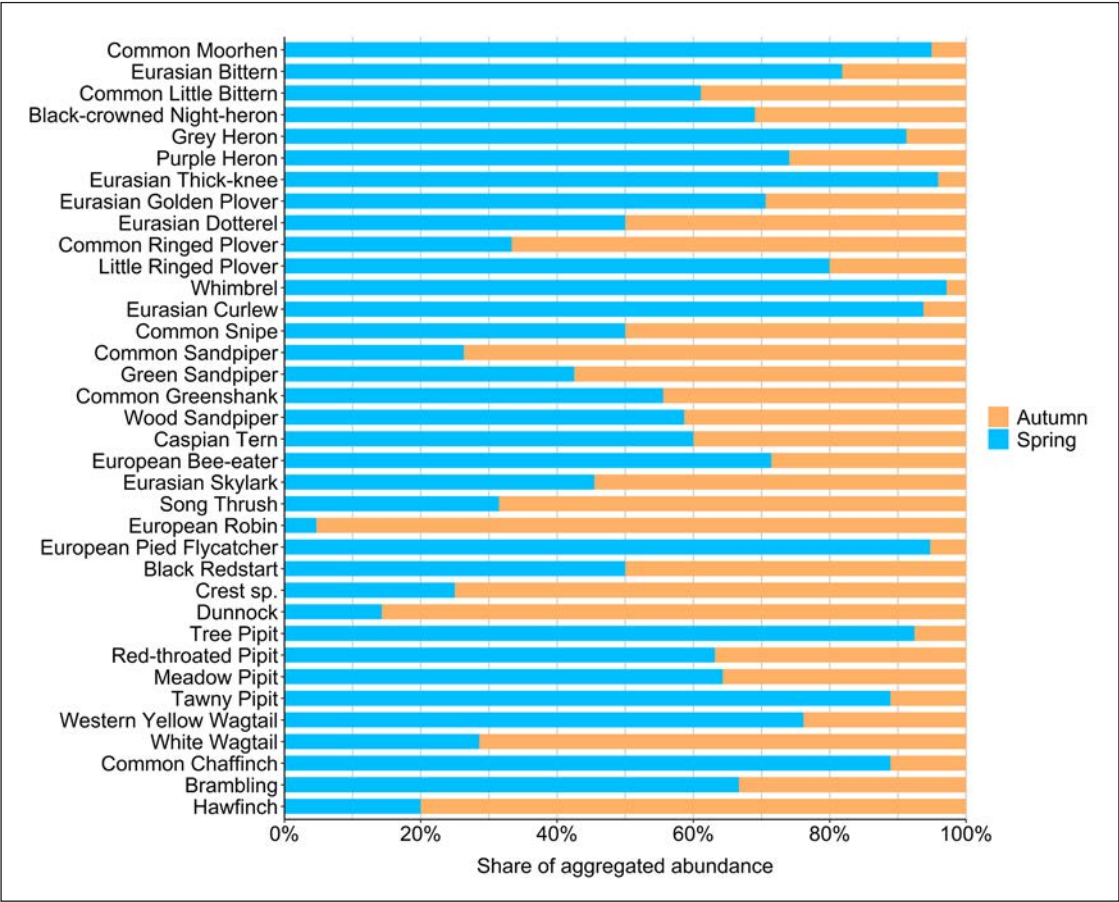


Fig. 7. Seasonal share of aggregated abundance across all stations and seasons, for species recorded in both seasons.

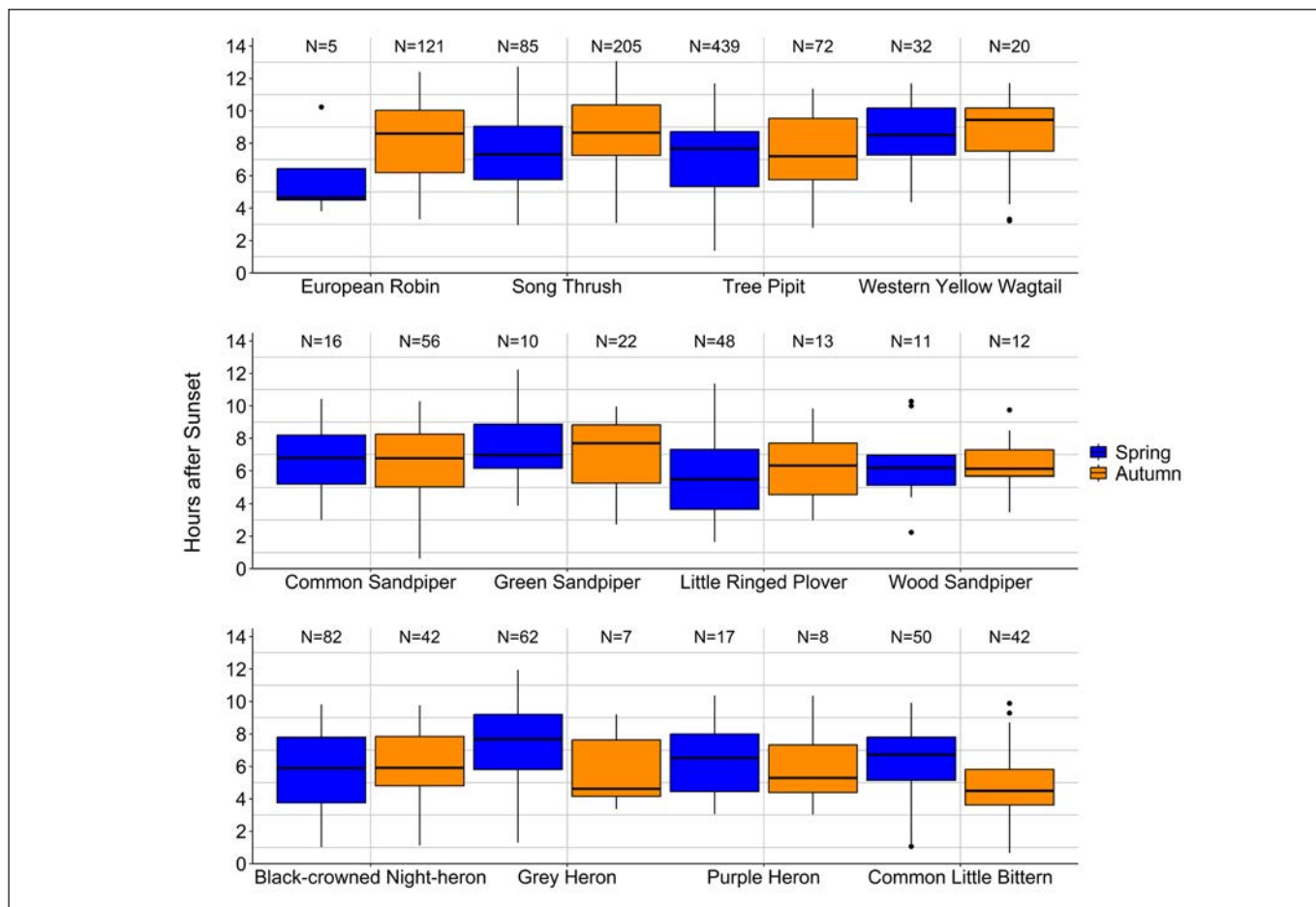


Fig. 8. Boxplots showing nocturnal migration timing in selected passerines (top), waders (middle) and herons (bottom) in spring and autumn relative to sunset. The central mid-line in each boxplot corresponds to the median, the lower and upper horizontal lines to the first and third quartiles and the vertical whiskers extend to the values at 1.5 of the inter-quartile range.

of migration (Nilsson, Klaassen et al., 2013). In addition, wind is known to have a significant yet complex effect on migration speed (Nussbaumer, Schmid et al., 2022). Therefore, seasonal differences in Malta's prevailing winds might also be a factor. Further studies are required to investigate the reasons for such differences.

In addition, passerine migration peaked at later times than herons and waders. Statistical analysis confirmed that Group has a significant effect on migration timing, bearing in mind also the significant interaction effect with Season. Post-hoc analysis confirmed that the timing of nocturnal migration in passerines was significantly later than in herons and waders, whereas there was no significant difference between the latter two. The reasons for this are also unclear. However, this may be due to the detection of herons and waders departing from Malta itself earlier during the night. Nevertheless, it is again being stressed that such seasonal differences should be interpreted with caution due to the uneven sampling effort. Further research is required with a more balanced sampling design.

An inter-site comparison for the period 01 Feb 2025 to 20 May 2025 between Żejtun and Kemmuna showed roughly equal

species richness but considerably different species composition, with only 18 species shared out of a total of 49 species. From these shared species, some were more frequently and abundantly recorded from Kemmuna, such as Black-crowned Night-herons, while others were more frequently and abundantly recorded from Żejtun, such as Tree Pipits. The reasons for this are unclear, with no clearly discernible patterns emerging. This could be due to the different geographic positioning between these sites, which would favour higher migration intensity depending on wind direction and speed. Anecdotal evidence from local diurnal observations suggests that migrating birds tend to arrive in Malta flying into headwinds. Therefore, north-westerly winds would favour birds arriving from a south-easterly direction, where Żejtun is situated.

Another potential explanatory factor is light pollution (or Artificial Light At Night - ALAN), which is discussed in further detail below. Studies have shown that nocturnal migrants do alter their NFC behaviour in relation to artificial light at night. Gillings and Scott (2021) found a significantly high phototactic effect of artificial light at night on migratory thrushes, with call rates of up to five times higher over bright areas than over dark areas. From the 8 stations in this study, those in

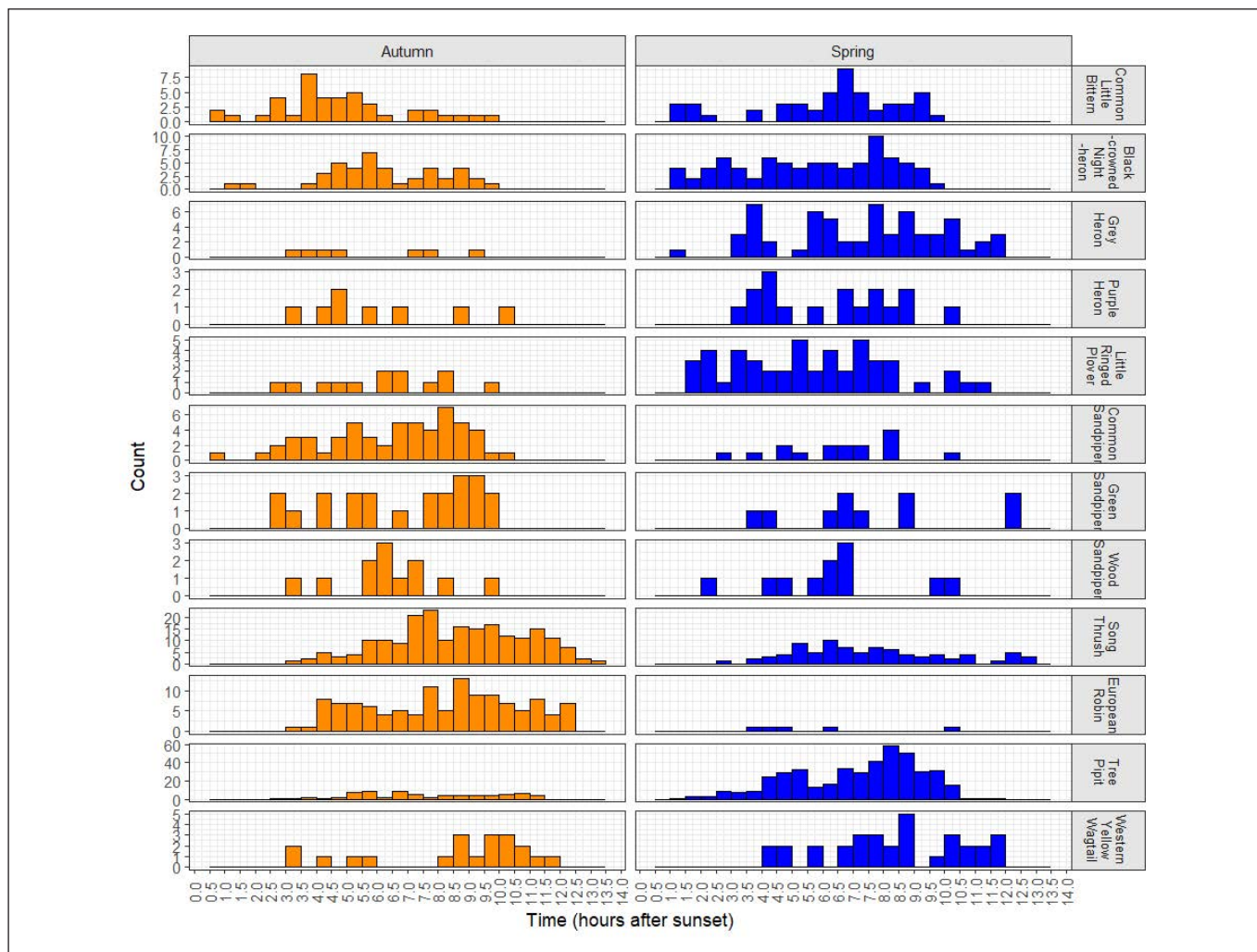


Fig. 9. Histograms showing frequency of occurrence of representative heron, wader and passerine species in spring and autumn, as aggregated across all stations for which time data was available. Bins represent 0.5 h periods since sunset (values indicate upper limit).

Birkirkara can be considered as suffering from the worst light pollution (Bortle scale ~8–9), while those in Żejtun, Tas-Silġ, Mellieħa and Sannat can be considered as more moderately light polluted (Bortle scale ~5–7), and those in Kemmuna and Mgarr ix-Xini can be considered as having relatively low light pollution (Bortle scale ~4) (Caruana, Vella et al., 2020). None of Malta's land territory is classified as Bortle scale lower than 4 (Caruana, Vella et al., 2020). This might potentially explain why Żejtun, which is brighter than Kemmuna, showed higher frequency and abundance of passerines such as Tree Pipits and Western Yellow Wagtails, however this was not the case for Song Thrushes. It is likely that more complex interaction effects are in place. The findings of Osterhaus, Boland et al. (2025a), studying more taxonomic groups and other environmental variables, go counter to those of Gillings and Scott (2021), with higher call rates at dark than light sites and multiple significant interaction effects with other variables, including dominant wavelength and cloud cover. Further studies are required using longer time series of data across multiple seasons and also integrating environmental variables at these sites, which might constitute explanatory variables either in isolation or through

interaction effects. Such studies should be able to make use of generalised linear mixed models (GLMM) to explain the non-random variation in NFC data.

Going forward, more standardised efforts are required at fixed monitoring sites over multiple years to allow for more detailed and longer-term statistical analyses. A protocol for standardised nocturnal flight call monitoring is already available (Gillings, Moran et al., 2018). This could also allow for the investigation of any links between nocturnal bird migration and environmental variables such as weather and lunar cycles. While it is widely known that meteorological variables exert a considerable influence on bird migration (e.g. Bradarić, Kranstauber et al., 2024), studies on the impact of lunar cycles on bird migration are limited. Nevertheless, a few studies found that the migration of certain species, such as European Nightjar (Norevik, Åkesson et al., 2019) and Eurasian Skylark (Prinz, Heim et al., 2025), is significantly influenced by lunar cycles. The use of NFC monitoring to investigate such phenomena would constitute novel research.

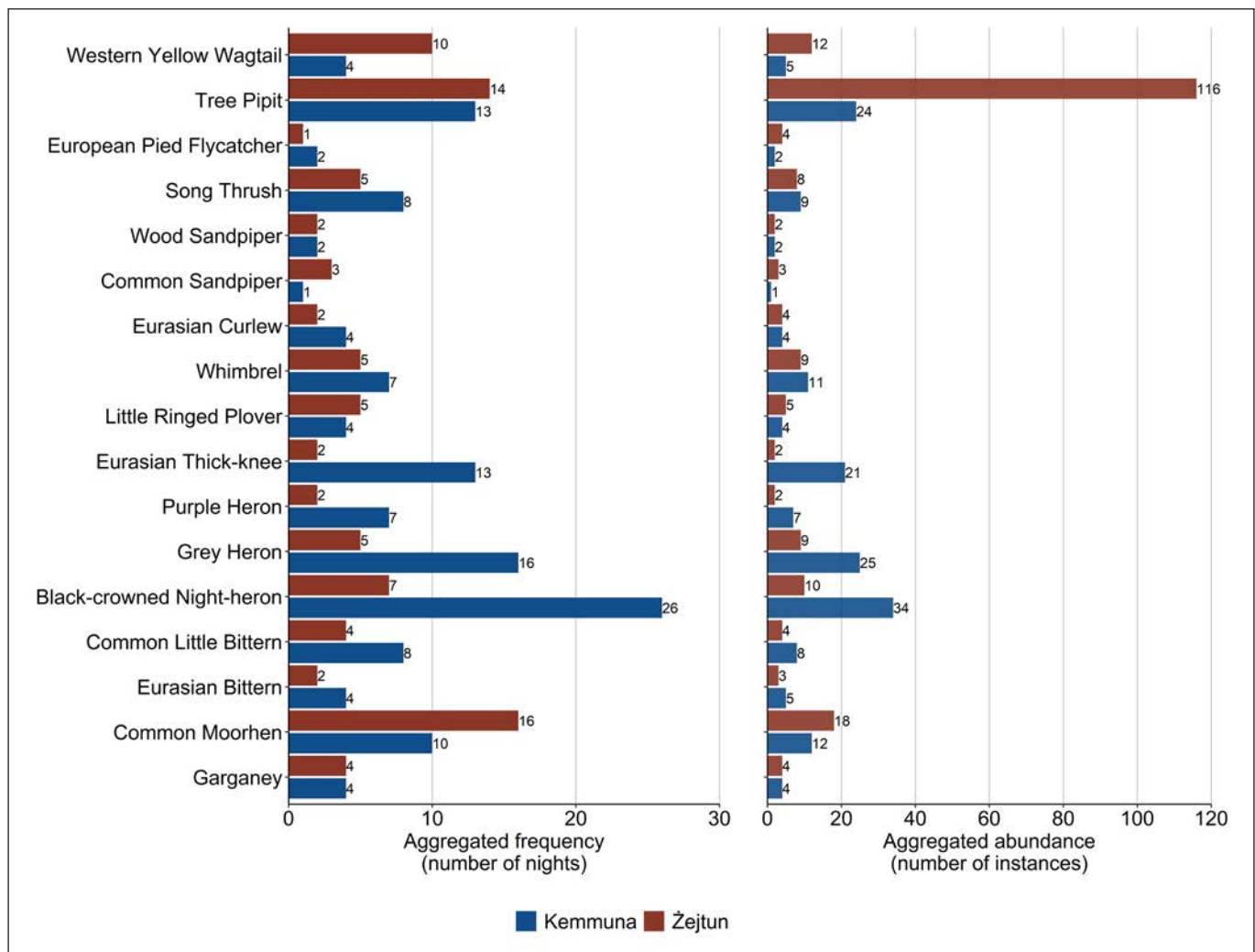


Fig. 10. Comparison of frequency and abundance data from 01 Feb 2025 to 20 May 2025 between Żejtun and Kemmuna (excluding species recorded exclusively from one station or the other).

Future efforts could also consider automation to enable less time-consuming and effort-intensive analysis of recordings. Multiple programmes are nowadays freely and publicly available to analyse bird vocalisations, such as BirdNET-Analyzer (Kahl, Wood et al., 2021) and Chirpity (Kirkland, 2025). Van Doren, Lostanlen et al. (2023) demonstrated that such automated machine learning software packages for NFC monitoring are able to accurately estimate the magnitude and timing of nocturnal bird migration when combined with other variables, by comparing with data from Doppler radars. However, it must be recalled that a much higher proportion of migrating birds produce NFCs in the nearctic than in the palearctic (Farnsworth, 2005). Therefore, such findings may not necessarily be directly applicable to a European context.

Finally, it is worth discussing the conservation implications of this study. It is pertinent to discuss the possible impacts of light pollution on nocturnal bird migration over Malta. Malta is considered as heavily light polluted, with 87% of its land area classified as Bortle scale 5 or higher and 37.3% classified as scale of 6 or higher in 2017/18 (Caruana, Vella et al., 2020).

Light pollution is already known to have impacts on seabirds in Malta, with 269 cases of grounded seabirds documented from 1978 to 2018, with a sharp increase since 2014 especially at coastal sites with high light pollution such as Xlendi and St Paul's Bay (Crymble, Mula-Laguna et al., 2020). However, the impacts of light pollution on nocturnal migrants have not been studied locally, although stranded disoriented land birds are collected frequently (Nicholas Barbara, pers. comm.). Light pollution is known to be an important driver of bird mortality by disorienting and attracting nocturnally migrating birds, resulting in collisions with built structures. This phenomenon kills hundreds of millions of birds annually in North America alone (Van Doren, Willard et al., 2021). In Southern Europe, Hirschhofer, Ranacher et al. (2026) found that migrants crossing the Adriatic Sea were attracted towards more light polluted areas, while light pollution significantly contributes to reducing mean airspeeds and flight altitudes, thus increasing the risks of disorientation and collisions. Furthermore, Winger, Weeks et al. (2019) found that NFC monitoring can be used as an important predictor of collision risk in nocturnally migrating passerines in North America, with NFC-producing species

being more vulnerable to artificial light than those species which do not produce NFCs, possibly due to the social aspect of NFCs. The existence of an interaction between NFCs and light pollution had also been shown by Watson, Wilson and Mennill (2016), who found that birds produce significantly more NFCs when migrating over artificially lit areas than over nearby dark areas. While the preliminary results of the present study cannot be used to draw any conclusions on the impacts of light pollution on nocturnal migrants in Malta, they show that there may be scope for further research on this topic.

Furthermore, hunting and trapping at night, usually involving the use of electronic lures, are also of concern. Although these practices are already illegal, compliance levels are low, as can be noticed by the prevalence of mixed wader, Common Quail and European Golden Plovers lures at night. Such electronic lures are commonly recorded through NFC recording itself and often require careful analysis to distinguish from actual NFCs. The findings of this study suggest that multiple species migrating over Malta at night may be vulnerable to these practices. Finally, although beyond the spatial scope of this study, it is also worth highlighting that NFC monitoring networks at large continental scales can provide insights into migratory bird populations and their responses to environmental and climatic changes at the species-level (Osterhaus, Boland et al., 2025b). The geographic position of the Maltese Islands in the central Mediterranean provides an opportunity to act as a valuable component of such continental scale NFC monitoring networks.

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Annex I. Full list of taxa recorded through NFC recording in this study, and season of detection

Family	Species	Season
Phasianidae	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Common Quail)	spring
Anatidae	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Common Shelduck)	spring
	<i>Spatula querquedula</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Garganey)	spring
	<i>Mareca penelope</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Eurasian Wigeon)	spring
	<i>Anas crecca</i> Linnaeus, 1758 (Common Teal)	spring
Caprimulgidae	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> Linnaeus, 1758 (European Nightjar)	spring
Cuculidae	<i>Clamator glandarius</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Great Spotted Cuckoo)	spring
Rallidae	<i>Porzana porzana</i> (Linnaeus, 1766) (Spotted Crane)	spring
	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Common Moorhen)	both
	<i>Fulica atra</i> Linnaeus, 1758 (Common Coot)	autumn
Gruidae	<i>Grus grus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Common Crane)	spring
Ardeidae	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Eurasian Bittern)	both
	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766) (Common Little Bittern)	both
	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Black-crowned Night-heron)	both
	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Cattle Egret)	spring
	<i>Ardea cinerea</i> Linnaeus, 1758 (Grey Heron)	both
	<i>Ardea purpurea</i> Linnaeus, 1766 (Purple Heron)	both
	<i>Egretta garzetta</i> (Linnaeus, 1766) (Little Egret)	spring
Burhinidae	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Eurasian Thick-knee)	both
Haematopodidae	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> Linnaeus, 1758 (Eurasian Oystercatcher)	spring
Recurvirostridae	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> Linnaeus, 1758 (Pied Avocet)	spring
	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Black-winged Stilt)	spring
Charadriidae	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Grey Plover)	spring
	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Eurasian Golden Plover)	both
	<i>Eudromias morinellus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Eurasian Dotterel)	both
	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> Linnaeus, 1758 (Common Ringed Plover)	both
	<i>Charadrius dubius</i> Scopoli, 1786 (Little Ringed Plover)	both
Scolopacidae	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Whimbrel)	both
	<i>Numenius arquata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Eurasian Curlew)	both
	<i>Limosa limosa</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Black-tailed Godwit)	spring
	<i>Arenaria interpres</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Ruddy Turnstone)	spring
	<i>Calidris alpina</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Dunlin)	autumn
	<i>Calidris minuta</i> (Leisler, 1812) (Little Stint)	spring
	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Common Snipe)	both
	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Common Sandpiper)	both
	<i>Tringa ochropus</i> Linnaeus, 1758 (Green Sandpiper)	both
	<i>Tringa erythropus</i> (Pallas, 1764) (Spotted Redshank)	spring
	<i>Tringa nebularia</i> (Gunnerus, 1767) (Common Greenshank)	both
	<i>Tringa totanus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Common Redshank)	spring
	<i>Tringa glareola</i> Linnaeus, 1758 (Wood Sandpiper)	both
Laridae	<i>Larus ridibundus</i> Linnaeus, 1766 (Black-headed Gull)	spring
	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i> Temminck, 1820 (Mediterranean Gull)	spring
	<i>Larus genei</i> Brème, 1839 (Slender-billed Gull)	spring

bird Family	species scientific and English name	season
	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i> (Pallas, 1770) (Caspian Tern)	both
	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> (Gmelin, 1789) (Common Gull-billed Tern)	spring
	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i> (Latham, 1787) (Sandwich Tern)	autumn
Strigidae	<i>Otus scops</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Eurasian Scops-owl)	spring
Meropidae	<i>Merops apiaster</i> Linnaeus, 1758 (European Bee-eater)	both
Laniidae	<i>Lanius senator</i> Linnaeus, 1758 (Woodchat Shrike)	spring
Oriolidae	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Eurasian Golden Oriole)	spring
Alaudidae	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i> (Leisler, 1814) (Greater Short-toed Lark)	spring
	<i>Alauda arvensis</i> Linnaeus, 1758 (Eurasian Skylark)	both
Phylloscopidae	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> (Vieillot, 1817) (Common Chiffchaff)	spring
Turdidae	<i>Turdus philomelos</i> Brehm, 1831 (Song Thrush)	both
	<i>Turdus merula</i> Linnaeus, 1758 (Eurasian Blackbird)	autumn
Muscicapidae	<i>Muscicapa striata</i> (Pallas, 1764) (Spotted Flycatcher)	spring
	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (European Robin)	both
	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i> (Pallas, 1764) (European Pied Flycatcher)	both
	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i> (Temminck, 1815) (Collared Flycatcher)	spring
	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> (Gmelin, 1774) (Black Redstart)	both
	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Common Redstart)	spring
	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766) (Common Stonechat)	autumn
	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Northern Wheatear)	spring
Regulidae	<i>Regulus regulus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Goldcrest)	
	/ <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i> (Temminck, 1820) (Common Firecrest)	both
Prunellidae	<i>Prunella modularis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Dunnock)	both
Passeridae	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i> (Temminck, 1820) (Spanish Sparrow)	autumn
Motacillidae	<i>Anthus trivialis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Tree Pipit)	both
	<i>Anthus cervinus</i> (Pallas, 1811) (Red-throated Pipit)	both
	<i>Anthus pratensis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Meadow Pipit)	both
	<i>Anthus campestris</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Tawny Pipit)	both
	<i>Motacilla flava</i> Linnaeus, 1758 (Western Yellow Wagtail)	both
	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i> Tunstall, 1771 (Grey Wagtail)	autumn
	<i>Motacilla alba</i> Linnaeus, 1758 (White Wagtail)	both
Fringillidae	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i> Linnaeus, 1758 (Common Chaffinch)	both
	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i> Linnaeus, 1758 (Brambling)	both
	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Hawfinch)	both
	<i>Spinus spinus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (Eurasian Siskin)	spring
Emberizidae	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i> Linnaeus, 1758 (Ortolan Bunting)	spring
	<i>Emberiza calandra</i> Linnaeus, 1758 (Corn Bunting)	autumn

A notable control of a colour-ringed Swedish Willow Warbler in Malta

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The Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* is a regular spring and autumn migrant to Malta. The species breeds across Eurasia and winters south of the Sahara (Sokolovskis, Caballero-Lopez et al., 2023; BirdLife International, 2024). The European breeding population mainly breeds in Northern and Central Europe (BirdLife International, 2024). In spring, on its northward migration, it usually occurs in Malta from mid-March to mid-May, with a peak in April (Bonavia, Borg et al., 2005; Bonavia, Borg et al., 2010). On its southward, post-breeding migration it is recorded from mid-August to the third week of October, peaking in September (Bonavia, Borg et al., 2005; Bonavia, Borg et al., 2010). Exceptional birds have occurred in early March, late June, July and November (Coleiro, 1991; Bonavia, Borg et al., 2010; Miceli, 2024).

Since bird ringing began in Malta in 1965, 13 Willow Warblers ringed locally have been controlled abroad, with recoveries from Finland (1), Germany (2), Italy (3), the Netherlands (1), Norway (1), Spain (2), and Sweden (3). Additionally, 15 birds ringed abroad have been recovered in Malta, originating from Belgium (1), Denmark (1), France (1), Greece (1), Italy (2), Lithuania (1), Norway (2), Sweden (5), and Switzerland (1) (Figs 1, 2). Of the 28 total controls (Fig. 1), eight (29%) involved birds from Sweden.

On 9 April 2025, during a bird ringing session in Buskett, Malta (35°51'27.2"N 14°24'14.3"E), the first author (JAM) handled a Willow Warbler carrying a ring from the Swedish ringing scheme, run by the Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm (Fig. 3). In addition

to a metal ring, the bird was also colour-ringed, indicating that it was part of a specific research project on this species. Upon submitting this control to the ringing scheme, ringing details revealed that the bird was a male, originally ringed on 4 May 2024 at Tovetorp zoological research station (58°56'52.0"N 17°08'53.5"E), c.60 km south-west of Stockholm.

Whilst this was not the first occurrence of this species with a ring from Sweden in Malta, what makes this record remarkable

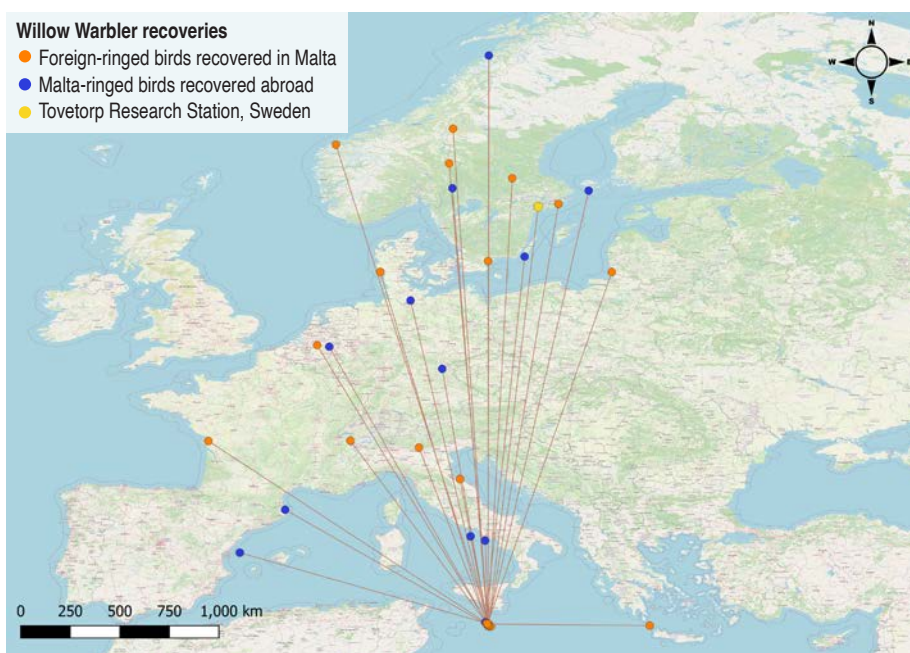


Fig. 1. All foreign ringed Willow Warblers *Phylloscopus trochilus* recovered in Malta or vice versa.

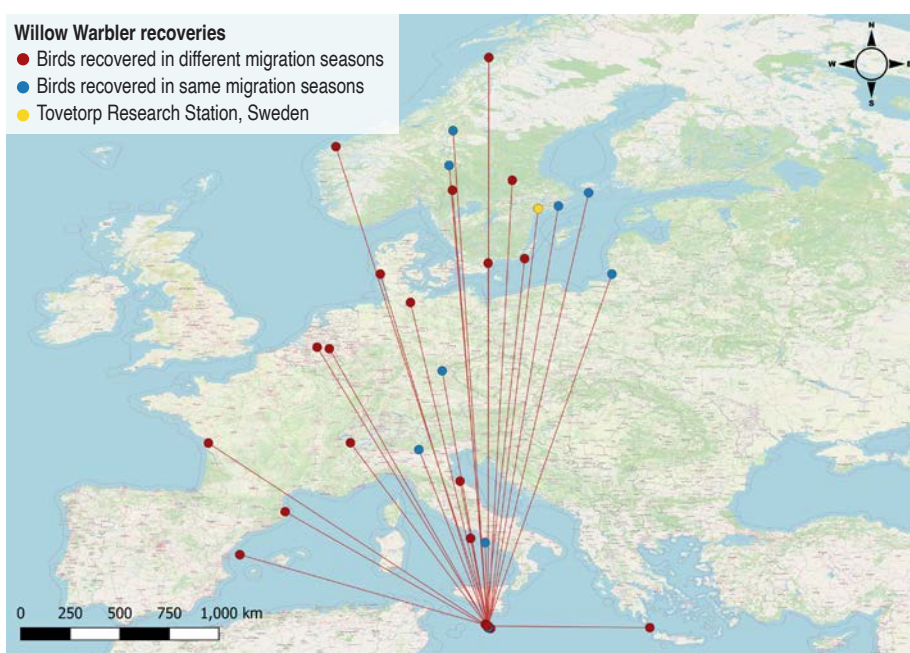


Fig. 2. Willow Warblers *Phylloscopus trochilus* ringed and controlled within the same migration season or later.

is that this same bird was again re-sighted, and identified through its colour-ring combination, at its original ringing site. The bird was first observed back at the original ringing site on 21 April 2025, actively singing and defending its territory from rival males (pers. comm. C. Kullberg, April 2025). This means that in the 12 days between its encounter in Malta and its return to Sweden, it had covered a distance of over 2500 km.

Two subspecies of Willow Warbler breed in the Western Palearctic – *P. t. trochilus* and *P. t. acredula* – with divergent migratory routes and population trends (Svensson, 2023; Sokolovskis, Caballero-Lopez, et al., 2023). The nominate subspecies *trochilus* breeds in the western part of the species's range, while *acredula* occupies more north and eastern regions (Svensson, 2023). The subspecies meet in a hybrid contact zone in central Sweden (Liedvogel, Larson et al., 2014). The individual discussed in this short note likely belongs to the nominate subspecies (Svensson, 2023), while Willow Warblers migrating through Malta might be from both populations, including from the hybrid contact zone (Sokolovskis, Caballero-Lopez et al., 2023).

This individual bird is part of a Willow Warbler project, running in the area since 1979, where the main focus is the arrival dates of male and female birds and, if possible, also the recording breeding success (Hedlund, Fransson et. al., 2022). Furthermore, whilst birds colour-ringed as part of this project are often re-sighted in following years, this is the first report of a bird on migration and outside of Sweden (pers. comm. C. Kullberg, April 2025).

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Fig. 3. The Swedish-ringed Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* controlled at Buskett on 9 April 2025.

First confirmed breeding record of Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* (Temminck, 1835) in the Maltese Islands

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The Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* has a large range across Eurasia, but in Europe it is restricted to the Mediterranean region (BirdLife International, 2024). It breeds in North Africa and southern Italy, including Sicily, where it is increasing (Surdo, Cusmano et al., 2024). In the Maltese Islands it is usually observed in small numbers on migration, being frequent from mid-March to early May and scarce from mid-September to end-October. However, it has not been recorded breeding previously (Ecoserv Ltd, 2025).

On 31 July 2019, two adult Red-rumped Swallows were observed by the author flying low beneath Ta' Ġjammar Tower, on the outskirts of Sannat, Gozo. The birds were actively feeding on insects and displayed clear territorial behaviour.

On 12 August 2019, five Red-rumped Swallows were recorded in the same general area, comprising two adults accompanied by three recently fledged juveniles. These birds were observed near the cow farms along the road leading to Mgarr ix-Xini Bay, indicating successful breeding in the vicinity.

Two further observations were made later in August in the same area, each involving a single bird on separate dates: one adult and one juvenile. No additional records were obtained during the remainder of the summer.

On 18 January 2020, the author's father, Noel Vella, visited Ta' Ġjammar Tower, where the initial observations had taken place. In an adjacent agricultural room, he noted the presence of a swallow nest with a distinct tunnel-like entrance. Given the characteristic structure of nests of *C. daurica*, together with the summer records from the area, the nest was considered likely to belong to this species.

The following day (19 January 2020), the author visited the site and confirmed the presence of an intact Red-rumped Swallow nest, which was photographed (Fig. 1). The nest's structure and placement were fully consistent with descriptions of the species's nesting habits elsewhere within its range.

The observations of adults and fledged juveniles during the summer of 2019, together with the subsequent confirmation of a nest at the same locality, therefore constitute the first confirmed breeding record of the Red-rumped Swallow in the



Fig. 1. Nest of Red-rumped Swallow at Ta' Ġjammar Tower, Sannat, Gozo

Maltese Islands and provide the first evidence of successful breeding of the species locally. The record has been published in the *Malta Breeding Bird Atlas 2024* (Ecoserv Ltd, 2025). Together with the increase in breeding Barn Swallows *Hirundo rustica*, especially on Gozo, the record emphasises the need to preserve suitable nesting sites within rural buildings (Ecoserv Ltd, 2025; Vella, 2020).

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First confirmed record of Hume's Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus humei* (Brooks, 1878) in Malta

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During a bird-ringing session in the small reedbed at Salina Nature Reserve (35°56'45.5"N 14°25'17.8"E) on 8 November 2020, a leaf warbler resembling a Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* (YBW) was caught by the authors. Upon closer observation, the overall relatively dull greenish-grey plumage seemed atypical for YBW, which is a scarce but regular autumn visitor in Malta, and gave rise to the suspicion that this bird could actually be a Hume's Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus humei* (HLW).

Due to this suspicion, a full description of the plumage and several photographs of the bird were taken (Fig. 1). The underparts were dull greenish yellow whilst the upperparts were dull green with a slight brownish grey tinge. It had a prominent buffish tinged supercilium and an indistinct crown stripe. The bird had two off-white wing-bars, with the lower one formed by pale tips to the greater coverts being broader and more prominent, while the upper one formed by pale tips to the median coverts being much less distinct. The tertials had pale edges, but without much contrast to the rest of the upperwing. The legs and bill were mostly dark except for the paler inner part of the lower mandible. The plumage and colouration of the bare parts were considered to favour identification as HLW. This was subsequently further supported upon checking literature such as Shiriha and Svensson (2018).

The biometrics taken of the bird are summarised in Table 1, alongside corresponding values for YBW and HLW from different literature sources. This species pair have widely overlapping biometrics. Indeed, the biometrics of the bird in question fell within this overlap zone, and were therefore unhelpful in determining identification. Furthermore, the literature is slightly inconsistent in terms of wing formula. The age of the bird was not determined with certainty, due to difficulty in ascertaining age in autumn without prior experience of this species. However, the rather pointed rectrices indicated a first-winter bird, as expected of an autumn vagrant (Svensson, 2023). The bird had a fat score of 1 and a muscle score of 2, and weighed 5.5 g. The bird did not vocalise at any point during the observation.



Fig. 1. The Hume's Leaf-warbler ringed at Salina on 8 Nov 2020

The record was submitted as a HLW to the Malta Rarities and Records Committee (MRRC) and was accepted during a meeting held on 25 January 2022 (Bonavia, 2024). The expert opinion of Lars Svensson and Magnus Hellström was sought as part of the assessment process, wherein both agreed with identification as HLW. The Maltese name assigned to this species is *Vjolin tal-Faxx Ċar*.

HLW was historically considered a subspecies of YBW, but has since been recognised as a full species, due to consistent phenotypic differences, such as in plumage and vocalisations (Madge, 1997). This was subsequently further confirmed through behavioural and genetic analysis (Irwin, Alström et al., 2001). HLW breeds from north-eastern Afghanistan eastward to the north-western Himalayas in south-western China (Xinjiang) and north-western India, and winters in southern Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. As a long-distance migrant, HLW is prone to long-distance vagrancy, particularly during autumn migration. It was first recorded in the Western Palearctic in the Netherlands in November 1958 (Hobbs, 2022). Since then, likely as a result of increased observer awareness, it has become a regular annual vagrant in the Western Palearctic, with multiple records from various countries, albeit at much lower numbers than YBW. Dierschke (2020) summarised 661 records in Europe from 1957 to 2019, with a sharp increase since the 1990s and up to 99 records in a single winter. It occurs annually in Italy, with

Biometric	8 Nov 2020 bird	Yellow-browed Warbler			Hume's Leaf-warbler		
		Svensson, 2023	Shirihai & Svensson, 2018	Demongin, 2016	Svensson, 2023	Shirihai & Svensson, 2018	Demongin, 2016
wing length (mm)	55	♂ 54–61 ♀ 51–58	♂ 54–61 (mean 57.6) ♀ 51–58 (mean 54.5)	♂ 54–61 ♀ (50) 51–59	♂ 53–60 ♀ 52–57	♂ 53–60 (mean 57.8) ♀ 52–57 (mean 54.4)	♂ 53–62 (64) ♀ 50.5–59
tail length (mm)	40	♂ 37–44 ♀ 36–41	♂ 37–44 (mean 40.7) ♀ 36–41 (mean 38.3)	♂ 38–45 ♀ 35–45	♂ 38–45 ♀ 36–40	♂ 38–45 (mean 41.4) ♀ 36–40 (mean 38.7)	♂ 38–45 ♀ 35–44
wing point	P3=P4		P3=P4=P5	P3=P4=P5		P3=P4=P5	P3=P4=P5
P1>PCs (mm)	7.5	3–9.5	3–9.5	3–7	4–8.5	4–9	4–8.5 [10]
P2<WP (mm)	5	4–7.5 (mean 5.8)	4–7.5	4.5–7	5–8 (mean 6.7)	5–8	5–7
wing formula	P2=7	P2=6/7 or =7 (=7/8)	P2=7 (48%) P2=6/7 (31%) P2=7/8 (19%) P2=8 (2%)	P2=6/8 (=8/9)	P2=7/9 (rarely =7; never =6/7)	P2=7 or 7/8 (60%) P2=8 or 8/9 (37%) P2<8/9 (3%)	P2=7/10 (=7; never =6/7)

Table 1. Comparison between selected biometrics of the bird caught at Salina Nature Reserve on 8 November 2020 and corresponding values for Yellow-browed Warbler and Hume's Leaf-warbler as given in literature.

some sites hosting individuals in multiple winters, particularly in the north-east, while it is rare further south (Fagotto, Bonomelli et al., 2025).

A previous record of a HLW ringed at the same location on 10 November 2012 is given by Fenech (2017). This record refers to a YBW ringed by the author of this short note (MVG) on the day in question. Indeed, Fenech (2017) quotes the same record as both a YBW and a HLW. This record is therefore erroneous and was rejected by the MRRC (Bonavia, 2020).

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First confirmed record of Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia* (Ord, 1815) in Malta

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During a gull watching session on the morning of 3 January 2023 at Salina Nature Reserve (35°56'46.3"N 14°25'22.6"E) the author observed a rather small gull among the hundreds of gulls present. It was slightly smaller than the Back-headed Gulls *Larus ridibundus* present but not as small as a Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*. Further observations showed pinkish legs and a quick look at the guide book indicated that the only small gull with pinkish legs is Bonaparte's Gull (Svensson, Mullarney et al., 2023) (Fig. 1). This was further confirmed when the bird stretched its wing and was later seen in flight (Fig. 2), showing a black trailing edge to the wing feathers, which eliminated Little Gull.

Full description of the gull:

- bill black, finely pointed and short
- short pink legs
- short neck and rounded head
- white head with distinctive black smudge behind eye
- pale grey mantle
- white tail with a rather wide black bar
- wing pattern much like Black-headed Gull's but with black trailing edge to flight feathers
- Rest of body white

The gull was subsequently observed daily at Salina for nearly two months, with the last observation on 28 February 2023.

This record was accepted by the Malta Rarities and Records Committee (MRRCC) during a meeting held on 5 February 2024, based on the description and photographic evidence, which is a requisite considering this is a first record for the Maltese Islands. This is the first accepted record of Bonaparte's Gull and of any Nearctic gull species for Malta. The Maltese name given to this gull is *Gawwija Amerikana*.

The Bonaparte's Gull is a Nearctic species native to North America that breeds from southwest Quebec to Alaska. It winters mostly in the east and southeast of the USA, Cuba and along the Pacific coast of the United States and in northern Mexico.

Note. A claimed first record of Bonaparte's Gull in Malta on 11 November 2012 (Fenech, 2017) does not, to the best of our knowledge, have any associated description or photographic evidence and none have been submitted to the MRRCC (Bonavia, 2020).



Fig. 1. Bonaparte's Gull at Salina, observed on 3 Jan 2023 and until 28 Feb 2023



Fig. 2. The Bonaparte's Gull in flight at Salina on 3 Jan 2023

It migrates through the entire width of the North American continent. The species is a vagrant to Europe with occasional sightings in the UK, Ireland, France, Spain, Germany, Italy, Switzerland and the Netherlands (Ayyash, 2024). Of note is a record of a Bonaparte's Gull at Oare Marshes in Kent, England, that has been returning to the same place for 12 consecutive years, from 2013 to 2024 (Bird Guides, 2024).

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First confirmed record of Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan* (Wagler, 1831) in Malta

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Early on the morning of 9 May 2024 an unusual-looking gull was spotted at Ghadira Nature Reserve (35°58'12.2"N 14°20'52.3"E) by Raymond Galea and David Attard. Galea photographed it (Fig. 1) and the first impression was that this was a Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla*. This is a Nearctic species, typically found along the coasts of North and Central America and very rare in Europe, usually limited to vagrant individuals blown off course. Unfortunately, the bird did not stay long at Ghadira and flew out in the direction of Mellieħa Bay.

Fortunately, in the early afternoon of the same day the gull turned up at Salina Nature Reserve (35°56'46.3"N 14°25'22.6"E). Here it spent a couple of hours among the many Yellow-legged Gulls *L. michahellis* present, giving birdwatchers a chance to enjoy this rarity, which up until then was still regarded as Laughing Gull. Many photographs were taken to get all angles of this gull, especially the open wings (Fig. 2). Later, on examining the photographs the author suspected it might be another species. On comparing this gull with various gull identification books the author noted that certain characteristics that a Laughing Gull should show were missing. The only other gull with a close resemblance is Franklin's Gull, but since these two gulls can look deceptively similar, one has to look at some plumage clues that can help to separate them (Malling Olsen, 2018).

This is the full description of the gull. It had a full black hood with pale flecking around the base of the bill; this was due to moult of the contour feathers around the bill base. The bill was dark red. It had a dark grey mantle, darker than in Mediterranean Gull *L. melanocephalus*. The outer primary (P10) had a large white tip and small white tips were also present in the other outer primaries; these were less marked due to abraded feather tips. White tongues were also present on the primaries, giving the impression of a white band when the wing was spread. This main feature alone ruled out Laughing Gull since this has a different wing pattern with solid black wing tips and lacking the white spots on the outer primaries. Also present were bold white crescents above and below the eye, contrasting sharply with the black hood, another feature of Franklin's Gull. Active moult was noted in the primaries and the hood around the bill.

This record was accepted by the Malta Rarities and Records Committee (MRRC) during a meeting held on 3 February 2025, based on the description and photographic evidence, which is a requisite considering this is a first record for the Maltese Islands. This was the first accepted record of Franklin's Gull and



Raymond Galea

Fig. 1. The Franklin's Gull at Ghadira on the morning of 9 May 2024



Mario V. Gauci

Fig. 2. The Franklin's Gull in flight at Salina on 9 May 2024

the second Nearctic gull species for Malta after the Bonaparte's Gull *L. philadelphia*. The Maltese name given for this gull is *Gawwija tal-Kanada*.

The Franklin's Gull is a Nearctic species, breeding in small to large colonies in marshes in the western and central North America and central western Canada. It is a long distant migrant flying south through Central America to winter mainly off the Pacific coasts of Peru to Chile. Outside its range it has been recorded in many parts of the world. It is a vagrant in Europe and has been recorded in 15 countries (Malling Olsen, 2018). Noteworthy are at least 35 records from Spain (Ayyash, 2024). The same individual gull was also observed and photographed by Mohammed El Golli at Lake Sijoumi, Tunis, Tunisia from 20–24 May 2024 (Ebels, El Golli et al., 2024). This was also the first record for Tunisia of this species.

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First confirmed record of Oriental Honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus* (Temminck, 1821) in Malta

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While monitoring the annual autumn raptor migration at Buskett (35°51'25.6"N 14°24'02.2"E) at around 16:30 CET on 24 September 2024, an unusual looking honey-buzzard was spotted at height. The bird was losing height while soaring over Buskett together with a few European Honey-buzzards *Pernis apivorus*. Identification as Oriental Honey-buzzard *P. ptilorhynchus* was made by the authors in the field. The bird was noted to be in suspended moult, with the 6th primary and the outer tail feathers still growing, and some other tail feathers missing (Fig. 1). Even so, it had all features pointing towards this species, including very broad, almost eagle-like wings, a broad wingtip with clearly fingered primaries, dark brown-black marking on sides of throat which contrasted with the pale throat and absence of a dark carpal patch typical of European Honey-buzzard. The bird was further identified as a cinnamon-type adult female. Moreover, while both species suspend moult on autumn migration, European Honey-buzzards would have 2-4 new inner primaries on migration, while Oriental Honey-buzzards have 4-5 new inner primaries (Forsman, 2016). Therefore, the more advanced moult of the Buskett bird, with 5 new inner primaries, further supported identification as Oriental Honey-buzzard.

The bird circled in the area for just over an hour, enabling many birders to observe it at close proximity and in good light conditions. It was noted to have an orange iris, while the bill and cere were grey with a dark bill tip. Further key features were the spacing and number of narrow bars on the secondaries (3) and primaries (4). Many photos showing all key features were taken, which were important to eliminate the possibility of the bird being a hybrid between this species and European Honey-buzzard. Presumed hybrids seem to occur in the western part of the breeding range of Oriental Honey-buzzard. These birds generally show intermediate features, including a dark carpal patch (Faveyts et al., 2011). The possibility of a hybrid was therefore excluded due to the absence of such features. The bird roosted in the area just outside Buskett and was not seen again in the following days. However, surprisingly, the bird was re-sighted by Stefano Miceli and Christopher Carbone at Targa Gap (35°55'00.8"N 14°24'45.2"E) on 28 September 2024.

The description and photographs were submitted to the Malta Rarities and Records Committee and the record was accepted on 3 February 2025, based on the description and photographic



Ian Balzan

Nicholas Galea

Fig. 1. Two views of Oriental Honey-buzzard at Buskett on 24 Sep 2024

evidence, a requisite considering this is the first record for the Maltese Islands. The Maltese name given to this species is *Kuċċarda tal-Lvant*.

The Oriental Honey-buzzard ssp. *orientalis*, which is the only migrant subspecies and the one that occurs regularly in the Western Palearctic, breeds in the taiga, often near bogs, rivers or clearings from Western Siberia eastwards to North Eastern China, Japan and Korea, with the majority wintering in South East Asia and the Indonesian Islands (Forsman, 2016).

Since the 1990s the species has become a regular spring and autumn migrant in the Middle East and 50–100 are thought to overwinter on the Arabian Peninsula (Babbington & Campbell, 2016). Moreover, a mean of 18 Oriental Honey-buzzards are observed annually at Batumi, Georgia (2008–2019), particularly in mid-September (Hoekstra, Jansen et al., 2020). In Europe, however, it is still considered a vagrant, with one record on Cyprus in October 2012 and one on Lesvos, Greece on 2 May 2018 (Zannetos, Zevgolis et al., 2018). Along the Central Mediterranean flyway, the only other confirmed record is a sighting in Calabria in Italy on 18 May 2011 (Brichetti & Fracasso, 2018).

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Systematic List 2006–2011

Compiled by Caldon Mercieca (2006–2007), Nicholas Galea (2008), Richard Cachia-Zammit (2009) and Martin Austad (2010–2011).
Main editor: Edward Bonavia

The list of birds occurring in the Maltese Islands during the years 2006–2011 has been compiled from (a) observation records submitted by several observers and (b) daily log of birds of the Nature Reserves at Ghadira and Simar. The main regular contributors for the years under review were: David Attard, John Attard Montalto, Martin Austad, Ian Balzan, Edward Bonavia, John J. Borg, Denis Cachia, Alex Casha, Victor Cilia, Charles Coleiro, Jean Paul Farrugia, Nicholas Galea, Raymond Galea, Charles Gauci, Mario V. Gauci, Mark Gauci, John Grech, Gilbert Haber, Manuel Mallia, Joseph M. Mangion, Caldon Mercieca, Glenn Micallef, Andre Raine, Helen Raine, Joe Sultana, Aron Tanti, Justin Vassallo, Adin Vella, Raymond Vella and Steve Zammit Lupi.

All records of rare and vagrant species that appear in this list have been approved by the Malta Rarities and Records Committee. For species not recorded in one or more of the six years under review, the year/s in which the species was not recorded have been omitted. (M) or (G) following a place name refer to Malta and Gozo respectively.

Nomenclature and taxonomy follow the Malta Bird Checklist by E. Bonavia & V. Falzon (2025)

Common Quail (Summiena)

Coturnix coturnix

2006. 30 sightings of up to 3 on 24 dates from 10 Mar to 2 May. In autumn, 7 sightings on 6 dates from 3 Sep to 20 Oct, all in singles. Singles on 26 Nov, 3 Dec and 28 Dec.

2007. Singles at Buskett on 1 Jan and at Targa Gap on 5 Mar, then 1–3 on 20 dates from 25 Mar to 3 May. Singles on 22 May and on 15 Jun, then 1–3 on 16 dates from 17 Aug to 24 Nov, with most sightings at end Sep.

2008. 1 near Simar on 5 Feb, then 1–2 on most days from 9 Mar to 30 Apr. In autumn, 1–6 daily from 14 Sep to 2 Oct but on 27 Sep: 30 at Dingli Cliffs, 20 at Ta' Ġordan, 8 at Buskett and 11 at Fawwara. 5 singles from 2 Oct to 12 Dec, then 2 at Fomm ir-Riħ on 21 Dec and 2 at Buskett on 27th and 29 Dec.

2009. Singles on 4 Jan, 10 Jan and 27 Feb. 1–2 on 21 dates from 5 Mar to 19 Apr, but 3 at Wied Ġhajj Rihana on 4 Apr. 1 on 5 May. 1 calling ♂ recorded frequently around Ghadira throughout summer from 19 Jun to 14 Sep. 1 at Ġhallis on 2 Jul. Singles on most days from 20–26 Sep, but 5 at Buskett on 23 Sep. Singles on 4 dates from 21–26 Oct. 1 on 13 Nov and 2 at Buskett on 30 Dec.

2010. Singles at Simar on 23–24 Feb, at Ġharb on 6 Mar, then 1–2 almost daily from 17 Mar to 24 Apr. 1 on 1 May. Singles on 23rd, 24th and 25 Sep in 3 separate locations. 6 singles in October and 2 at Pembroke on 22 Nov.

2011. 1 at Buskett on 2 Jan. 4 records from 7–18 Feb of birds heard calling from fields. 24 records of 1–2 from 5 Mar to 27 Apr but 6 at Kemmuna on 15 Apr. 1 on Filfla on 17 Jun. Singles on 5 dates from 8–28 Sep and 2 on 29 Sep. 5 at Qawra on 6 Nov and 1 at Simar on 7 Nov.

Chukar (Ċukar)

Alectoris chukar

2006. Released birds observed throughout year at Kemmuna, with up to 50 in Jun–Jul.

2007. Introduced population with up to 30 at Kemmuna, where breeding, recorded from Apr and Oct.

2008. Resident at Kemmuna.

2009. Introduced population at Kemmuna reported throughout year in single and double figures, with max. 40 on 29 Jun.

2010. Resident at Kemmuna.

2011. Resident at Kemmuna. 4–15 on several dates from 25 Mar to 19 Oct.

Red-breasted Merganser (Serra)

Mergus serrator

2006. 12 from Qawra and Ġhadira on 6 Nov; 1 on 12 Nov and 4 on 13 Nov, both at Qawra. Then 1 at St Elmo Point on 17 Dec.

2007. Singles at Ċirkewwa on 12 Mar and 30 Apr, then 1 at Qawra on 8 Nov and 3 off NE coast on 13 Dec.

2008. 1 on 4th and 3 on 10 Dec, both at Qawra.

2010. 3 at Ċirkewwa on 16 Mar.

2011. 5 at Qawra on 27 Nov.

Common Shelduck (Kuluvert tas-Salib)

Tadorna tadorna

2006. 4 sightings of 1–4 from 26–29 Jan, then 26 and 8 on 13th and 14 Mar respectively at Ċirkewwa, and 1 at Ġhadira on 23 Mar. 2 at Ġhallis on 27 Sep, then singles at Qawra on 11–12 Oct and on 5 dates from 11 Nov to end of year, but 10 on 22 Nov. At Ġhadira 1 stayed from 8 Nov to 26 Dec.

2007. Recorded only in autumn. 32 sightings on 23 dates from 31 Oct to 24 Dec, mostly in single to low double figures of up to 27, but 48 from Qawra on 10 Nov.

2008. In Jan, 8 at Qawra on 3 Jan and 1 at Ġhadira on 10–11 Jan. 16 at Ċirkewwa on 31 Mar and 1 at Isopu Tower, Nadur (G) on 26 Apr. 8 at Isopu Tower, Nadur (G) on 20 Sep and 25 at Qawra on 12 Oct. In Nov, 19 at Ġhadira and 23 at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 23 Nov, 11 at Ġhadira on 24 Nov, 6 at Ġhadira on 25 Nov and then 2 daily from 26 Nov to 8 Dec. Then 1–4 daily

at Għadira from 9 Dec till end of year. From Qawra, 8 sightings of up to 24 on 8 dates from 3–31 Dec. 5 at Simar on 4 Dec.

2009. 4–7 at Għadira in Jan up to 29 Jan. From then on singles till 16 Feb. 3 at Salina on 2 Jan. 1 at Qawra on 1 Aug. Daily from 10–20 Oct. Single figures with max. flock of 7 from boat-based observations. Again daily from 29 Oct to 18 Nov, mainly in single figures but flock of 20 over Għadira on 29 Oct and another flock of 16 at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 3 Nov. Single figures daily, mainly at Għadira, from 5 Dec till end of year, but 12 at Għadira on 21 Dec.

2010. 1–2 at Għadira from 1–7 Jan. 16 on 4 Mar and 40 on 28 Mar at Ċirkewwa. 1 at Għadira from 3–6 Jul. 10 on 7th and 4 on 8 Sep, 2 on 28 Oct, 2 on 14 Nov. Then 2–3 from 12–18 Dec at Għadira, but 8 other sightings of up to 12, but 37 on 5 Dec and 18 on 11 Dec.

2011. 2 at Qawra on 3 Jan. 4 sightings from 19–31 Mar at Ċirkewwa of up to 8 but one flock of 20. 1 at Għadira from 19 Apr to 1 May. 1–2 from Simar and Salina from 10–19 Jul. 7 at Qawra on 17 Oct. 9 at St Elmo Point on 18 Nov and 1 at Kalkara on 22 Nov. 1–3 at Għadira from 20 Nov till end of year but 11 over on 29 Nov. 74 (in 8 flocks) at Qawra on 27 Nov, 17 at Qawra on 13 Dec and 1 at Qbajjar on 23 Dec.

Marbled Teal (*Sarsella Mnaqqxa*)

Marmaronetta angustirostris

2009. 3 at Salina on 9 May.

Common Pochard (*Brajmla*)

Aythya ferina

2006. 2 at Simar from 10–20 Nov, then 1 staying there till 3 Dec.

2007. Singles at Simar on 2–3 Jul, at Għadira on 26 Sep and again at Simar from 28 Sep to 25 Oct. 2 at Għadira on 30–31 Dec.

2008. 1 at Għadira from 1 Jan to 23 Feb. 1 at Salina on 25 Mar and then at Għadira from 26 Mar to 4 Apr. Then singles at Salina on 18 Sep, at Qawra on 19 Sep and at Simar from 20–26 Sep.

2009. Singles on 11 May, on 29–31 Jul and almost daily from 2–10 Aug. Then almost daily from 1–6 Oct and daily from 18–25 Nov. All records from Simar.

2010. 1 at Għadira from 26–29 Oct.

2011. 10 at Ċirkewwa on 21 Feb. 1 ♀ at Simar from 17–21 Oct and 1 ♂ at Għadira on 25 Oct.

Ferruginous Duck (*Brajmla Ħamra*)

Aythya nyroca

2006. Daily passage from Ċirkewwa from 13–17 Mar, with max. 650 on 13 Mar, and 1 at Għadira from 16–25 Mar. 45 from Qawra on 10 Oct, then singles at Qawra on 11 Nov and at Simar on 13 Nov.

2007. In passage from Ċirkewwa on 4 dates from 28 Feb to 31 Mar, with max. 35 on 7 Mar. 1–2 at Għadira and Simar

throughout Apr and May, and there again from 28 Jun to 1 Jul, and 1 at Simar on 31 Jul and 1 Aug. 10 on 2 Sep, 5 on 28 Sep, 16 on 25 Oct and 19 on 28 Oct, all from Qawra. Up to 3 at Simar from 30 Oct to 15 Nov.

2008. 1 at Għadira from 3 Mar to 4 Apr and 1 at Simar from 26 Mar to 20 Apr. From Ċirkewwa, 9 on 15 Mar and 120 on 19 Mar. 2 at Għadira on 3 May. In autumn, 1 at Simar on 19 Aug, 1 at Għadira on 14 Sep and 20 at Qawra on 12 Oct.

2009. 2 at Għadira from 6–15 Jan. Passage in Mar from 10–16 Mar in double to treble figures. Max. 150 from Ċirkewwa on 12 Mar. 18 seen offshore on 2 Apr and 9 on 23 Jul. Singles at Simar from 26 Jul to 3 Aug and on 22 Sep and 2 Nov.

2010. Singles at Għadira from 23–26 Feb and at Simar from 26 Feb to 7 Mar. On 6 dates from 24 Mar to 1 Apr from Ċirkewwa, with max. 174 on 26 Mar, otherwise up to 119. 1 at Simar from 9–17 Jun. At Għadira: 1 on 24–25 Jun, 2 on 24 Jul and 1–2 present from 26 Oct to 22 Nov. 1 at Qawra on 12 Sep.

2011. 1–2 at Għadira from 18 Mar to 1 Apr. From Ċirkewwa in Mar, 6 on 17th, 40 on 19th, 60 on 20th, 52 on 22nd and 65 on 26th. 1 at Simar on 3–4 Apr. In autumn from Qawra, 16 on 18 Sep and 2 on 26 Sep.

Garganey (*Sarsella Ħamra*)

Spatula querquedula

2006. On 11 dates from 13 Mar and 7 Apr, with 250 or more on 6 dates (all in Mar), including 2000 on 14 Mar and 1300 on 17 Mar both from Ċirkewwa. In autumn, on 16 dates from 8 Aug to 12 Oct, with max. 57 on 13 Aug, 70 on 5 Sep and 136 on 10 Sep, and 80 on 10 Oct, all off E coast.

2007. Up to 85 on 15 dates from 28 Feb to 5 Apr, but 370 on 7 Mar and 400 on 27 Mar, mostly off Ċirkewwa. 1 at Simar on 17 dates from 28 Jul to 18 Sep, and up to 80 on 3 dates off NE coast from 21–28 Aug.

2008. Up to 250 daily, mostly from Ċirkewwa, from 13–22 Mar, but 326 on 15 Mar and 275 on 19 Mar. In autumn, 1 at Simar on 16 Aug, 9 at Qawra on 17 Aug, then 1 at Simar on most days from 20 Aug to 1 Sep. 2 at Għadira on 2 Sep and up to 3 again at Simar on most days from 8 Sep to 19 Oct. 1 on 19 Sep, 3 on 28 Sep and 17 on 12 Oct, all from Qawra. 1 late bird at Simar on 24 Nov.

2009. Passage from 9–15 Mar with 300 on 9–10th, 1170 on 12th, 820 on 13th and 305 on 14 Mar. All records from Ċirkewwa. Singles on 11 Apr and 15 Apr. 1 at Simar from 31 Jul to 16 Aug.

2010. Records from Ċirkewwa: 10 on 2 Mar, then single, double and treble figures on 10 dates from 17 Mar to 3 Apr. 2750 on 24 Mar and 1750 on 25 Mar, otherwise up to 375. Apart from Ċirkewwa, 11 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 14 Mar and 700 from Foresta 2000 on 24 Mar. One present at Għadira from 31 Mar to 11 Apr. In autumn, records from Qawra: 4 on 22 Aug, 4 on 9 Sep, 25 on 13 Sep and 8 on 22 Sep.

2011. 2 on 8 Mar and 6 on 12 Mar from Ċirkewwa. 30 on 19 Mar and 150–450 on 20–24 Mar in Kemmuna Channel, 3500

on 26 Mar from Ċirkewwa and 1000 on 27 Mar. 180 at L-Aħrax on 6 Apr. 1 at Simar from 18–30 Aug. 4 sightings from Qawra. 51 on 7 Sep, 4 on 8 Sep, 2 on 17 Sep and 2 on 1 Oct. Singles at Simar on 7 dates from 7–21 Oct, at Għadira on 25 Oct and at Simar on 15 Nov.

Northern Shoveler (Palettuna)

Spatula clypeata

2006. 11 at Ċirkewwa on 13 Feb, 8 on 13 Mar and 45 on 14 Mar. 25 on 29 Aug and 2 on 3 Sep, both off Qawra, and 1 at Salina on 12 Sep. Then on 9 dates from 7 Oct to 6 Dec, mostly along NE coast in single numbers, but 13 off Qawra on 10 Oct and 40 off St Elmo Point on 3 Dec.

2007. 1 at Għadira from 1 Jan to 18 Mar. Up to 45 at Ċirkewwa on 8 dates from 28 Feb to 7 Mar, and 25 there again on 1 Apr. Then 14 on 2 Sep, 16 on 25 Oct, 10 on 21 Nov and 2 on 28 Nov, all off Qawra. 1–2 at Għadira and Simar on most dates from 24 Sep to 23 Nov.

2008. 1 at Għadira on 25 Jan, then 5 sightings of up to 14 from Ċirkewwa from 20 Feb to 14 Mar but 31 on 20 Feb. Then singles at Simar from 30 Aug to 2 Sep, at Għadira on 24 Sep and again at Għadira from 12 Oct to 2 Nov. 1 at Salina on 2 Nov, 16 at Qawra on 11 Nov, 1 at Qawra on 12 Nov, 4 at Għadira on 25 Nov, 1 at Għadira on 2 Dec, 2 at Qawra on 4 Dec and 1 at Qawra on 12 Dec.

2009. Passage from 9–11 Mar at Ċirkewwa, with max. 200 on 9 Mar, otherwise double figures on the other two days. 1 at Għadira from 4–15 Apr. Singles at Simar on 29 Jul, at Għadira on 7 Sep and at Salina on 29 Sep. 2 flocks of 44 and 30 over Għadira on 2nd and 25 Nov respectively.

2010. 1 at Għadira on 10 Feb. Up to 40 from Ċirkewwa on 5 dates from 27 Feb to 25 Mar. 2–5 from Qawra on 3 dates from 12–25 Sep.

2011. 1 at Għadira from 10–24 Mar. 11 on 19 Mar, 40 on 22 Mar and 1 on 26 Mar from Ċirkewwa. Singles at Salina, Marsaskala and Għadira on 18 Aug, 28 Aug and 8 Sep respectively. 2–25 from Qawra on 4 dates from 23 Sep to 17 Oct. 1 at Simar from 30 Oct to 28 Nov but 6 on 8 Nov. 30 on 5 Nov, 1 on 27 Nov and 7 on 13 Dec from Qawra.

Gadwall (Kuluvert Griż)

Mareca strepera

2007. 1♂ at Simar on 21 Dec.

2008. Singles at Salina on 13 Jan and at Għadira from 7–25 Nov.

2009. 1 at Għadira from 1 Jan to 11 Mar. 8 over Salina on 2 Jan and 5 at Għadira on 19 Dec.

2010. 1 at Għadira from 26 Oct to 14 Nov.

2011. 2 at Għadira on 16 Nov.

Eurasian Wigeon (Silfjun Ewropew)

Mareca penelope

2006. 1–2 at Għadira and Simar on several dates from 12

Oct and 28 Dec. 6 on 11 Nov and 25 on 6 Dec, both off Qawra.

2007. 1 at Għadira throughout Jan, then 2 at Ċirkewwa on 28 Feb. 1 at Għadira from 2–6 Oct and at Simar from 7–31 Oct. 1 at Simar and Għadira from 1–12 Nov, then on 6 dates from 12 Nov to 14 Dec, all off Qawra, mostly 1–4 but 13 on 21 Nov.

2008. 1 at Salina on 13 Jan and 1 at Salina on 10 Feb. In Oct, 1 at Għadira on 11th, 4 at Għadira on 12th, 3 at Simar on 21st and 1 present daily at Għadira from 21–26th. Then 1 at Salina on 12 Nov and 1 at Għadira on 24 Dec.

2009. 1 at Għadira from 23 Jan to 20 Feb. In autumn, 1 at Simar on 5 Nov and 1–3 at Għadira from 23–29 Nov.

2010. 4 at Ċirkewwa on 24 Mar. In autumn at Għadira: 1–2 present from 30 Oct to 4 Nov, and 2–4 present from 21 Nov to 11 Dec. 1 at L-Aħrax on 28 Dec.

2011. 1 at Għadira from 9–27 Jan. 10 at Qawra on 27 Nov. 3 at Għadira on 30 Nov.

Mallard (Kuluvert)

Anas platyrhynchos

2007. 25 off Qawra on 9 Nov, then 1–4 on 10–12 Nov along NE coast.

2008. At Għadira, 3 on 2 Nov and 1 on most dates from 7 Nov to 12 Dec. 2 at Ta' Gajdoru on 13 Nov and 1 at Simar on 15 and 17 Nov.

2009. 1♀ on 11 Aug and 1♂ eclipse on 24 Aug at Għadira, 1♂ at Simar on 9 Dec.

2010. 1 at Simar on 9 Feb. 2 present at Għadira from 31 Oct to 15 Nov.

2011. 1 at Haż-Żebbuġ on 30 Oct. Flock from Salina of 12 heading inland on 9 Nov. Singles at both Simar and Għadira from 10–28 Nov. 1 from Qawra 4 Dec. 1 at Għadira from 10–12 Dec.

Northern Pintail (Silfjun)

Anas acuta

2006. On 12–13 Feb and on 13–19 Mar, with peaks of 200 on 13 Mar and 135 on 14 Mar. 2 off Qawra on 15 Aug. Up to 29 on 7 dates from 7–17 Oct, mostly off Qawra; up to 17 on 4 dates from 5–12 Nov, and 1–2 on 15–17 Dec, all off NE coast. Singles at Għadira on 10–15 Oct, 4 Nov and 13–17 Nov, and at Simar on most dates from 16 Oct till end of year.

2007. 1 at Simar from 1 Jan to 23 Feb. Double to treble figures on all days from 26 Feb to 7 Mar at Ċirkewwa, with max. 785 on 1 Mar, then 1 on 1 Apr off Għajn Tuffieħa. 72 off Qawra on 21 Nov, then 2–8 on 4 dates from 22 Nov to 1 Dec.

2008. 40 from Ċirkewwa on 18 Feb, then daily from 20–29 Feb. 100+ six times, with max. 360 on 21 Feb and 690 on 27 Feb from Ċirkewwa. Then in Mar, almost daily records of up to 175 birds from 13–22nd. In autumn, 1 at Għadira from 12–27 Oct, 1 at Għadira on 4 Nov, 2 from Qawra on 11 Nov and 1 at Simar on 22 Nov.

2009. Treble figures daily from 9–12 Mar, with max. 700 on first date followed by 500, 230 and 380 on each subsequent

day. 65 on 13 Mar and 3 on 14 Mar. All records from Ċirkewwa. 2 at Qawra on 21 Sep, then 1 at Simar from 15–29 Oct and 15 at Ghadira on 29 Oct. 1–2 at Ghadira on 8–9 Dec.

2010. From Ċirkewwa: 580 on 27 Feb, 17 on 28 Feb, 287 on 2 Mar, 4 on 4 Mar, 268 on 5 Mar, 68–180 on 24–26 Mar and 20 on 27 Mar. 80 from Foresta 2000 on 2 Mar. In autumn, 12 at Qawra on 22 Sep. 1–3 present at Ghadira from 3–18 Oct, then one from 28 Oct to 13 Nov. 30 at Kemmuna on 30 Oct and 2 from Dwejra (G) on 2 Nov.

2011. Three records in Feb: 125 on 20th, 185 on 21st and 14 on 22nd passing through Kemmuna Channel. Likewise, 8 records in Mar: 14 on 17th, 48–135 on 21–23rd, 9 on 24–25th, 110 on 26th and 36 on 27th. 1–4 on 28 Sep and 8 Oct, 26 on 12 Oct, 15 on 17 Oct and 15 on 6 Nov from Qawra. 1–3 at Ghadira from 16 Oct to 27 Dec. 1 at Simar from 18 Oct to 25 Dec.

Common Teal (*Sarsella*)

Anas crecca

2006. Up to 3 at Simar till start of Feb. 1 at Ghadira on 10–12 Feb, then 1 at Simar on most days from 12 Feb to 21 Jun. In autumn, on most dates from 1 Oct till end of year at Simar and Ghadira, with max. 11 from 11–17 Nov at Ghadira. Outside reserves, 25 on 10 Oct, 15 on 1 Nov and 16 on 8 Nov, all off Qawra.

2007. Up to 3 at Ghadira and Simar from 1 Jan to 4 Mar, and 1 at Salina on 24–28 Jan. Singles at Ghadira on 18 Aug and 23 Aug, and up to 4 at Simar from 21 Aug to 29 Sep. Up to 4 at Simar in Oct and singles at Ghadira on 16–19th and 27–30 Oct. Then on most dates from 1 Nov to end of year, with up to 5 mostly at the reserves, but 8 at St Elmo Point on 18 Nov.

2008. 3 at Ghadira from 1–4 Jan, then 1 from 5 Jan to 10 Mar. 1 at Simar from 7–10 Jan. 2 at Salina on 13 Jan, 1 at Salina on 10 Feb and 1 from Ċirkewwa on 22 Feb. Then up to 6 on most days at Simar from 13 Aug to 17 Nov, and at Ghadira up to 14 on most days from 6 Sep to 20 Dec, but 21 on 11 Nov. Singles at Simar on 7 Dec and at Qawra on 10 Dec, and 3 at Simar on 31 Dec.

2009. Singles at Ghadira and Simar on 3 dates from 1–4 Jan, then 1–4 daily at Simar and Ghadira from 8 Jan to 7 Feb. 2 at Ghadira on 7 dates from 11–23 Feb and up to 3 at Simar on 3 dates from 24–28 Feb. 1 at Simar on 13 Aug, then up to 5 daily from 19–28 Aug, also at Simar. 1 on 31 Aug, then up to 3 on 13 dates from 1–30 Sep and 1–2 on 6 dates from 1–11 Oct. 1–2 daily at Ghadira from 13–29 Oct. 6 at Ghadira on 2 Nov. 1–2 on 9 dates from 8–31 Dec.

2010. 1–2 present at Simar from 3 Jan to 28 Feb, but 3 on 16th and 20 Jan. 3 at Ghadira on 16 Jan and 1 off Qawra on 14 Feb. In autumn, one at Ghadira on 12 Aug, then 1–7 on most dates from 25 Aug till end of year at both reserves, but 13 on 12 Dec at Ghadira. 5 records off the coast, with max. 5 off L-Aħrax on 24 Sep.

2011. 1–3 at Simar and Ghadira on most days from 1 Jan to 14 Mar, 1 staying at Ghadira till 12 May. 1 at Simar from 31 Aug

to 14 Oct. 1 at Ghadira on 31 Aug and 2 from 20–24 Sep. 2 from Qawra on 12 Oct. 1–8 on most days at Ghadira and Simar from 17 Oct to 21 Nov. 1–3 at Ghadira and Simar on 7 dates in Dec.

Little Grebe (*Blongun Żghir*)

Tachybaptus ruficollis

2006. Up to 6 at Simar from 1 Jan to 3 Jun, where breeding and at least 3 fledglings recorded. Then again there from 1 Oct and at Ghadira from 12 Oct, with up to 4 at each site.

2007. Up to 4 at Ghadira from 1 Jan to 20 Mar and at Simar till 17 Apr. Singles at Salina on 22–23 Mar, 2 Apr and 5 Apr. 1 again at Simar from 12 Jul and up to 3 present there (5 in Nov) and at Ghadira till end of year.

2008. At Simar, up to 3 present from 1–21 Jan. 2 pairs bred, with 6 chicks hatched from 3 broods having max. of 9 birds at Simar from 22 Jan to 14 Mar. Then, still at Simar, up to 4 birds from 15 Mar till end Sep. Then from 1 Nov till end of year up to 6 at Simar. At Ghadira, singles from 1 Jan to 18 Feb, on 25–26 Sep and on 9 Dec.

2009. Recorded in all months in single figures. All sightings from Ghadira and Simar. Breeding recorded from Simar where chicks were seen being fed by ads from 16–27 Jan (first brood), chicks from a 2nd brood noted being fed till late May. Juvs and ads seen daily till 2 Aug. Ads recorded till end of year in single figures. Max. 6 on 6 Oct and 7 on 18 Nov at Simar.

2010. At Simar 2–7 on most days from 3 Jan to 12 Feb, then decreased to max. 4 till 10 Mar. 1–2 from 11 Mar to 18 Apr. 1 from 19 May to 3 Jun. 1–3 on most days from 28 Jun to 20 Aug. Then 1–7 on most days from 31 Aug till end of year. At Ghadira, 1–3 from 5 Jan to 1 Mar and 1–2 present from 26 Oct till end of year.

2011. At Ghadira, 1–3 from 1 Jan to 26 Mar, 1 on 8 Apr, 1 on 27 Aug and 1–7 from 4 Sep till end of year. At Simar, 1–7 from 1 Jan to 29 May, 2 chicks from 1 pair from 24 Feb, then 2 chicks from another pair from 4 Apr. Last sighting of ads on 11 Apr, last sighting of 1–2 juvs on 29 May. 1 ad. on 14–15 Jun and on 4 dates from 1–17 Jul. 1–2 on several days from 22 Jul to 26 Aug and 3–8 from 30 Aug till end of year.

Great Crested Grebe (*Blongun Prim*)

Podiceps cristatus

2006. Singles at Marsaskala on 23 Mar and at Qawra on 17 Sep. Then on 13 dates from 30 Oct to 21 Nov, mostly 1–12 but marked passage of 18 or more daily from 8–12 Nov with max. 45 on 10 Nov, all from Qawra.

2007. 2 at Ċirkewwa on 28 Feb. Then 1–16 on 12 dates from 25 Oct to 25 Nov, but 45 off Qawra on 7 Nov and 112 off L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 14 Nov.

2008. Singles at Ghadira on 1–4 Jan, at Ċirkewwa on 24 Feb and 18 Mar and off Marsaxlokk on 19 Mar. In autumn, singles on 18th and 25 Oct offshore, at Qawra on 4th and 10 Dec, and at Salina on 12 Dec.

2009. 1 at Ghadira from 9–19 Jan. Singles at St Paul's Bay

on 15 Feb, and at Qawra on 16 Feb. In autumn, 1 at Salina on 4 Oct and flock of 16 at Tas-Safra on 30 Oct. 1 at Qawra on 4 Nov. 1 on 6th, 5 on 13th and 1 on 22 Nov, all at Mellieħa Bay.

2010. 1 at Qawra on 14 Jan. 1–2 on 9 dates from 1 Oct to 11 Nov, mostly from Qawra and Salina, but 14 on 3 Oct at Qawra. 1 at Għadira from 23–28 Nov. 1 on 11 Dec at Valletta Breakwater and 1 on 17 Dec at Qawra.

2011. 31 on 17 Mar, 1 on 21 Mar, 47 on 26 Mar and 3 on 27 Mar, all at Ċirkewwa. 1 at Salina from 30 Jul to 3 Aug. 2 on 24 Sep and 10 on 4 Dec, both from Qawra.

Black-necked Grebe (Blongun Sekond)

Podiceps nigricollis

2006. Singles at Xemxija Bay on 1 Jan and at Għadira from 2 Jan to 10 Mar. 1 at Salina on 25 Sep. At Għadira, 1 from 2 Nov increasing to 4 by end of year. Outside Għadira, 7 sightings on 6 dates in autumn, all in singles but 11 at Qawra on 4 Dec.

2007. 1 at Salina from 1 Jan to 7 Feb and 4 at Għadira throughout Jan–Feb, all leaving by 2 Mar. In autumn, 1 at Simar from 2 Sep to 1 Oct, then up to 4 there throughout Dec. At Għadira, 1 on 9 Sep, then from 26 Sep onwards, with up to 4 in early Oct then 1–2 in Nov, and up to 8 in Dec. Outside reserves, all singles. At Xwejini on 12 Sep, at St Elmo Point on 2 Nov and at Ramla Bay on 3 Nov, and on 5 dates at Salina from 16 Nov till end of year.

2008. 3 wintering at Simar seen almost daily from 1 Jan to 10 Mar and 5 at Għadira till 3 Mar, then 1 till 18 Mar. In Sep, 2 at Salina on 2nd, 1 at Għadira from 8–10th and 1 at Salina from 18–27th. Then up to 7 wintering at Għadira from 11 Nov till end of year, 2 at Salina on 14 Nov and 1 at Salina from 7–28 Dec.

2009. Up to 7 at Għadira from 1–24 Jan, then 6 up to 26 Feb. 4 on 1–2 Mar, then 2–3 from 3–27 Mar. In autumn, 1 at Għadira on most days from 14–30 Jul. 1 offshore on 28 Sep. 1–2 daily at Għadira from 6 Nov to 5 Dec and up to 3 till end of year.

2010. 2–3 on most days from 1 Jan to 21 Feb at Għadira. 1 at Għadira from 27 Aug to 8 Oct, up to 6 from 9 Oct to 15 Dec, then 10–12 from 16 Dec. Outside Għadira: 1 from Qawra on 5 Sep, 1 at Simar from 28 Sep to 1 Oct, 1 at Salina on 28th and 30 Oct, 3 at Qawra on 13 Nov, 1 at Xemxija Bay on 28 Nov and 1 on 29 Dec at Salina.

2011. 4–12 daily at Għadira from 1 Jan to 11 Mar. Singles at Salina on 2nd and 12 Jan, and at Simar on 1 Jan. 3 from Ċirkewwa on 24 Mar. In autumn, 1 at Salina on 30 Aug. 1–3 on most days at Għadira from 14 Sep till end of year. At Simar singles on 5 dates from 26 Sep to 8 Oct.

Greater Flamingo (Fjamingu)

Phoenicopterus roseus

2006. 2 at Għadira from 1–7 Oct. Outside reserves, 1–7 on 7 dates from 12 Sep to 15 Oct, all off E coast of Malta. Then 2 off Qawra on 7 Nov and 5 at Għar on 21 Nov, and 1 at Salina on 11 Dec.

2007. 3 at Għar Lapsi on 10 Jun, then 4 on 10 Aug and 1 on

29 Aug along NE coast. 29 from Ta' Ġordan on 15 Sep and 8 from Wardija on 19 Sep.

2008. 11 at Għadira on 9 Jul, then 1 in Kemmuna Channel on 18 Aug and 15 at Kemmuna on 24 Aug. Then 25 at Qawra on 4 Sep and 1 at Għadira from 17 Sep till end of year. Flock of 19 at Għadira on 13 Oct.

2009. 1 at Għadira from 1 Jan to 24 May. Flock of 25 offshore during boat-based observations on 8 Jan and singles over Salina on 8 Apr and at Qawra on 19 May.

2010. 15 at L-Aħrax on 26 Feb. 35 on 2 Oct, 16 on 1 Nov and 5 on 13 Nov all from Qawra.

2011. 17 off Ċirkewwa on 20 Mar.

Stock Dove (Tudun tas-Siġar)

Columba oenas

2007. Singles at Buskett on 2nd and 4 Oct, and at Luqa Airport on 7 Dec.

2008. Singles at Salina on 3 Mar and at Buskett on 30 Sep.

Common Woodpigeon (Tudun)

Columba palumbus

2006. Singles on 5 dates from 23 Sep to 2 Oct, all at Buskett, then 1 at Ta' Qali on 12 Oct.

2007. 4 sightings from 3–8 Apr, at Għadira from 26–29 Jul, at Ramla on 22 Oct and at Luqa Airport on 19 Nov. All singles.

2010. Three singles at Kemmuna from 25 Apr to 1 May. Singles at Buskett on 18 Jul, at Buskett on 22–23 Oct and at Għadira on 26 Oct.

2011. Singles at Buskett on 10 Apr and at Simar on 30 May.

European Turtle-dove (Gamiema)

Streptopelia turtur

2006. Almost daily from 6 Apr onwards, mostly in single figures, but 20–25 from two sites on 17–18 Apr, and higher numbers from 23–30 Apr with up to 90 from two sites on 26 Apr. 1–5 in various locations throughout May, Jun and early Jul, then regular again from 17 Aug to 30 Sep, mostly in single figures but 20 on 1 Sep and 26 on 12 Sep, both at Buskett.

2007. Regular and mostly in low single numbers from 30 Mar, with most sightings during second half of Apr and first week of May. In double figures on 6 dates at end Apr, with max. 70 at L-Aħrax and 75 at Kemmuna, both on 27 Apr. 1–2 throughout summer till 6 Aug at various locations, then up to 10 from 19 Aug regularly till 5 Oct, with most sightings from end Aug to early Sep.

2008. 1 at Buskett on 31 Mar, then on most dates in single or double figures of up to 80 from 8 Apr to 31 May but 580 at Blata l-Bajda, 134 at Delimara and 350 at Simar on 14 Apr. On 20 Apr, 190 at Ta' Ġordan. 1–4 on most dates from 1–27 Jun. 20 records of 1–3 from 4 Jul to 2 Aug. Then in autumn, 1–10 on most days from 13 Aug to 6 Oct but from Buskett, 17 on 27 Aug, 14 on 28 Aug and 15 on 4 Sep. 1 at Simar on 3 Nov and 1 at L-Addolorata on 23 Nov.

2009. Singles at Lunzjata Valley on 29 Mar, at Mosta on 31 Mar and at Ramla Dam on 4 Apr. Then daily from 8 Apr to 22 May. Mainly single figures with occasional low double figures but small passage on 23 Apr with up to 54 counted from Simar. Low single figures on most dates from 24 May to 6 Jun. 1–2 on 7 occasions from 14 Jun to 25 Jul. 1 at Simar on 2 Aug, then practically daily from 23 Aug to 10 Oct in single figures but low double figures on 7 dates mainly at Buskett, with max. 23 on 13 Sep. 1–3 on 5 more days in Oct till 19th.

2010. Single figures on 5 dates from 23 Mar to 7 Apr. Then daily from 12 Apr to 30 May in single and low double figures of up to 30, but 212 on 28 Apr from several sites including 73 from Simar and 52 from Kemmuna. 17 sightings of 1–4 from 3 Jun to 25 Jul, but 12 at Kemmuna on 6 Jun. 7 sightings of 1–2 from 8–27 Aug. 1–15 on most days from 30 Aug to 28 Sep. 4 singles from 2–10 Oct and 1 at Kemmuna on 29 Oct.

2011. Singles at Xagħra l-Ħamra and Mellieħa on 6 Apr. Up to 9 almost daily from 9 Apr to 1 Jun but 18 on 20 Apr at Kemmuna. 17, 14, 30 and 44 from 4 sites on 22 Apr, 13 on 3 May from Simar and 60 from Dwejra (M). 14 sightings of 1–2 from 5 Jun to 3 Jul from several sites. 1♂ in display flight at Buskett on 31 Jul. 27 sightings of 1–6 from 13 Aug to 29 Sep, but 9 on 2nd and 30 on 3 Sep from Buskett.

Eurasian Collared-dove (*Gambusia tal-Kullar*)

Streptopelia decaocto

2006. Resident throughout year, with almost all sightings from Għadira and Wied Għajn Żejtuna and adjacent areas. Mostly up to 40, but 70 at Wied Għajn Żejtuna on 18 Dec. 1 at Marsalforn Valley on 30 Jun and 1 at Salina on 30 Jul.

2007. Resident and breeding, with most sightings from Wied Għajn Żejtuna and adjacent areas including Għadira, with numbers mostly in single to low double figures but up to 100 roosting there. Increasing sightings away from this area with 16 sightings of 1–2, including in Gozo, Kemmuna, Buskett, Simar and Salina.

2008. 1 at Simar on 7 Jan, 20 at Wied Għajn Żejtuna on 18 Jan and 1 at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 27 Feb. Then, 1–10 almost daily from 1 Mar to 4 Oct but up to 50 on various dates at Wied Għajn Żejtuna. 45 at Simar on 1 Sep. Then, 6 records of 1–5 from 18 Nov to 23 Dec.

2009. Breeding resident with most sightings along NE coast of Malta. Mostly singles with some double figures, but max. 150 on 3 Jan at Wied Għajn Żejtuna. 39 from Pembroke (central E side of Malta) on 6 Jun.

2010. Resident, recorded on various dates throughout year with max. 106 at Wied Għajn Żejtuna area. Sightings spreading to more central areas of the island but still in single figures.

2011. Breeding resident present throughout year in single and double figures but higher presence from late spring onwards. Most sightings from Mellieħa, Għadira and Foresta 2000 area, with max. 70 at Wied Għajn Żejtuna on 16 Jul and 80 at Għadira on 13 Sep. Kemmuna also holds good numbers,

with 40 on 26 Apr and 23 Oct. Other sightings at Buskett, Marsa, Ħamrun, Ħal Qormi, Blata l-Bajda, Pembroke, Targa Gap, Ta' Qali, Rabat, San Anton gardens, Simar, Miżieb and Għajn Tuffieħa.

European Nightjar (*Buqrajq*)

Caprimulgus europaeus

2006. From 7 Apr to 13 May, mostly 1–5 but 8 at Kemmuna on 26 Apr. 1–4 on several dates from 12 Sep and 13 Oct, then singles on 27 Oct and 5 Nov, both at Buskett.

2007. 1–3 on 19 dates in spring from 11 Apr to 27 May, then 1–5 on 13 dates from 6 Sep to 23 Oct.

2008. 23 on 15 dates (mostly in 1–2) from 10 Apr to 6 May, but 5 from Dwejra on 29 Apr and 3 at Kemmuna on 30 Apr. Then in autumn, 83 on 11 dates (mostly in 1–3) from 6 Sep to 28 Oct, but 10 on 29 Sep, 15 on 6th and 5 on 20 Oct, all from Buskett.

2009. 1 at Buskett on 10 Apr. 1–2 on 5 dates from 26 Apr to 11 May. Singles at Rabat on 23 May and at Kemmuna on 13 Jun and 31 Aug. Frequently in low single figures from 10 Sep to 14 Oct, but max. 6 at Kemmuna on 23 Sep. Singles on 20th and 22 Oct and 2 on 26 Oct, also at Kemmuna.

2010. First sighting on 24 Mar at Marsaxlokk. 22 on 14 dates from 1 Apr to 5 May, with max. 3 at Kemmuna on 2 May. 1 on 1 Jun at Simar and 1 on 6 Jun at Kemmuna. Early singles at Kemmuna on 1–2 Sep. 23 on 13 dates from 14 Sep to 23 Oct.

2011. 18 sightings of 1–3 on 12 dates from 15 Apr to 15 May, mostly from Kemmuna. 1 at Kemmuna on 1 Sep. 11 sightings of 1–2 from 11–30 Sep and 10 sightings of 1–2 from 12–28 Oct. All autumn sightings from Buskett and Kemmuna, but 1 at Qawra.

Alpine Swift (*Rundun Żaqqu Bajda*)

Tachymarptis melba

2006. Single figures in spring from 26 Mar to 20 May, with max. 7 in Gozo on 31 Mar. 1–2 on 19th and 25 Jun, both at Għadira, and 2 at Buskett on 20 Aug. Regular from 6 Sep to 15 Oct, mostly 1–3 but 9 at Buskett on 21 Sep.

2007. On 19 dates from 20 Mar to 6 May, all 1–4 but 10 on 30 Apr at Dwejra (G). 1–2 on 8 dates from 23 Jun to 11 Aug, then 17 sightings of 1–5 on 11 dates from 27 Aug to 29 Sep. Singles on 19 Oct at Buskett, and on 4 Nov at Ta' Ċenċ.

2008. 20 sightings of 1–4 in Mar, but 6 at Luqa Airport on 25 Mar. 31 sightings of mostly singles in Apr but 8 on 1 Apr at Red Tower, 11 at Għadira, 4 at Blata l-Bajda and 4 at Salina. 5 records in May and 1 in Jun of 1–2. 7 singles in Jul and Aug. 9 records of 1–4 in Sep and Oct but 15 at Dwejra (M) on 10 Sep and 18 at Buskett on 2 Oct.

2009. Single to low double figures daily from 7 Mar to 20 Mar. Max. 15 on 9th and 12 Mar, both from Għadira. Single figures almost daily from 22 Mar to 16 Apr, then 1–2 on 7 dates from 22 Apr to 17 May. Singles on 8 Jun, 16 Jun, 25 Jun, 10 Jul, 4 Aug and 8 Aug, and 2 on 30 Aug. In Sep recorded on 12

dates, mainly single figures but 18 on 18 Sep and 13 on 20 Sep. On 6 dates in Oct till 28th. Again, single figures but 10 on 5 Oct and 15 on 6 Oct. Autumn records mainly from Buskett.

2010. 3 sightings of 1–4 birds on 14 Mar. Then 51 sightings of 1–4 on most dates from 22 Mar to 1 May, but 8 at Fomm ir-Riĥ on 13 Apr. 11 sightings of 1–3 from 22 May to 24 Jun. Singles on 20th and 25 Jul, 16 sightings of 1–5 on various dates from 26 Aug to 11 Oct but 10 on 14th, 11 on 16th and 10 on 20 Sep. Last record: 1 on 31 Oct. Most sightings from Buskett.

2011. First record on 5 Mar at Ghadira. Then 1–15 on 22 dates from 12 Mar to 11 May, but 39 from 3 sites on 23 Mar. Singles on 26 May, 11 Jun and 18 Jul. 1–13 on 13 dates from 25 Aug and 5 Oct, mostly from Buskett. 1–2 on 4 dates from 20–27 Oct. 1 on 2 Dec.

Little Swift (Rundun Żgħir)

Apus affinis

2009. 1 at Dwejra (G) on 5 Jun.

Pallid Swift (Rundun Kannelli)

Apus pallidus

2006. 1 at Salina on 9 Mar, then up to 20 on 14 dates from 20 Mar and 29 Apr. 2 at Dwejra (M) on 19 May, then on 8 dates from 7 Jun and 2 Jul, all 1–2 but 50 at Qammieħ on 11 Jun. 1 on 30 Jul, then 1–3 on 13 dates from 19 Aug to 15 Oct.

2007. 1–10 on up to 9 sightings in all months from Mar to Sep, with most records in Mar, Jun and Sep.

2008. 47 records of 1–5 from 19 Mar and 30 Jul. Then, 9 singles from 1 Sep to 19 Oct but 6 at Laferla Cross on 25 Sep.

2009. In single and low double figures from 10 Mar to 7 Oct, with max. 20 on 4 Jul at Dwejra (G) breeding colony.

2010. 1 on 17 Mar at Ghadira, then 1–4 on several days from 24 Mar to 30 Apr. 1–20 on several dates from 7 May to 29 Aug, but 30 on 1 Aug from Dwejra. 6 sightings of 1–3 from 15 Sep to 26 Oct.

2011. 1–4 on 6th and 8 Mar. 74 records of up to 25 from 29 Mar to 28 Aug, including at breeding colonies at Dwejra (G), Ta' Ċenċ, Mater Dei and Paceville. 60 at Fawwara on 29 May. 17 sightings of 1–3 from 30 Aug to 27 Oct, most from Buskett. 2 at Ghadira on 9 Nov.

Common Swift (Rundun)

Apus apus

2006. Recorded in all months except Jan and Dec. 1 at Ghadira on 24 Feb, then from 3 Mar onwards, mostly in single to low double figures, but 400 on 12th and 14 Apr at Luqa Airport, and 300 on 11th and 16 May at Dwejra (M). Daily sightings till 9 Jul, then again almost daily from 15 Jul. Up to 150 at Dingli on 19–20 Aug, up to 50 throughout Sep, and 1–2 on 5 dates in Oct. Last sighting: 1 at Buskett on 15 Nov.

2007. Recorded continuously from 1 Mar to 30 Sep, with last sighting on 19 Oct. Mostly in single to low treble figures of up to 300. Some pairs bred in various locations.

2008. Up to 350 birds daily from 11 Mar to 10 Sep, but 400 at Luqa on 14 Apr, 500 at Luqa on 23 Apr, 2500 at Dwejra on 7 May and 400 at Dingli Cliffs on 24 Aug. Then, up to 10 on most days from 11 Sep to 19 Oct, but 11 from Laferla Cross on 25 Sep. Singles at Simar on 30 Nov and 2 Dec. Ca 30 pairs bred, namely at San Ġiljan, Sliema and Mellieħa – most sightings in Jun were around these colonies. Birds seen prospecting around other sites, e.g. Tal-Qroqq, Wied il-Għasel and Marsaskala.

2009. Daily from 4 Mar to 30 Sep in single and double figures. Low treble figures in spring, with max. 500 on 26 Mar at Kemmuna, 16 Apr at Nadur (M) Tower, 10 May at Xaghra and on 12 May at Dwejra (M). Breeding in same sites as in previous year. Last sightings: 2 at Buskett on 11 Oct and 1 at Rabat on 22 Oct.

2010. 2 on 6 Mar, then from 9 Mar till Jun, most days in low single and double figures, from 27 Mar in treble figures up to 500, but 800 on 30 Apr from Dwejra. In early Jul most sightings from breeding sites (1–20), but from 18 Jul sightings again increasing to treble figures and up to 400 on two dates in Aug. 1–25 on several dates in Sep till 14 Oct. 1 on 25 Dec at Msida.

2011. In single and double figures of up to 50 almost daily from 6 Mar to 26 Apr, but 500 on 30 Mar and 100–120 on two other dates. Multiple sightings daily from 27 Apr to 31 May, treble figures on most days of up to 500, but 1000 on 7 May and 19 May, both at Dwejra (M). Daily in Jun, Jul and Aug in double figures of up to 75, but 100–300 on 16 Jun, 17 Jul, 31 Jul and 5 dates in Aug. 1000 from Nadur (M) Tower on 21 Aug. On several dates from 1 Sep to 7 Oct, mostly in single figures but 25–30 on 3 dates from 1–6 Sep.

Great Spotted Cuckoo (Daqquqa Prima)

Clamator glandarius

2006. Singles at Ċirkewwa on 14 Feb and at Luqa Airport on 10 Mar.

2008. Singles at Foresta 2000 on 9–10 Mar and at Kemmuna on 21st and 26 Mar.

2009. Singles at Luqa on 13 Feb and at Kemmuna on 5th and 29 Apr.

2011. Singles at Simar on 17 Feb and at Wied Qannotta on 19 Apr.

Common Cuckoo (Daqquqa Kaħla)

Cuculus canorus

2006. 33 sightings of 1–2 on 25 dates from 28 Mar to 14 Jun. In autumn, singles at Buskett on 13 Sep, at Dwejra (M) on 21 Sep and again at Buskett on 5 Oct.

2007. 1–3 on 25 dates from 21 Mar to 17 Jun, but 5 at Blata l-Bajda on 14 Apr. Singles at Simar on 29 Jul, at Buskett on 26 Aug and at Dingli Cliffs on 9 Sep.

2008. 65 records of mostly 1–2 from 24 Mar to 8 May but 3 at Dwejra (M) on 29–30 Apr, 4 at Dwejra (M) on 6 May and 9 at Dwejra (M) on 7 May.

2009. Singles on 4 dates from 24–30 Mar, then 1–2 daily

from 14–17 Apr and singles on 4 dates from 25–30 Apr. 1 on 2 May, then daily from 6–9 May, with max. 3 at Binġemma on 6 May. 1–2 on most days from 11–31 May but 3 at Miżieb on 29 May. 1–2 heard calling at Wardija and Miżieb on 8 dates in Jun. 1 at Miżieb on 15 Jul. In autumn, singles on 4 dates from 7–24 Sep.

2010. 20 sightings of 1–2 on 16 dates from 20 Mar to 29 Apr. Singles on 4 dates from 4–21 May. In autumn, singles on 5 Aug, 15 Aug and on 27 Sep.

2011. 7 singles from 23 Mar to 2 Apr. Then almost daily with 54 sightings of 1–3 from 4–27 Apr. 18 sightings of 1–2 from 2–13 May, but 5 on 9 May at Dwejra (M). Two sightings of 1–2 at different sites on 18 May and 1 at Mgarr ix-Xini on 26–27 May.

Western Water Rail (Gallozz tax-Xitwa)

Rallus aquaticus

2006. Wintering at Għadira and Simar and present till 23 Apr. Up to 20 in early Jan at Għadira, and up to 10 in Jan and Feb at Simar, decreasing to low single figures in subsequent months at both locations. Then up to 30 at Għadira and 15 at Simar from 1 Oct till end of year.

2007. Up to 15 at Għadira and Simar from Jan to Mar, decreasing to single figures till 12 Apr and 16 Apr respectively. Again at Simar from 11 Aug and at Għadira from 10 Sep, in single figures till mid-Oct, then up to 15 at either site till end of year. Outside reserves recorded only from Buskett on 27 Oct and at Ramla Bay on 4 Nov.

2008. Up to 10 wintering at Simar and up to 15 at Għadira from Jan to 14 Mar. Then 1–3 at Simar from 15 Mar to 16 Apr. Up to 3 at Simar from 20 Jun to 14 Aug. 1 at Għadira from 14–25 Aug. Up to 4 at Simar from 16 Aug to 21 Sep. Then, up to 15 at Simar and Għadira from 22 Sep till end of year. Singles at Wied Qirda on 3 dates from 14–23 Dec.

2009. Daily at Għadira and Simar from 1 Jan to 8 Apr. Frequently up to 10, but 15 at Għadira on 28 Feb. 1–2 at Simar on 14–15 Apr. Singles, involving both ads and juvs, from Simar on 8 dates from 6–31 Jul. Then up to 3 again at Simar on 5 dates from 5–22 Aug. Single figures on most days from 24 Aug to 10 Oct, then daily from 12 Oct till end of year, with up to 10 frequently, mainly in Nov, both from Għadira and Simar.

2010. 1–10 from both reserves almost daily from 1 Jan to 7 Apr. One at Simar 18 Apr. At Simar 1–3 on several dates from 15 Jul to 30 Aug. 1–10 at both reserves from 1 Sep till end of year but 20 at Għadira on 11 Nov.

2011. 1–5 at Simar and Għadira from 1 Jan to 27 Mar, but sometimes 8 at Simar. Singles at Simar on 3 dates from 1–16 Apr. 1 juv. at Simar on 3rd and 15 Aug. 1–5 at Għadira and Simar from 29 Aug but up to 8 at Għadira on 24 Sep. From Oct to Dec, up to 10 at Għadira and up to 20 at Simar.

Spotted Crake (Gallozz tat-Tikek)

Porzana porzana

2006. 1 at Ramla Dam on 15 Mar. Singles on 8 Oct and 12

Oct, and on 6 dates from 5–16 Nov, all at Għadira.

2007. 1 at Għadira on 6 dates from 16 Mar to 7 Apr. 1 at Simar on 9 Oct.

2008. 1 at Marsalforn Valley on 8 Mar, then 1–2 on 6 dates at Għadira and Simar from 4 Apr to 3 May.

2009. 1 at Wied Għajn Rihana on 23 Feb, then 1 frequently at Għadira from 5 Mar to 2 Apr. Singles at Wied Għajn Rihana on 4th and 8 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 26 Sep.

2010. 1 at Simar on 10 Nov.

2011. Only in spring from Għadira, Simar and Wied Għajn Rihana. 1 at Wied Għajn Rihana on 17 Mar and 12 singles from 31 Mar to 26 Apr, but 2 on 11 Apr at Wied Għajn Rihana.

Little Crake (Gallozz Żghir)

Zapornia parva

2006. Singles at Siġġiewi on 31 Mar, at Simar on 4th and 20 Apr, and at Għadira on 7 dates from 4–16 Apr.

2007. 1–3 on 15 dates from 12 Mar to 2 May, all at Simar.

2008. 2 at Simar on 9 Apr and 1 at Simar from 12–15 May. 1 on 3 Oct at Simar.

2009. Singles at Għadira and Simar on 14–15 Mar. Also at Simar, singles on 28 Sep, 6 Oct and 8 Oct.

2010. All records at Simar, but 1 at Għadira on 11 Apr. 1–2 on 16 dates from 16 Mar to 21 Apr, but 3 on 8 Apr. 1 on 26 Jun. 6 singles from 19 Oct to 15 Nov.

2011. 11 singles on 10 dates from 11 Mar to 3 May, 1 from Għadira, 3 from Wied Għajn Rihana and the rest from Simar.



Purple Swamphen (Gallozz Sultan)

Porphyrio porphyrio

2010. 1 at Għadira from 1–7 Apr and at Simar from 10–21 Apr. **First record for Malta.**

Allen's Gallinule (Gallozz tal-Afrika)

Porphyrio alleni

2010. 1 found freshly dead at Santa Venera on 8 Jan.

2011. 1 found exhausted at St George's Bay (San Ġiljan) on 23 Dec.

Common Moorhen (Gallozz Iswed)

Gallinula chloropus

2006. Mainly from Għadira and Simar, with up to 40 in Jan–Mar, then in somewhat lower numbers of up to 30 in spring and early summer, when breeding. Numbers picked up again from Oct onwards, with up to 50 at Simar throughout late autumn. Outside reserves, recorded mainly from valleys in Gozo and at Rabat (M), all in singles.

2007. Present throughout year and recorded mostly from Għadira and Simar, where breeding, with handful of singles from Wied il-Luq, Chadwick Lakes, Salina and Sarraflu. Up to 40 at both reserves from Jan to early Mar and again from Oct onwards, with somewhat lower numbers in summer boosted by juvenile birds.

2008. Up to 50 daily at Għadira and 30 at Simar, where most birds are breeding. Outside reserves, 7 wintered at Ғal Kirkop from Jan to 9 Apr, then at least 1 pair present in Jul and up to 8 birds in Dec. 11 singles in 6 other locations.

2009. Breeding resident and passage migrant. Recorded daily, mostly from Simar and Għadira in double figures, with max. 45 (ads and chicks) at Simar from 29 May to 10 Jul. Singles at Wied Qirda and Wied Għajn Riħana on several dates.

2010. Year-round resident at Għadira and Simar. Up to 40 at Għadira, with highest counts in early Apr, decreasing in summer to 2–15 and increasing again up to 40 from 2 Oct, but 50 on 22 Dec. At Simar 5–30 throughout year. Outside reserves: singles on 1 Jan and 19 Apr at Rabat; 8 on 13 Feb, 6 on 15 Nov, 7 on 14 Dec at Ғal Kirkop; 2 on 31 Mar and 3 Apr at Ramla Dam; 1 on 4 Apr at Chadwick Lakes; singles on 17 Apr at Ta' Gajdor and Ramla Valley; 1 at Ġirgenti on 28 Apr; 1 on 30 Oct at Kemmuna, 2 on 19 Feb and singles on 19 Mar, 25 May, 24–27 Jul, 31 Aug and 12 Nov at Salina; 1–4 regularly from 28 Mar to 15 May, (but 6 on 16 Apr), and 1 on 11 Sep at Wied Qirda.

2011. At Għadira highest counts in Jan, Mar, Nov and Dec with up to 30, but only up to 10 in Jun and 15 in Jul. At Simar up to 25 throughout year but 30 on 11 Aug. Outside reserves: 1 on 3 Apr near Calypso's Cave, 1–2 on 8 dates from 7 Mar to 16 Apr, 2 on 25 Jun, 5 on 26 Jun (including 3 chicks in nest), 1 on 3 Jul at Wied Għajn Riħana, 8 on 5 Mar and 5–9 on 2 dates in Nov–Dec at Ғal Kirkop, 1 on 23 Apr at Mosta, 1–2 on 12 dates from 8 Jan to 3 May, 1 on 15 Aug and 1 on 10 Dec at Salina, 1 on 10 Apr at Salina Bird Park, and 1 on 12 Jun at Tal-Għaġba (Siġġiewi).

Common Coot (Tigieġa tal-Baħar)

Fulica atra

2006. Up to 10 till early Mar, then 1–3 from 12 Mar to 4 Apr and 1 from 12–25 May, all at Simar. Then up to 10 from 1 Oct till end of year. At Għadira, 1–3 from 21 Oct, increasing to 5 by end of year.

2007. 5 at Għadira and 10 at Simar throughout Jan and Feb, with last birds at Għadira on 15 Mar and at Simar on 9 Apr. 1 at Simar again from 25 Jun onwards, and present there till end of year, with numbers up from early Oct, with max. 10 there on 10 Nov. At Għadira, singles on 18 Sep and on 10 dates from 2 Oct till end of year.

2008. 1 at Għadira from 1 Jan to 5 Mar and up to 10 at Simar till end of Feb. Then up to 6 at Simar till 4 Apr. Outside reserves: 2 at Salina on 13 Jan and 3 at Ғal Kirkop on 16–18 Jan. 1 pair stayed at Simar all summer and bred for the first time in Malta, having 6 chicks.

2009. Recorded in all months in single and low double figures, with max. 15 at Simar on 7th and 14 Jan. All sightings from Għadira and Simar, but 1 at Ғal Kirkop from 4 Feb to 19 Apr.

2010. Up to 14 wintering at Simar in Jan and Feb, decreasing

to 3 by end of Mar. 1 at Wied Għajn Riħana on 7 Jan, 1 at Ғal Kirkop on 13 Feb and 1 at Għadira on 13 Mar. In Apr, 1 recorded on various dates at Simar and 1 on 12 May. Then, at Simar, 1 on 19 Aug and 1–8 from 20 Sep to 2 Nov and 10–15 from 3 Nov till end of year. 1 at Għadira on 3 dates in Oct increasing to 7 in Nov and Dec. 1 at Ғal Kirkop on 15 Nov and 14 Dec.

2011. 5–6 at Għadira from 1 Jan to 6 Mar, decreasing to 1–3 till 3 Apr. 1 from 5–7th and 23 Oct, 1–4 from 5–30 Nov, then 6 increasing to 37 by end of year. At Simar: 10–16 from 1 Jan to 17 Mar, decreasing to 3–8 till end of Mar. 1 breeding pair stayed at reserve, with 3 chicks sighted on 22 Apr, increasing to 6 chicks on 9 May, but only 3 survived from 12 May. 1–2 ads and 2–3 juvs sighted regularly till 9 Aug. 1–2 (ad. + juv.) present till 27 Sep. 3–16 from 3 Oct till end of year and 1 at Ғal Kirkop on 26 Dec.

Common Crane (Grawwa)

Grus grus

2006. 1 at Għadira on 27 Jan. 7 at Ta' Mrejnu on 17 Oct, then in single figures on 4 dates from 2–21 Nov, with max. 7 at Għallis on 13 Nov. 2 at Għadira on 29 Dec.

2007. 21 at Mgarr (G) on 5 Jan. 26 on 7 Mar and 5 on 10 Mar, both sightings from Ċirkewwa. In autumn, 14 sightings of 1–15 on 8 dates from 7 Nov to 16 Dec, but 48 at Luqa Airport on 11 Nov.

2008. 2 at Sannat on 12 Nov, 1 at Luqa Airport and 30 at Qbajjar on 17 Nov, 10 over Simar on 20 Nov and 4 at Pembroke on 22 Nov. 3 over Għadira and 2 at Qawra on 12 Dec, 8 at Għajn Tuffieħa on 24 Dec, and 2 at Dwejra (M) and 25 at Bidnija on 25 Dec.

2009. 36 over Ғ'Attard on 27 Feb and another flock heard calling (but not seen) early morning on 15 Mar over Birkirkara. Flock of up to 60 recorded from various localities on 22 Mar. In autumn, 4 over Marsalforn on 21 Nov and flock of 26 over Għadira on 9 Dec. Exceptional migration on 20 Dec with various flocks observed mainly in the afternoon. Up to 870 counted from Luqa Airport. Various sightings, but of smaller numbers, also on 21 Dec, with max. 161 from Luqa Airport. Flock of 17–18 from 2 localities on 22 Dec, while birds heard calling over Għadira early morning on 23 Dec. 1 at Ċirkewwa on 24 Dec.

2010. 5 records in spring: 21 from Għadira on 31 Jan, 3 from various sites on 8 Mar, 2 from Ċirkewwa on 13 Mar, then 65 on 3 Apr and 9 on 7 Apr at Kemmuna. In autumn, 1 on 25 Nov, and recorded from 6 sites on 26 Nov, all of 1–9 except for 44 at Qawra. 15 on 5th, 5 and 81 on 12th, 12 on 13th, 2 on 17th and singles on 18th and 23 Dec.

2011. Flock of 90 from Blata l-Bajda and L-Iklin on 28 Feb. 9 seen from Mosta on 6 Mar. 1 injured bird seen at Għadira on 9 Apr. 1 at Luqa Airport on 19 Nov and 8 at Mellieħa on 20 Dec.

European Storm-petrel (Kangu ta' Filfla)

Hydrobates pelagicus

2006. Breeding at usual sites, where recorded in Jul and

Aug. Some individuals also observed from Qawra in early Aug.
2007. Present at usual breeding sites from Jun to Sep, as well as at suitable breeding habitat (though breeding not confirmed) along NE cliffs.

2008. Present at usual colonies. From L-Irdum tal-Madonna: 3 on 10 Mar, 1 on 15 May, 1 on 22 May, 2 on 5 Jun and 1 on 18 Jun. On Filfla, 400 on 28 Jun. 15 at Ta' Ċenċ on 30 Jul. Then from different areas offshore Malta and Gozo: 3 on 4 May, 150 on 12 Jun and 126 on 6 Aug.

2009. 1 at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 14 Mar, up to 11 during boat-based observations, with max. 24 on 25 Apr and 24 Jul. Highest counts from Filfla colony during ringing expeditions, with 400 on 19 Jun and 900 on 10 Aug. Last sighting: 4 offshore on 1 Oct.

2010. 3 on 29th and 1 on 30 May, both at L-Irdum tal-Madonna. 300 at Filfla on 5 Jun and 20 offshore SE on 2 Aug.

2011. 1500 on Filfla on 17 Jun.

Scopoli's Shearwater (Ċiefa)

Calonectris diomedea

2006. From 16 Feb to 2 Nov, regularly seen offshore and breeding at usual locations along cliffs on all three main islands and on Filfla. Sightings in double to high treble figures, with max. 2000 off Qawra on 30 Sep. Numbers decreasing to single and low double figures throughout Oct.

2007. First sighting on 10 Feb and present throughout and breeding in established colonies and sites. Last seen on 18 Nov. Most observations along coast, often in double to treble figures, with max. 2000 off Ta' Ċenċ on 7 Jul.

2008. Breeding at usual sites. Daily counts from 17 Feb to 28 Oct. Highest counts in Jun and Jul with counts exceeding 500 birds on 5 dates.

2009. Breeding visitor from Feb to Nov, breeding in usual sites. First offshore sighting on 12 Feb off Qawra with numbers increasing by 24 Feb, with 100 at Għajn Tuffieħa. Almost daily till 4 Nov, mostly in single, double and treble figures. Max. include 1000 off Ta' Ċenċ on 14 Mar, 1221 on 16 Mar, 1170 on 21 Jul, and 1421 on 22 Jul offshore from boat-based observations.

2010. Regular sightings of up to 500 from 10 Feb to 13 Nov, but from 3 Jul and 8 Aug 1000–5000 counted 8 times. 1 on 10 Dec off Qawra.

2011. Single and double figures of up to 35 from 15 Feb to 16 Mar, but 100–150 on 3 dates. More frequent treble figures of up to 500 from 17 Mar to 6 Apr, but 1000 on 22nd and 23 Mar. 1–50 from 13 Apr to 30 May, but 100 on 28 May. Higher numbers again from 17 Jun to 21 Sep, with 1000–2000 on 6 dates. 1–100 sighted from 23 Sep to 17 Oct. 1 grounded at Hal Luqa on 23 Oct.

Yelkouan Shearwater (Garnija)

Puffinus yelkouan

2006. Present and breeding at established colonies along coastal cliffs. Sightings throughout year, with higher numbers in

Feb and early Mar up to 200, then in mostly single to low double figures till 12 Apr. 6 sightings of 1–3 from May to Sep, then 1–6 on several dates from 7 Oct, with max. 12 off Qawra on 10 Oct.

2007. Present and breeding at established colonies from Jan to 20 Jul, mostly in single to low double figures from along coast, with max. 100 off L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 23 May. 1 on 7 Oct, then regular offshore again from 28 Oct till end of year, with max. 16 off Qawra on 12 Nov.

2008. 75 records from 1 Jan to 27 Jul. From Jan to end of Mar, up to 70 regularly from various sea-watching posts, mainly Ċirkewwa and Qawra but 202 at Kemmuna on 22 Mar. 25 records of up to 30 from 3 Apr to 27 Jul, but 50 from L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 18 Jun. Singles on 28 Oct and 11 Nov, then up to 15 on 9 dates from 25 Nov till end of year.

2009. Breeding visitor with colonies scattered on the three main islands, recorded regularly from 1 Jan to 17 Sep, mostly in single to low double figures but treble figures at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 3 dates from 14 Mar to 19 May and offshore on 18 May and 19 May, with max. 229 on 18 May. Single to low double figures from 1 Dec till end of year.

2010. Breeding in established colonies. 3 off Qawra on 2 Jan. Regularly in single and double figures of up to 50 offshore from 22 Jan to 12 Jul. 15–100 in May–Jun at L-Irdum tal-Madonna. 3 sightings of 1–2 offshore from 6–21 Aug. 7 sightings of 1–18 from 21 Oct till end of year, but 149 on 10 Dec.

2011. Regular offshore from 27 Jan to 21 Apr in single, double and treble figures, with max. 230 from L-Aħrax on 1 Mar and 250 from Ċirkewwa on 23 Mar. 10 from Ċirkewwa on 21 May. On 17 Jun, 25 offshore from Filfla and 5 from Miġra l-Ferħa. Singles on 9th and 17 Jul, 5 on 18 Jul. 1 from Marsaskala on 28 Aug. 3 from Qbajjar on 23 Dec.

Black Stork (Ċikonja Sewda)

Ciconia nigra

2006. 1 on 22–23 Mar seen from several locations. Singles at Buskett on 21 Sep, at Dwejra (M) on 22 Sep and at Dwejra (M) and Mellieħa on 1 Oct.

2007. Singles at Buskett on 17 Apr and at Luqa Airport on 15 May. 4 at Buskett on 2–3 Oct, then singles at Ta' Ċenċ on 31 Oct and at Birkirkara on 5 Nov.

2008. 1 at Marfa on 18 Apr. In autumn, 18 from 22 Sep to 3 Oct, mostly in singles but flock of 12 on 23 Sep, first sighted at Ta' Ġordan, then from various locations in Malta, and 2 on 28 Sep from Buskett.

2009. 2 at Buskett on 21 Sep, then singles at Buskett and Simar on 24 Sep, at Buskett on 25th and 28 Sep, and at Għadira and Buskett on 5 Oct. 2 at Salina on 16 Oct.

2010. Singles at Buskett on 14–15 Sep, 5 at Dwejra (M) and Buskett on 30 Sep and 1 at L-Aħrax on 15 Oct.

2011. 2 on 30 Mar from Xagħra l-Ħamra and Dwejra (M). 1 on 15 Sep from Buskett. 2 on 16 Sep from Buskett, then roosting at Mtaħleb. 5 at Buskett on 24 Sep.

White Stork (Cikonja Bajda)

Ciconia ciconia

- 2006.** 1 at Dwejra (M) on 17 Sep.
2008. 1 at Buskett on 17 Sep.
2010. 3 singles from different sites on 26–27 May. Flock of 20 seen from Għadira and Foresta 2000 on 24 Aug. Flock of 28 from Buskett on 14 Sep and 1 at Dingli on 15 Sep.

Eurasian Spoonbill (Paletta)

Platalea leucorodia

- 2006.** Singles at Mellieħa and at Nadur (M) on 17 Sep.
2008. 1 at Għadira from 27–31 Mar.
2009. Singles at Għadira on 10–11 Mar, on 27–28 Apr and on 25–26 Sep. 2 at Luqa Airport on 28 Dec.
2010. Singles on 21 Feb at Għadira and on 9 Mar at Salina. 3 at L-Ahrax on 10 Sep. Two flocks (5, 22) on 21st, 4 on 22nd, 1 on 23 Sep. Finally, 2 on 22 Oct at Kemmuna.
2011. 35 from Qawra and 70 from Marsaskala on 18 Feb. 1–2 at Għadira, Xrobb I-Għaġin and Żonqor on 19 Feb. 1 at Għadira on 21 Feb and 1 at Simar on 21–22 Feb. 3 from Għar Lapsi, 26 from Ċirkewwa, 52 from Għadira and 1 from Xrobb I-Għaġin on 27 Feb. 1 at Għadira on 9–10 Mar. 1 at Salina on 4 Apr. 17 crossing Kemmuna Channel on 22 Apr. Singles from Għadira, Salina and Kemmuna daily from 27 Apr to 2 May. 1 colour-ringed bird (from Hungary ringed as nestling in 2009) at Salina on 29–30 Jun. 1 at Għadira on 9 Sep.

Glossy Ibis (Velleran)

Plegadis falcinellus

- 2006.** 20 at Dwejra (G) on 21 Mar, 1 at Għadira on 28 Mar, and 19 at Kemmuna on 18 Apr. In autumn, singles at Filfla on 24 Aug, at Buskett on 2 Oct, and at Għadira on 3 Oct. 3 at Buskett on 11 Oct.
2007. Singles at St Paul's Bay on 19 Aug and at Ramla Bay on 10 Sep.
2008. 60 at Selmunett on 8 Mar, 1 at Għadira on 10 Apr and 18 over Għadira on 13 Apr. In autumn, singles at Għadira on 4 Oct and at Salina on 2 Nov.
2010. 21 at Ċirkewwa on 26 Mar. 40 at Kemmuna and 16 from Ċirkewwa on 7 Apr. Singles at Għadira on 3rd, 6th and 10 Apr, and at Salina on 13 Apr. Singles at Qawra on 4 Sep, at Marsalforn on 13 Sep, at Simar on 25 Sep, and at Għadira on 9–10 Oct.
2011. Singles at Salina, Simar and Għadira on 8–10 Apr, at Għadira on 26 Apr and at Simar on 27 Sep.

Eurasian Bittern (Kappun)

Botaurus stellaris

- 2006.** Singles at Simar on 15 Mar and on 1 Nov.
2007. Singles at Ċirkewwa on 9 Mar, at Simar on 19 Mar and 12–13 Apr, and at Mistra on 11 May. 1 at Wied il-Luq on 12 Oct.
2008. Singles at Simar on 16–17 Apr, 30 Apr, 16 May and from 27 May to 3 Jun. Flock of 6 at Buskett on 24 Oct.

- 2009.** Singles at Simar on 3 Apr and 18 Nov.
2010. 1 at Kemmuna on 22 Oct.
2011. 3 at Foresta 2000 on 11 Nov.

Common Little Bittern (Russett tas-Sigār)

Ixobrychus minutus

- 2006.** 1 at Wied Għajn Rihana on 9 Apr, then singles on 5 dates from 30 Apr to 17 May.
2007. 20 sightings on 15 dates from 13 Apr to 28 May, all 1–2 but 15 at Dwejra (M) on 25 Apr and 40 at Kemmuna on 25–26 Apr. 1 on 11 Jun, then singles at Simar on 3 dates in Sep, on 1 Nov and on 26 Dec.
2008. 1–2 daily at Simar from 2 Apr to 18 May. Apart from Simar, 1 at Għajnsielem on 17 Apr, singles at Għadira on 29 Apr, 2 May, 7 May and 20 May, 5 at Kemmuna on 3 May, 1 at Kemmuna on 5 May and 1 at Wied Qannotta on 8 May. 1 at Rabat on 1 Jun and 1 at Għadira on 31 Aug.
2009. Singles at Għadira on 4 Apr, at Simar on 7 Apr and at Kemmuna, and again at Simar on 29 Apr. In May, singles mainly from Simar on 8 dates from 8–29 May. Singles at Għadira on 2nd, 3rd and 5 Jun, and at Simar on 26 Jun and 11 Sep. Almost daily in low single figures from 19 Sep to 5 Oct, but 19 at Buskett on 22 Sep. 1 at Buskett on 14 Oct.
2010. 1 at Simar on 21 dates from 22 Mar to 5 May, but 2 on 14 Apr. Outside Simar, singles on 5 dates from 28 Apr to 4 Jun, but 4 at Kemmuna on 30 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 4 Jun. 1 at Kemmuna on 11–12 Aug, 6 at Buskett on 16 Sep, 1 at Simar on 11 Oct, and finally 1 at Għadira on 1st and 3 Nov.
2011. 26 sightings from 20 Apr to 31 May, mostly 1–2 from Simar, but 5 at Kemmuna on 9 May. 3 autumn records of 1–2 on 8th, 16th and 18 Sep from Rabat and Buskett.

Black-crowned Night-heron (Kwakka)

Nycticorax nycticorax

- 2006.** 1–8 on 19 dates from 15 Mar to 25 May, but 11 on 31 Mar at Għadira and 19 at Kemmuna on 23 Apr. Singles on 5 dates from 28 Jun to 18 Aug. Then, up to 32 on 17 dates from 1 Sep to 18 Oct, but 50 at Mellieħa on 10 Sep. Up to 3 on 7 dates from 26 Nov to 29 Dec, all at Simar.
2007. 1–20 regularly from 9 Mar to 30 Apr, but 46 at Simar on 23 Apr. 1–2 on several dates from 9 May to 22 Aug, mostly at Simar but 6 at Birkirkara on 4 Jun. In single to low double figures till end Sep, but 91 at Buskett on 27 Aug and 110 at Nadur (M) on 21 Sep. 1–8 on 10 dates from 4 Oct to 22 Nov.
2008. 1 at Simar on 15–16 Jan. 5 records of 1–2 from 17–30 Mar but 7 at Pietà on 20 Mar. Then, up to 30 almost daily from 1 Apr to 28 May, but 54 at Delimara on 14 Apr. 1 at Xewkija on 23 Jun, 1 at Simar on 2 Jul, 2 at Simar on 18 Jul and 10 at Salina on 4 Jul. In autumn, 1 at Għadira on 12 Aug, then up to 40 on most days from 21 Aug to 14 Oct, but 43 at Buskett on 31 Aug and 45 at Simar on 1 Sep. 1 at Simar on 17th and 22 Oct and 6 at Salina on 9 Nov.
2009. 1 at Għadira on 9 Mar and 23 at Ta' Ċenċ on 14 Mar,

then up to 18 on 14 dates from 21 Mar to 9 May, but 26 at Salina on 31 Mar. Singles on 4 dates from 22 May to 6 Jun, 6 at Kemmuna on 13 Jun, and singles on 5 dates from 20 Jun to 28 Jul. In autumn, in single to double figures of up to 34 on 31 dates from 16 Aug to 15 Oct, but 52 on 26 Aug and 86 on 9 Sep, both at Simar. 1–2 at Għadira on 5 dates from 19–27 Oct.

2010. 20 on 18 Mar at Ras il-Pellegrin, then 32 sightings of 1–9 on 21 dates from 23 Mar to 6 May, but 20 on 26 Apr at Mizieb. 7 sightings of 1–10 from 11 May to 14 Jun, but 23 at Għadira on 30 May. In autumn, 1–2 on 24th and 28 Aug then 44 sightings of 1–20 from 4 Sep to 31 Oct, but 61 at Buskett and 50 at Għadira on 23 Sep, 34 at Buskett on 9 Oct, and 40 at Kemmuna on 23 Oct. Singles at Simar on 12 Nov, 27 Nov and 20 Dec, and at Għadira on 14 Nov.

2011. 40 sightings of up to 27 from 15 Mar to 3 May, but 42 at L-Ahrax on 22 Apr and 29 and 43 on 3 May at Simar and Salina respectively. 1 on 2 Jun at Simar. 2 at Salina Bird Park on 24 Jun. 1 at Foresta 2000 / Għadira on 28 Jul. 29 sightings of up to 24 from 8 Aug to 3 Oct, but 43 at Buskett on 2 Sep and 30 at Qawra on 18 Sep.

Squacco Heron (*Agrett isfar*)

Ardeola ralloides

2006. 1–2 on 23 dates from 20 Apr to 15 Jun, mostly at Simar but 4 at Għadira on 27 Apr.

2007. Singles at Għadira on 15 Apr, at Simar on 16–29 Apr, at Għajn Tuffieħa and Kemmuna on 27 Apr, at Dwejra (G) on 30 Apr, and at Marsaskala on 21 May. 14 at Ġnejna Bay on 1 Jun. In autumn, 1 at Għallis on 21 Aug.

2008. At Simar, singles on 6 Apr, 14–16 Apr and 5–22 May. Outside Simar: 5 at Għar Ħasan on 17 Apr, 7 at Mġarr ix-Xini on 20 Apr, 2 at Mġarr ix-Xini on 1 May and 1 at Għadira from 21–24 May. In autumn, 2 at Pembroke on 11 Aug.

2009. 2 on 31 Mar and 1 on 6 Apr, both at Salina. 33 at Marsa on 9 Apr, then 1–3 daily at Simar and Għadira from 13–24 Apr. Up to 3 again daily at Simar and Għadira from 4–12 May and 1–2 on 5 more days from 15–24 May. In autumn, singles at Għadira on 21 Jul, at Għallis on 26 Aug, at Salina on 19 Sep and at Simar on 24 Sep.

2010. 8 at Xatt l-Ahmar on 4 Apr, then up to 7 almost daily from 6 Apr to 21 May, but 9 at Għajn Tuffieħa on 18 Apr. Singles at Simar on 29 Jun, at Għadira from 30 Jun to 18 Jul and at Tas-Safra on 18 Jul. In autumn, 2 at Qawra on 8 Sep.

2011. Most records from Simar and Għadira. 1–2 on most days from 7 Apr to 27 May but 3 at Simar on 26–27 Apr and on 3 May. In autumn, 1 at Tas-Safra on 11 Aug.

Cattle Egret (*Agrett tal-Bhejjem*)

Bubulcus ibis

2007. 5 at Għadira on 16 Oct, then singles at Qawra on 23 Oct, at Ramla Bay on 3 Nov and at Għadira on 23 Nov.

2008. Singles at Għadira on 19 May, at Simar on 15 Jul, at Għadira on 20 Sep and on 4 Dec. 2 at Simar on 14 Dec.

2009. Singles at Għadira on 14 May and at Simar from 13–17 Oct.

2010. At Għadira: 1 on 19–20 Oct, 7 on 9 Nov, 22 on 19 Nov, 1 on 22 Nov and 1 on 16 Dec. Outside Għadira: 1 at Salina on 20 Oct, 13 at Xaghra l-Ħamra on 21 Nov, 1 at Luqa Airport on 18 Dec and 1 at Burmarrad on 27 Dec.

2011. Singles at Ғaž-Żebbuġ on 3 Jan and at Għajn Tuffieħa on 22 Apr. At Għadira: 1 on 25 Aug, 7 on 14 Sep, 1 on 24 Sep, 3 on 2 Nov and 1 on 15 Nov. 1 at Simar on 16 Sep and 1 at Qawra on 1 Oct.

Grey Heron (*Russett Griz*)

Ardea cinerea

2006. 1–5 from 3 sites on 14 Feb, then regularly from 26 Feb to 12 May, mostly 1–18 but 40 at Rabat on 9 Mar. 2 on 21 May, singles on 3 Jun and 15 Jun, then 1 at Għadira from 28 Jun to 4 Jul. Singles on 30–31 Jul and 1–2 on 8–9 Aug, then regularly again from 23 Aug to 12 Nov, mostly in single to double figures of up to 40 but 58 at Marsaskala and 86 at St Elmo Point on 19 Sep and 70 at St Elmo Point on 21 Sep. Singles on 22 Nov at Luqa Airport and at Għadira on 17–18 Dec.

2007. 1 at Simar on 9 Jan. Regular, mostly in single figures, from 23 Feb to 8 Jun, but 8 sightings in low double figures with max. 27 on 9 Mar at Ċirkewwa. 1 on 1 Aug, then regularly from 11 Aug to 3 Dec, with most sightings in Sep, with max. 119 at Nadur (M) on 21 Sep and 150 at Għajnsielem on 22 Sep.

2008. 5 at Għar Lapsi on 24 Feb and 1 at Ċirkewwa on 27 Feb, then 1–20 daily from 11 Mar to 11 May, but 21 at Ċittadella on 21 Mar, 45 at Simar on 1 Apr and 26 at Xaghra l-Ħamra on 13 Apr. 1 at Għadira from 11 May to 4 Aug, but up to 4 till 13 Jun. 4 other records of 1–2 in Jul and Aug. 1–80 almost daily from 7 Aug to 20 Nov, peaking in Sep with 6 records of 50+ birds, with max. 256 at Qawra on 28 Sep. 1 at St Paul's Bay on 5 Dec.

2009. Singles at Għadira on 17th and 22 Feb. Up to 8 on 3 other days in Feb from 24–28 Feb. 2 on 1 Mar and 7 on 2 Mar, then almost daily from 9–31 Mar, mainly in single figures but double figures on 4 days, with max. 60 at Salina on 31st. Single figures daily from 11–15 Apr and in single to low double figures on 4 other days from 19–30 Apr. Single figures on 11 dates from 1–24 May. Singles on 3rd, 17th, 18th and 23 Jun and on 2nd, 25th and 27–28 Jul. On 11 dates from 2–28 Aug in single to low double figures, with max. 14 at Simar on 26th. Main passage in Sep up to mid-Oct with frequent records from 1 Sep to 31 Oct. Single to low double figures but higher numbers recorded from 21–24 Sep (max. 152 at Qawra on 21 Sep), on 27–28 Sep (max. 141 at Buskett on 28 Sep) and on 11 Oct (max. 74 at Qawra). Up to 6 on 5 days from 1–9 Nov and 1 at Għadira from 26 Nov till end of year.

2010. 1 at Għadira on 4th and 11 Jan. In single and double figures of up to 83 on 54 dates from 5 Mar to 13 May, peaking on 14 Mar with 260 from 9 sites and 199 on 8 Mar from 12 sites. 2 singles on 23 May, 7 at Għadira on 24 May, then 1–2

almost daily from 29 May to 11 Jun. Singles at Ghadira on 24 Jun and at Simar on 8 Jul. 1–2 on 8 dates from 18–31 Jul. 145 sightings on most days from 12 Aug to 11 Nov, in single and double figures up to 65, but 149 at Buskett on 14 Sep and 89 at Ghadira on 11 Oct. 5 at Ghadira on 21 Nov and 5 singles from 26 Nov to 13 Dec.

2011. 32 sightings of up to 17 from 20 Feb to 13 Mar, but 73 on 8 Mar at Ċirkewwa. 34 sightings of up to 17 birds from 20 Mar to 16 Apr, but 57 at Ċirkewwa and 59 at Dwejra on 21 Mar. 1–5 on several dates from 17 Apr to 2 Jun. 10 at Ghadira on 3 Jun. 1–2 almost daily from 4 Jun to 31 Jul, mostly at Ghadira. 1–6 on most days in Aug but 43 on 30th and 30 and 24 from different sites on 31st. In Sep, 50 sightings of 1–38 but 283 at Buskett on 16th, 52 on 21st, 75 on 24th and 72 on 27th from Qawra. 1–4 on several dates from 3 Oct to 8 Nov and singles at Ghadira on 30 Nov, 1 Dec and 3 Dec.

Purple Heron (Russett Ahmar)

Ardea purpurea

2006. 16 singles on 14 dates from 31 Mar to 6 May. In autumn, up to 20 on 16 dates from 24 Aug to 18 Oct, but 28 at St Elmo Point on 19 Sep.

2007. 2 at Ghadira on 18 Mar, then 1–6 on most days from 2 Apr to 31 May, but 31 at Kemmuna on 27 Apr. In autumn, 1–17 on 14 dates from 21 Aug to 1 Oct, but 34 at St Paul's Bay on 21 Aug. 1 late bird at Ghadira on 31 Oct.

2008. 1 at Ghadira on 21 Mar, then 1–10 almost daily from 1 Apr to 4 May, but 13 at Foresta 2000 on 13 Apr. 2 at Simar on 15 May and 1 at Ghadira on 20 May. In autumn, 32 records of mostly 1–10 from 18 Aug to 1 Oct, but 23 from Mgarr (M) on 23 Aug, 58 at Ghadira and 30 at Simar on 1 Sep.

2009. In spring, first recorded on 7 dates from 15–31 Mar mainly in single figures but low double figures on 30–31 Mar with max. 28 at Salina on 31 Mar. Single figures on 8 other days from 5–24 Apr and 1–2 on 6 dates from 7–31 May. 1 frequently at Simar in Jun could have been injured and unable to fly properly. In autumn, singles on 7 days from 2–23 Aug, then single to low double figures on 17 dates from 26 Aug to 29 Sep, flock of 44 from various localities on 26 Aug. 4 on 11 Oct and 1 on 14 Oct.

2010. Singles on 14 Mar at Ghadira and 29 Mar at Wied Ghajn Riĥana. 23 sightings on 13 dates from 6 Apr to 1 May, with max. 11 at Ramla Valley on 7 Apr otherwise up to 9. 1 at Ghadira on most days from 6–18 May, but 3 on 10th. Singles at Simar on 28 May, at Ghadira on 5 Jun and on 9 Aug. 14 at Qawra and 4 at Simar on 23 Aug, then 19 sightings on 14 dates from 1 Sep to 2 Oct, mostly 1–5, but 11 on 4 Sep, 16 on 7 Sep and 23 on 14 Sep. 1 at Ghadira on 11th and 14 Oct.

2011. 1 at Salina on 3 Mar, then 3 records of 1–4 from different sites on 21 Mar. 34 records from 30 Mar to 1 May, mostly 1–4 but 5 sightings in double figures. Max. 50 on 6 Apr and 28 on 22 Apr from L-Aħrax. 6 singles from 9 May to 7 Jun. 24 sightings of 1–9 from 29 Aug to 28 Sep.

Great White Egret (Russett Abjad)

Ardea alba

2006. 3 at Ramla Valley on 6 May, 1 at Ghajn Tuffieħa on 13 Sep, 2 at Qawra on 11–12 Oct, then 1 at Victoria on 14 Oct and 3 at Ghadira on 6 Nov.

2007. 1 at Ghadira and Kemmuna on 25 Feb, then 1–3 on 3 dates from 18 Mar to 22 Apr. 7 sightings on 4 dates from 13–25 Sep, then singles on 9th and 12 Nov.

2008. 1 at Simar on 13 Mar. 6 records from 9 Sep to 12 Oct, 3 of single birds but 3 at Gharghur on 22 Sep, 3 at Miżieb on 27 Sep and 6 at Salina on 23 Oct. Then singles at Ghadira on 30 Nov and at Qawra on 12 Dec.

2009. 1 at Ghajn Tuffieħa on 25 Feb. 4–5 at Simar, Ghadira and Delimara on 21–23 Mar. Singles at Ghadira on 14 Apr and at Kemmuna on 25 Apr. 1 offshore on 27 Jul. 10 records of 1–3 from 18 Sep to 30 Oct and 1 at Salina on 13 Dec.

2010. 7 sightings of 1–6 on 6 dates from 10 Mar to 5 May, but 14 on 26 Apr at Delimara. In autumn, singles at Simar on 3 Sep and 16 Sep, then 14 at Rabat on 21 Sep and 22 at Ghadira on 24 Sep. 1–2 on 4 dates from 20–31 Oct, but 12 on 24 Oct from L-Aħrax and Buskett.

2011. 1 at Ghadira on 21 Feb. 1–2 at two sites on 7 Apr. 1 at L-Aħrax on 22 Apr. 3 records of singles from 18–24 Sep.

Little Egret (Agrett Abjad)

Egretta garzetta

2006. Regular from 18 Mar and 5 Jun, mostly in single to low double figures of up to 16, but 22 at Luqa Airport on 8 Apr and 46 at Ġnejna on 23 Apr. In autumn, 1–20 regularly from 10 Aug to 8 Oct, but 28 at St Paul's Bay on 7 Sep and 55 on 23 Sep and 29 on 7 Oct, both at Qawra. 1–5 on 6 dates from 19 Oct to 1 Nov, then 2 at Simar on 21 Nov.

2007. Single to low double figures from 18 Mar till early Jun, with max. 31 on 1 Apr. 1–2 from early Jun to mid-Aug mostly at Salina and Ghadira. In somewhat higher numbers till early Oct, with double figure on 6 dates, with max. 20 on 24 Aug. Then up to 7 but mostly 1–2 till 6 Dec.

2008. Singles at Ghadira on 13th and 16 Mar, then records on most days from 21 Mar to 17 Jun, mostly 1–20 birds but 36 at Kemmuna on 21 Mar, 60 at Ghajn Tuffieħa on 8 Apr and 61 at Ghajn Tuffieħa on 17 Apr. 5 singles from 24 Jul to 1 Aug, then up to 25 almost daily from 8 Aug to 9 Nov, but 41 at Ghadira and 38 at Simar on 11 Sep and 35 at Simar on 6 Oct. Singles at Ghadira on 24 Nov and at Simar on 30 Nov.

2009. First sighting on 15 Mar with 1 at Ghadira and 7 off Ċirkewwa. 23 offshore on 19 Mar, then single and low double figures till 14 Jun, most records from Ghadira, Simar and Salina. Highest spring counts include 39 at Xagħra l-Famra on 30 Mar and 26 at Ghadira on 28 May. 1 on 8 Aug at Ghadira then single figures almost daily till end of year from various sites, but 48 at Buskett on 1 Sep and 25 at Ghadira on 23 Sep.

2010. On most days from 13 Mar to 1 Nov in single and double figures up to 33, but 70 at Kemmuna on 7 Apr, 67 at

Għadira and 75 at Qawra, both on 21 Sep. From May to Aug nearly all records from Għadira and Salina. 1–3 at Għadira and Salina on 12 dates from 6 Nov till end of year.

2011. 1–4 at Salina from 1 Jan to 20 Mar. In single and low double figures of up to 39 almost daily from several sites from 22 Mar to 1 May. From 2 May to 11 Aug 1–7 almost daily from Għadira, Simar and Salina. On 24 Jun, 1 juv. in nest outside Salina Bird Park aviary. Almost daily in single to low double figures of up to 27 from 12 Aug to 27 Sep, but 60 on 3 Sep and 56 on 17 Sep, both from Qawra. Up to 4 at Għadira and Salina from 30 Sep till end of year.

Northern Gannet (*Sula*)

Morus bassanus

2006. 1–3 offshore on 20 dates from 8 Jan to 12 Mar. 1 off Pembroke on 8 Oct, then on 10 dates from 30 Oct to 31 Dec, all in singles, but 2 at Qawra on 13 Nov.

2007. 12 sightings of 1–2 on 10 dates from 2 Jan to 12 Mar. Then 1–4 on 16 dates from 7 Oct to 24 Dec.

2008. 2 singles in Jan from Qawra and 1 on 11 Mar from Ċirkewwa. 1 at Kemmuna on 20 Oct, then 1–2 on 8 dates from 7–22 Dec, mostly from Qawra.

2009. Low single figures on 18 dates from 8 Jan to 27 Feb, with max. 5 at Qawra on 15th and 19 Feb. 1 at Ċirkewwa on 12 Mar. 1 at Qawra on 4 Nov, 2 at Qawra on 18 Dec and 1 at Qbajjar on 30 Dec.

2010. 21 sightings of 1–3 from 2 Jan to 28 Feb, but 7 on 8 Feb at Qawra. 3 singles from 11–18 Mar. 2 at Qawra on 20 Oct, then 17 sightings of 1–4 from 31 Oct to 28 Dec.

2011. 27 sightings of 1–5 from 17 Jan to 13 Mar but 7 off Żonqor Point on 19 Feb. Singles on 20 Mar, 5 Apr, 18 Nov and 25 Dec.

Great Cormorant (*Margun*)

Phalacrocorax carbo

2006. 1–8 on 9 dates till 10 Mar, then 1 on 5 Apr at Għadira. In autumn mostly up to 12 from 22 Sep till end of year, but 16 at Pembroke on 18 Nov and 28 at Luqa Airport on 7 Dec.

2007. 1–4 regular along coastal areas from 1 Jan to 5 Apr. In autumn, 3 at Buskett on 11 Oct, then up to 20 on most dates from 21 Oct till end of year, but 30 at Qawra on 15 Nov.

2008. 55, in numbers of 1–8, sighted on 22 dates from 3 Jan to 3 Apr. 1 at Delimara on 21 Apr. 1–5 on most dates from 15 Sep to 24 Dec but 8 on 12 Oct and 6 on 11 Nov from Qawra.

2009. 1–2 on 15 dates from 2 Jan to 16 Feb. Flock of 15 from Għajn Tuffieħa on 24 Feb and 2 other singles on same day. Single figures daily from 27 Feb to 3 Mar and again daily from 10–18 Mar, but flock of 17 at Ċirkewwa on 11 Mar. Singles on 23 Mar and on 15 Apr and 2 on 4 May. In autumn, 5 on 29 Sep and up to 3 on 5 days from 1–30 Oct. Flock of 22 over Għadira on 31 Oct. Single figures on 4 dates from 3–29 Nov and on 15 dates from 6–31 Dec. Dec records mainly from Salina.

2010. 17 sightings of 1–5 from 2–21 Jan, then 14 sightings

of 1–4 on 11 dates from 14 Feb to 29 Mar but 7 on 2 Mar at Ċirkewwa. 2 at Buskett on 3 Oct, then single figures on 35 dates from 10 Oct till end of year, but 18 at Qawra on 6 Dec and 12 at Luqa Airport on 12 Dec.

2011. Singles from 5–7 Jan, 4 on 28 Jan, 1 on 19 Feb and 1 on 26 Feb. Evident migration on 27 Feb with 6 sightings of 3–29. 6 singles from 3 Mar to 14 Apr, but 4 on 7 Mar. 1 at Kemmunett from 19 Apr to 17 May. 1 on 19 Sep from Qawra and Għadira, then 19 sightings of 1–6 from 1 Oct to 18 Dec, 3 sightings of 16–36 in Oct.

Eurasian Thick-knee (*Tellerita*)

Burhinus oedicephalus

2006. 1 at Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq on 15 Oct.

2007. Singles on 28–29 Apr and on 27 May. Then 1 at Buskett on 23 Oct and 2 at St Elmo Point on 25 Nov.

2008. In spring, 3 records of single birds from 23 Mar to 14 Apr. Then, 1 on 27 Sep from Għar Lapsi and 1 from Qawra on 25 Nov.

2009. Singles at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 17 Apr and at Kemmuna on 14 Jun. 2 at Buskett on 14 Oct.

2010. Singles on 24 Mar at Marsaskala, on 26 Mar at Ċirkewwa, at Kemmuna on 24–25 Apr. In autumn, singles at Buskett on 23 Oct and at Majjistral Park on 30 Oct.

2011. Singles at Xrobb l-Għaġin on 10 Apr, at Kemmuna on 26 Apr and on 29 Oct, and at Simar on 30 Oct.

Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Gallina tal-Baħar*)

Haematopus ostralegus

2006. 13 sightings of 1–11 on 11 dates along NE coast from 19 Jul to 29 Sep, but 23 on 30 Jul and 19 on 12 Aug.

2007. 1 on 2 Jun at L-Irdum tal-Madonna, then 8 sightings of 1–3 from 6 Jul to 9 Sep, but 22 over Simar on 7 Sep.

2008. 1 at Qawra on 10 Jul, 3 at Għallis on 23 Jul, 3 at St Paul's Bay on 24 Jul and 10 at St Paul's Bay on 26 Jul. 3 at Għallis on 16 Aug, 5 at Qawra on 17 Aug and 2 at St Elmo Point on 23 Aug. 1 late bird at Qawra on 12 Oct.

2009. 2 on 17th and 18 on 18 Aug, both sightings offshore from boat-based observations. Singles at Ramla Bay on 8 Sep and at Qawra and at Għadira on 12 Sep.

2010. Singles on 8 Apr at Għadira and Salina. On 26 Jul, 6 at Qawra and 1 at Għadira. 19 at Għallis on 7 Aug. 1 at Qawra on 5 Sep, and 5 at Għallis and Tigné on 7 Sep.

2011. 1–5 on 5 dates from 29 Jul to 27 Aug from Għallis and Qawra.

Pied Avocet (*Xifa*)

Recurvirostra avosetta

2006. 1 on 5 Mar. Then, 4–10 on 4 dates from 1–12 Oct, all from Qawra. 1 at Għadira on 16 Dec.

2007. Singles at St Thomas Bay on 1 Sep, at Qawra on 5 Dec, and at St Elmo Point on 13 Dec.

2008. 1 at Għadira from 25–30 Jul. 11 at Qawra on 21 Sep

and 9 at Għadira on 22 Nov. 2 at Għadira on 10–11 Dec.

2009. 2 at Għadira on 4 Apr with 1 staying till 8 Apr. 2 at Għadira on 12 Nov and 6 at Qawra on 24 Nov.

2010. 1 on 7–8 Apr at Għadira. 7 on 22 Aug, 4 on 21 Sep, 11 on 22 Sep and 4 on 31 Oct, all from Qawra.

2011. 1 at Għadira from 31 Aug to 3 Sep and at Salina on 3 Sep. 14 on 7 Sep, 17 on 18 Sep, 12 on 23 Sep and 20 on 13 Oct, all from Qawra.

Black-winged Stilt (Fras-servjent)

Himantopus himantopus

2006. Mainly 1–3 on 17 dates from 1 Mar to 9 May, but 12 on 28 Mar and 8 on 17 Apr, all at Għadira and Salina. 1–2 on 14 dates in Jun, all at Għadira, Salina and Simar. Then, 7 in Kemmuna Channel on 1 Jul, and singles at Salina on 10 Aug and at St Elmo Point on 28 Aug.

2007. Regular from 9 Mar to end Apr, mostly in single figures but 15 at Luqa Airport on 22 Mar, 11 at Għadira on 8 Apr and 17 at Għadira on 28 Apr. 2 at Salina on 9 May and 1 at Għadira on 21 May, then up to 10 at Għadira throughout Jun to Aug, and 18 at Salina on 19 Aug. 1 at St Elmo Point on 2 Sep.

2008. 3 at Salina on 11 Mar, then 1–8 daily, mostly at Għadira, from the 20 Mar till end of May but 20 at Għadira on 27 Mar, 16 at Simar on 1 Apr and 19 at Għadira on 6 Apr. Then, up to 2 present daily at Għadira from 19 Jun to 7 Sep, but 42 at Għadira on 17 Aug. Outside Għadira: 1 at Simar on 1 Jul, 4 at Salina on 1 Sep and 1 at Salina from 21 Sep to 1 Oct.

2009. 1–2 on most days from 13–17 Mar, 11 at Marsaxlokk on 22 Mar and singles on 23–24 Mar. Single to low double figures almost daily from 28 Mar to 10 May, with max. 19 (flock) at Ġnejna Bay on 9 Apr. 1 at Simar on 24 May and 2 at Għadira from 25–30 May. 1–2 at Għadira or Simar on most days in Jun. 1–4 on 10 dates from 1–27 Jul and 1 at Għadira from 23–29 Aug.

2010. 1 on 24 Feb, then 1–4 on most days from 10 Mar to 21 Apr mostly at Għadira, but 7 on 19 Apr. From 15 May to 22 Jul up to 7 almost daily, mostly at Għadira, Simar and Salina. Then 1–6 on most dates from 13 Aug to 6 Sep, but 37 on 16 Aug at Salina.

2011. Singles at Għadira on 10 dates from 11 Mar to 7 Apr, then up to 9 on most days from 8 Apr to 30 Aug, but 23 on 28 Aug. In May, 1 pair bred for the first time in the Maltese Islands, at Għadira, and from 30 May figures include 4 chicks from this breeding pair. At Salina: 14 on 13 Mar, 2–3 on two dates in Apr, singles on two dates in Jun, 1 on 2 Aug and 35 on 30 Aug. Outside Għadira and Salina, records include 22 at Ċirkewwa on 27 Mar, 1 at Anchor Bay on 7 Apr, 11 at Marsaskala on 13 Apr, 30 at L-Aħrax on 22 Apr, and 1–2 at Simar on 21–22 Jun.

Grey Plover (Pluviera Griza)

Pluvialis squatarola

2006. Singles at Salina on 12 May and on 6–10 Aug, at Marsaskala on 9 Aug and at Qawra on 10 Aug. Then 3 at Qawra

on 26 Aug, and singles at Marsaskala on 27 Aug and at St Elmo Point on 28–29 Aug.

2007. Singles at Kemmuna on 25 Apr, at Għadira on 30 Apr, at Marsaskala on 23 May and at Għadira on 24 May. In autumn, singles at Għadira on 5 Oct and at Qawra on 7 Oct and 7 Nov.

2008. Singles at Kemmuna on 18 Apr, at Salina on 27–30 Apr and on 8 May, and at Luqa Airport on 20 Sep.

2009. 1 at Qawra on 29 Aug.

2010. 1–2 on 30–31 Aug at Għallis. Singles on four dates from 2–28 Oct, but 5 at Qawra on 17 Oct. 1 at Luqa Airport on 13 Dec.

Eurasian Golden Plover (Pluviera)

Pluvialis apricaria

2006. Singles on 17 dates from 22 Oct to 7 Dec, but 16 at Qawra on 12 Nov. 1 at Haż-Żebbuġ on 27 Dec.

2007. Up to 15 on 24 dates from 19 Oct to 22 Dec, but 35 at Luqa Airport on 29 Nov.

2008. 5 records, all of singles from 27 Sep to 26 Dec.

2009. On 6 days from 2–28 Nov in single figures, with max. 8 at Qammieħ on 14 Nov. 1–2 on 8 days from 14–24 Dec, but 16 at Luqa Airport on 14 Dec.

2010. 1 at Għadira on 4 Jan. Single figures on 12 dates from 22 Oct to 27 Dec, but 19 at Qawra on 31 Oct and 85 at Luqa Airport on 12 Dec.

2011. 2 at Żonqor Point on 19 Feb, 1 at Ta' Ċenċ on 1 Mar and 15 at Fiddien on 8 Mar. In autumn, singles at Kemmuna on 28–29 Oct, 7 sightings of 1–6 from 12–28 Nov, but 16 at Luqa Airport on 17 Nov. 6 sightings of 1–2 from 11–27 Dec.

Eurasian Dotterel (Birwina)

Eudromias morinellus

2006. 1–3 on 7 dates from 14–30 Sep, but 8 at Għallis on 25 Sep. Then on 15 Oct, singles at Buskett and Ta' Ċenċ, and 3 at Mellieħa.

2007. 8 singles on 7 dates from 5 Sep to 31 Oct.

2008. 7 sightings of 1–2 on 6 dates from 6–30 Sep, but 3 from Dingli Cliffs on 27 Sep.

2009. Singles at Buskett on 26 Aug and at Girgenti on 8 Sep.

2010. 2 and 11 on 2nd, 14 on 11th and 2 on 18 Sep. Singles on 3 dates from 2–25 Oct.

2011. 1 at Foresta 2000 on 30 Mar. Singles at Ta' Ċenċ on 25 Aug and at Buskett on 26 Aug. 3 at Buskett on 6 Sep and singles at Kemmuna on 2nd and 27 Oct.

Common Ringed Plover (Monakella Prima)

Charadrius hiaticula

2006. Up to 5 regularly from 20 Apr to 1 Jun. 1 on 7 Jul, then 1–3 on 17 dates from 20 Aug to 13 Oct, all from Għadira and Salina, but 1 on 20 Aug at St Elmo Point.

2007. In all months from May to Dec, mostly at Għadira. 1–2 from 4 May to 11 Jun, then 1–3 on several dates from 5 Jul onwards, with 1 staying at Għadira from mid-Oct till end of year.

2008. Up to 7 on most days from 22 Apr to 14 Jun, mostly at Għadira. Then 1–2 almost daily from 30 Jul to 19 Oct, mostly singles at Għadira but 3 at Għadira on 28 Sep.

2009. 2 at Salina on 13–14 Apr and 1–4 almost daily in Apr–May at Għadira. 3 at Salina on 30 May and on 1 Jun. Singles at Għadira and Salina from 20 Jul to 22 Oct, with max. 6 at Għadira on 30 Aug.

2010. Up to 7 almost daily at Għadira from 21 Apr to 3 Jun. 2 at Luqa Airport on 5 May and 1 at Salina on 22 May. At Għadira, 1 on 31 Jul, then 1–2 on most days from 12 Aug to 22 Sep, but 5 on 19 Aug. Singles at Qawra on 8 Sep and 3 Oct. 1 at Salina on 13 Sep.

2011. Up to 6 at Għadira and Salina from 26 Apr to 14 May. Singles at Għadira from 29 Jul to 15 Aug, and up to 3 at Salina, Qawra and Għadira almost daily from 25 Aug to 19 Oct, but 4 at Għadira on 27th and 29 Aug.

Little Ringed Plover (*Monakella*)

Charadrius dubius

2006. At Għadira: daily from 2 Feb to 9 Jul, up to 9 till May, then 11 throughout most of Jun when breeding, and 20 on 8 Jul. Outside Għadira in spring, 1–2 on 17 dates mostly at Salina, with 9 there on 5 Apr. During autumn passage, 1–7 at Salina on most dates from 7 Jul to 4 Oct, 6 at Għadira on 1 Aug and 1 at Għallis on 27 Sep. 1–3 at Għadira on 1–13 Oct, then 1–2 there from 27 Oct till end of year.

2007. 1 at Għadira throughout Jan and Feb, then up to 6 in Mar and early Apr. Up to 6 pairs incubating and breeding at Għadira from mid-Apr to late July, 6 juvs with up to 15 ads present there from early Jun to early Aug. 1–8 from early Aug to mid-Oct, then 1 at Għadira till end of year. Outside Għadira, most sightings at Salina.

2008. 1 daily from 6 Jan to 4 Feb, increasing gradually to max. 15 daily till 17 Jul. 8 pairs bred at Għadira. Apart from Għadira: 19 other records of up to 10 from 3 Mar to 13 Jun. Then, up to 25 daily at Għadira from 18 Jul to 15 Sep and up to 5 till 6 Nov. Apart from Għadira, 19 other records of 1–4 from 18 Jul to 28 Sep, mostly at Salina.

2009. 1 at Għadira from 10–16 Jan, then up to 15 almost daily from 2 Mar to 26 Apr, mostly at Għadira, but 20 there on 15 Mar. Then up to 16 daily at Għadira from 27 Apr to 9 Jul, where 2 pairs bred, but 25 seen on 9 Jul. Up to 15 almost daily from 10 Jul to 17 Oct, again most records from Għadira.

2010. Mostly at Għadira. Up to 10 regularly from 20 Feb, but 18 on 4 May when chicks started hatching and up to 20 from 18 May. Decreasing to 2–8 from 5 Aug and up to 3 from 15 Sep to 6 Nov.

2011. Up to 4 from 28 Feb to 12 Mar and up to 12 daily at Għadira from 13 Mar to 12 May and on some dates at Simar and Salina. Up to 25 daily from same sites from 13 May to 25 Jul and 1 from Burmarrad, with chicks included in Għadira figures. Up to 7 daily from 26 Aug to 11 Nov mostly at Għadira but also Simar and Salina.

Kentish Plover (*Monakella Żgħira*)

Charadrius alexandrinus

2006. Singles at Għadira on 13 May, at Salina on 27 May and again at Salina on 9–10 Jul. Singles at St Elmo Point on 28 Aug and on 10 Sep; at Salina from 21–29 Sep and at Għadira on most days from 1–26 Oct. 3 at Marsaskala on 21 Sep.

2007. 1 at Għadira on 3–4 Jun.

2008. 1 at Qawra on 12 Mar and 2 at Marsaskala on 14 Apr. 2 at Marsaskala on 29 Aug and singles at Għadira on 18 Sep, 28 Sep and 2 Oct.

2009. 1 at Għadira on 8 Sep.

2011. Singles at Għadira on 14–16 May, 7 Jun, almost daily from 12 Jun to 11 Aug, and from 25–30 Sep.

Northern Lapwing (*Venewwa*)

Vanellus vanellus

2006. 1 at Għadira on 14 Apr. Up to 6 on 15 dates from 12 Oct to 8 Dec, but 14 at Luqa Airport on 19 Nov.

2007. 15 sightings of 1–11 from 11 Nov to 21 Dec, mostly at Luqa Airport.

2008. 3 at Simar on 23 Oct, and 1 at Għadira from 16 Nov to 22 Dec, but 6 on 24th and 3 on 28 Nov. 1 at Luqa Airport on 17 Nov, 2 at Salina on 21 Nov and 1 at Luqa Airport on 25 Dec.

2009. Low single figures on 11 dates from 28 Oct to 22 Dec (most in Dec), with max. 7 at Ta' Lambert on 31 Oct, and 8 at Luqa Airport on 21 Dec.

2010. Singles on 10–11 Jan at Qawra and Mselliet. 4 at Għadira on 20 Jan. 1 at Kemmuna and 2 at Għadira on 30 Oct, then 10 sightings of up to 19 from 11–23 Dec, but 45 on 12 Dec. Most Dec records at Luqa Airport.

2011. 5 at Foresta 2000 on 25 Feb. 1 injured bird at Għadira on 1 Apr. Singles at Luqa Airport on 11 and 13 Nov.

Whimbrel (*Gurlin Sekond*)

Numenius phaeopus

2006. 10 at Ċirkewwa and 40 over Red Tower (Mellieħa) on 25th and 27 Mar. Singles at Għallis on 7th and 16 Aug.

2007. 1 at St Paul's Bay on 29 Aug.

2008. 1 at Marsaskala on 29 Aug.

2009. 7 at Għallis on 22 Jun and 1 at Żonqor Point on 23 Aug.

Eurasian Curlew (*Gurlin*)

Numenius arquata

2006. 5 on 29 Mar and 26 on 30 Mar, both at Ċirkewwa. Singles at Manikata on 24 Jun, at Marsaskala on 9 Aug, and at Qawra on 5 Dec.

2007. 25 at Għajn Tuffieħa on 29 Mar, then singles from 2 locations on 4 Apr. In autumn, singles on 12 Oct, 3 Nov and 2 Dec.

2008. 4 sightings of 1–2 from 16 Mar to 1 Apr but 9 at Ċirkewwa on 19 Mar. 2 at Għadira on 9 Nov and 4 at Qawra on 11 Nov.

2009. Singles at Il-Majjistral Park on 16 Jan, at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 17 Apr and at Għadira from 13–15 Jul.

2010. 15 on 4th and 7 on 25 Mar at Ċirkewwa, 3 at Kemmuna on 2 Apr and 1 at Ġnien I-Għarusa tal-Mosta on 6 Apr. In autumn, 2 at Għadira on 28 Oct, 4 at Qawra on 7 Nov and 1 at Luqa Airport on 12 Dec.

2011. 5 on 19th, 10 on 23rd and 24 on 31 Mar, all from Kemmuna Channel. 6 over Għadira Bay on 29 Nov.

Bar-tailed Godwit (Girviel Nordiku)

Limosa lapponica

2006. 1 at Qawra on 11 Aug.

Black-tailed Godwit (Girviel Prim)

Limosa limosa

2006. 1 at Għadira on 3 Mar and 34 at Ċirkewwa on 14 Mar.

2007. 1 at Għadira on 18–25 Feb and 24 at Ċirkewwa on 7 Mar. 1 at Għadira on 15–18 Jul.

2008. 1 at Għadira from 3–11 Apr.

2010. 1 at Għadira from 18–23 Mar.

Ruddy Turnstone (Monakella Imperjali)

Arenaria interpres

2006. 1 at Żonqor Point on 6 May, then 1–2 on 6 dates from 5 Aug to 17 Sep, all along E coast.

2007. 1–2 at Marsaskala on 21st and 25 Apr, and singles at Għadira on 12–19 May and at Marsaskala on 22 May. Then 4 sightings of singles from 19–27 Aug.

2008. 1 at Għadira from 3–12 May.

2009. Singles at Għadira on most days from 2–8 May and at Salina from 9–13 May. 1–2 at Għadira daily from 15 May to 3 Jun. 1 at Qawra on 19 Sep.

2010. 2 at Qawra on 2 Sep and 2 at Għadira on 9 Sep.

2011. Up to 5 present at Qawra from 28 Aug to 12 Sep, but 8 on 31 Aug and 1 Sep.

Red Knot (Pispisella Ħamra)

Calidris canutus

2010. 1 at Għadira on 2 Sep.

Ruff (Girviel)

Calidris pugnax

2006. Up to 5 mostly at Għadira from 27 Feb to 7 May, singles at Salina and Simar on 12th and 25 May respectively, and 1–5 mostly at Għadira and Salina from 17 Jun to 10 Jul. Then 1–2 on 8 dates from 13 Aug to 4 Oct, but 9 at Pembroke on 10 Sep.

2007. 1–6 on several dates from 9 Mar to 28 May, mostly at Għadira. Singles on 4 dates from 29 Jul to 13 Aug, at Simar on 1–7 Sep, at Għadira on 11 Sep and from 17–25 Oct. Outside reserves: 4 at Buskett on 25 Sep and 1 at Dwejra (M) on 12 Oct.

2008. 1 at Għadira from 26 Feb to 3 Mar, 3 and 1 at Salina

on 7th and 11 Mar respectively. Then almost daily records of up to 10 from 30 Mar to 23 May, mostly at Għadira but 25 at Marsaskala on 3 Apr. Singles at Salina on 23 Jul and at Għadira from 24–26 Jul, 4 singles from 11–31 Aug and 7 records of 1–7 from 15–24 Sep. Up to 3 present daily at Għadira from 25 Sep to 9 Oct. 1 at Buskett on 19 Oct.

2009. Up to 4 daily at Għadira from 19 Mar to 9 Apr. Singles at Simar on 17 and 19 Apr. Again daily at Għadira from 20–30 Apr, mostly in low single figures, but low double figures on 25–28 Apr, with max. 14 on 26 Apr. Up to 7 at Għadira on 7–11 May and 6 other records of 1–2 from 13–25 May. 1–2 at Għadira from 29 Jun to 5 Jul, then singles on 4 other dates from 24–31 Jul. Singles also on 1–2 Aug and on 14th and 28 Sep. 25 at Simar on 12 Oct.

2010. Singles on 8th and 12 Mar at Salina and Kappuccini Valley respectively. 1–2 present at Għadira from 19 Mar to 28 Apr. 17 at Ċirkewwa on 28 Mar, singles at Wied is-Sewda and Simar on 8th and 19 Apr respectively. 1 at Għadira on 10–13 May. Singles on 22–23 Jul and 1 Aug, then 1–3 daily from 6–23 Aug at Għadira. 6 at Tal-Bardan on 18 Aug. 1–3 almost daily from 11 Sep to 21 Oct, mostly at Għadira, then 1 at Għadira till 4 Dec.

2011. At Għadira, 1–3 from 2 Mar to 6 Apr, then 7–27 till 15 Apr and 1–5 till 15 May. 1 at Għadira on 26 May. At other sites in spring: 1 at Ċirkewwa on 26 Mar and 15 records of 1–6 from 8 Apr to 3 May, mostly from Simar. 1 at Għadira on 1 Jul, 1–2 daily from 23 Jul to 3 Aug, all but 1 from Għadira. Singles again at Għadira from 10–16th and 27 Aug. 5 at Buskett on 27 Sep.

Broad-billed Sandpiper (Pispisella Bumunqar)

Calidris falcinellus

2006. 1 at Għadira on 10–14 May.

Curlew Sandpiper (Pispisella Ħamra)

Calidris ferruginea

2006. Up to 14 from 18 Apr to 1 Jun, all at Għadira and Salina. Return passage of 1–4 from 23 Jul to 20 Aug, again mostly at Għadira and Salina.

2007. Up to 9 on most dates from 27 Apr to 26 May. Then 1–6 on several dates from 18 Jul to 16 Sep, all at Għadira and Salina, but 4 at St Paul's Bay on 20 Aug.

2008. 1–10 daily from 9 Apr to 24 May at Għadira but 11 on 25 Apr, 15 on 9 May and 11 on 11 May. Apart from Għadira, 1–6 (but 11 on 4 May) at Salina on 12 dates and 1 at Għajn Tuffieħa on 11 May. Then, 1–10 daily from 22 Jul to 6 Sep but 12 at Salina on 23 Jul. 1 at Għadira on 28 Sep.

2009. Up to 3 daily at Għadira from 12–21 Apr and from 1–10 May. 1 at Salina on 15 May and up to 2 daily at Għadira from 16–20 May, but 18 on 17th. 1 at Għadira on 25 May. 1–3 almost daily from 18 Jul to 9 Sep, mainly at Simar and Għadira. Singles at Għadira on 14th and 16 Sep.

2010. Up to 8 on 16 dates from 9 Apr to 15 May. 1 on 22 Jun. 1–2 on 18 dates from 16 Jul to 26 Sep, all at Għadira except 2

at Simar on 11 May, 2 at Salina on 24 Jul and 1 at Qawra on 7 Sep.

2011. 1–2 on most days at Għadira from 7–30 Apr, 2–6 from 6–27 May but 9–19 on 9 dates. 1 on 6–9 Jun, up to 5 from 18 Jul to 14 Aug but 9 on 21 Jul. Outside Għadira: 1 at Salina from 23–26 Apr, 1–4 at Simar from 3–14 May and 24 May, 3–6 at Salina on 4 dates from 10–23 May, 3 at Salina on 20 Jul, 1 at Salina and at Simar on 30 Jul, 1–2 at Salina on 13–14 Aug, 2 at Marsaskala on 28 Aug, and 1 at Simar from 12–14 Sep.

Temminck's Stint (*Tertuxa Griza*)

Calidris temminckii

2006. 1–2 on 17th and 19 Apr and 1–2 from 21–24 May, all at Għadira.

2007. 1–2 on 19 dates from 8 Apr to 24 May, all but 1 at Għadira. Singles at Għadira on 16 Jul, on 29th and 31 Aug, at Simar on 1st and 3 Sep and at Għadira on 26 Sep.

2008. Singles at Għadira on 16 Apr and daily from 28 Apr to 2 May, 5 on 3 May, 2–3 daily from 4–10 May decreasing to 1 from 11–13 May. In autumn, singles at Għadira on 29 Jul, at Xrobb l-Għagin on 31 Jul and 6 singles at Għadira from 29 Jul to 28 Sep. Singles again at Għadira on 8th and 12 Oct.

2009. Singles on 14th and 26 Apr, then 1–2 almost daily from 6–22 May, all at Għadira. In autumn, singles on 11–12th and 17 Jul, at Simar on 3 Aug and again at Għadira from 19–21 Aug and from 24–25 Aug. 1 at Għadira on 25 Sep.

2010. All records from Għadira. 1–2 present almost daily from 24 Apr to 15 May but 5 from 8–11 May. Singles on 26th and 29 May. In autumn, singles on 19 Aug, 2 Sep, 11–20 Sep and 24 Sep.

2011. All records from Għadira. Singles from 6–11th and 20–21 Apr, then 8–10 from 22–24 Apr, and 1–2 on 15 dates from 25 Apr to 20 May. Singles on 8 Aug, 21 Aug, 7 Sep and 14 Sep.

Sanderling (*Pispisella Bajda*)

Calidris alba

2006. Singles at Għadira on 2–4 May, and at Qrejtjen Point on 30 Jul. 2 at Marsaskala on 6 Aug. Singles at Salina on 10–11th and 13 Aug, and on 12 Sep.

2007. Singles at Għadira on 6–8 May and at Salina on 15–17 May, then again at Salina on 11 Jul.

2008. Singles at Salina on 24th and 27 Apr and at Għadira on 25 Sep.

2009. Singles at Salina on 13–14 Apr and at Għadira from 21–27 Apr.

Dunlin (*Pispisella tad-Dabra*)

Calidris alpina

2006. 1 on 5 dates at Salina and Simar in Jan. Then regularly from 28 Jul till end of summer, with max. 10 at Salina on 10 Aug. Up to 4 in Oct, then 7 at Għallis on 1 Nov and 2 at Għadira till end of year.

2007. 2 at Għadira throughout Jan and 1 at Salina on 24

Mar. In autumn, 1–7 from 26 Jul till end Sept, then 1–3 present at Għadira till end of year. 4 on 25 Oct and 7 on 1 Nov, both at Qawra.

2008. 1–10 daily from 22 Jul to 30 Sep. In Oct, 1–2 on 3 dates at Salina and daily records of up to 7 at Għadira. Then, 1–3 daily at Għadira from 1–19 Nov and 1 present from 20 Nov to 20 Dec at Għadira. 1–2 at Salina on 20th and 23 Dec.

2009. Singles at Salina on 7 dates from 20 Jan to 26 Mar. 1 at Għadira on 1 Apr. In autumn, almost daily from 18 Jul to 15 Aug in low single figures with 5 at Għadira on 6th and 8 Aug. 1 at Għadira from 30 Aug to 1 Sep, then daily from 8 Sep to 2 Nov, all in single figures but 10 at Għadira on 30 Sep. Up to 3 on 12 other days from 5–30 Nov and 1 at Għadira on 8 Dec.

2010. 1 at Salina on 5 Feb. Up to 5 on several days from 6 Jul till end of year, mostly at Għadira but also at Salina, Simar and Għallis, but 7 at Għadira on 13–14 Sep.

2011. At Għadira, singles from 25–28 Mar and on 26 dates from 7 Apr to 26 May. Singles almost daily from 16 Jun to 15 Jul at Għadira and Salina, then up to 8 on most days from 16 Jul to 26 Oct, mostly at Għadira, but also Salina, Simar and Qawra. 1 daily from 17 Oct to 18 Nov at Għadira.

Little Stint (*Tertuxa*)

Calidris minuta

2006. From 15 Mar to 6 Jun in single to low double figures of up to 40 on most dates, almost all from Għadira and Salina, but 70 at Għadira on 13–14 May. Regular from 23 Jul, mostly at Salina and at several sites along low-lying E shoreline of Malta, mostly up to 20, but 25 at Għadira on 1 Aug and 22 at Għallis on 6 Aug.

2007. On most dates from 20 Mar to 19 Jun, mostly in single figures, but 30 at Għadira on 1 May and 19 at Salina on 19 May. Almost daily again from 20 Jul to 23 Oct, mostly in single figures but 10–25 from late Jul to late Aug.

2008. Up to 30 daily from 23 Mar to 29 May, but 35 on 9 May and 40 on 11 May, both at Għadira. Most spring records at Għadira but 1–10 on some dates at Simar and Salina and 30 at Għajn Tuffieħa on 4 Apr. Singles at Għadira on 4th, 10th and 12 Jun. Then, up to 20 daily from 22 Jul to 17 Nov. 1 at Salina on 12 Dec.

2009. Up to 20 daily at Għadira from 17 Mar to 5 Jun. In single figures at Salina throughout Apr and May, but 16 on 13 Apr and 12 on 14 Apr. Max. 16 at Simar on 13 Apr. Single and double figures at Għadira and Simar from 17 Jul till end of year, with max. 20 at Għadira on 20–27 Sep.

2010. Daily at Għadira from 13 Mar to 3 Jun in single and double figures of up to 25, but 35 on 10 Apr. 2 and 5 at Salina on 13th and 25 Apr respectively. 1 at Għadira on 4–5 Jul. Up to 30 almost daily at Għadira from 18 Jul to 16 Oct but 50 on 26–27 Jul. At Simar and Salina 1–4 irregularly from 23 Jul to 22 Sep. 6 sightings of 2–21 from Qawra and Għallis from 30 Aug to 12 Sep. 1 at Għadira from 22–29 Dec.

2011. Singles at Għadira on 1–2 Jan, at Simar on 1 Feb,

and again at Għadira on 25–26 Feb. 1–3 on most days from 5 Mar to 6 Apr, up to 20 almost daily from 7 Apr to 31 May, mostly at Għadira but also at Simar and Salina. 1 at Għadira on 1–10 Jun. Up to 12 on most dates from 13 Jul to 3 Oct, mostly at Għadira, Salina and Simar. 1 at Għadira on 14–21 Oct.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (Girwiel Amerikan)

Calidris subruficollis

2010. 1 trapped in Nov l/o Hal Far, released at Għadira on 22 Apr 2011.

Pectoral Sandpiper (Pispisella Amerikana)

Calidris melanotos

2009. 1 at Għadira on 13 Jun.

Eurasian Woodcock (Gallina)

Scolopax rusticola

2006. Singles at Hal Luqa on 2 Feb and at Foresta 2000 on 30 Nov.

2007. 1 at Buskett on 21 Jan. 12 singles on 9 dates from 4 Nov to 7 Dec, but 2 at Għadira on 13 Nov.

2008. Singles at Kemmuna on 31 Oct, and at Għadira on 8 Nov and 4 Dec.

2009. Singles at Saqqajja on 5 Nov and at Mistra on 22 Nov.

2010. Singles at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 11 Jan and at Buskett on 27 Nov.

2011. Singles at Foresta 2000, Għadira and Buskett on 6 dates from 9 Nov to 17 Dec.

Great Snipe (Bekkaċċ ta' Mejju)

Gallinago media

2006. Singles at Simar on 7 May and at Għadira on 14th and 17 May.

2008. Singles at Għadira on 16–17 Apr and at Simar from 26 Apr to 2 May.

2010. Singles at Ramla Valley on 7th and 17 Apr.

2011. Singles at Wied Għajn Rihana from 9–11 Apr, at Għadira on 22 Apr, and 1–2 at Simar from 10–12 May.

Common Snipe (Bekkaċċ)

Gallinago gallinago

2006. Singles on 11 Jan and 15 Feb, then 13 singles at Għadira or Simar from 1 Apr to 7 May. 1 at St Elmo Point on 23 Sep. 1–4 at Simar and Għadira from 1 Oct till end of year. Outside reserves: 1 at Qawra on 15 Oct and 1 at Luqa Airport on 12 Nov.

2007. 1–5 at Għadira from 1 Jan to 10 Apr. 1 at Marsa on 7 Feb and 1–2 at Simar on 5 dates in Feb. Singles at Dwejra (G) on 18 Mar and at Haż-Żebbuġ on 21 Mar, then 5 at Lunzjata Valley on 4 Apr, and 1–2 on 7 dates from 14 Apr to 25 May. 1 at Simar on 1 Aug, then regularly from 5 Sep till end of year, mostly at Għadira and Simar.

2008. Up to 3 wintering at Simar and up to 2 at Għadira from

1 Jan to end of Mar. 2 at Marsa on 5 Jan and 1 at Marsalforn on 8 Mar. 1–2 on 15 dates from 1 Apr to 12 May, mostly at Simar. 4 on 2 Aug at Simar, then 1–5 daily from 25 Aug to 30 Nov but 7 at Simar on 21 Nov and 6 at Salina on 26 Nov. In Dec, up to 3 wintering at Simar till end of year, and 1 on 5th and 3 on 22 Dec at Salina.

2009. Up to 5 wintering at Simar from 1 Jan to 5 Mar. Singles at Salina on 27 Jan and at Kemmuna on 24 Feb. 1–3 on 19 dates from 13 Mar to 15 Apr and singles at Simar on 3 dates from 9–25 May. In autumn, 1–2 at Simar on most dates from 20–31 Aug, then 1–2 almost daily from 12 Sep to 2 Nov. 1–3 on 18 dates from 10 Nov to 27 Dec, all at Simar except 1 at Għadira on 3 Dec.

2010. At Simar 1–3 on 45 dates from 3 Jan to 8 Apr, with most in Mar and 1–2 on 20–21 May. At Għadira 1–2 on 7 dates in Mar and Apr and 4 singles at 4 other sites. In autumn, 9 records of 1–2 in Sep, then singles in Oct on most days at Simar, but up to 4 on 30 Oct and 1–7 on most days in Nov and Dec. 1–3 at some other sites including Għadira, but 8 from Qawra on 6 Dec.

2011. 1–5 at Simar from 1 Jan to 17 Mar, then singles from 27–30 Mar and from 4 Apr to 3 May. 1–2 mostly at Għadira but also Wied Għajn Rihana and Salina from 6 Mar to 18 May. 1 at Buskett on 22 Aug, then 1–3 on most days from 7 Sep to 18 Dec, but 4 at Simar on 12 Nov.

Jack Snipe (Ċinkonja)

Lyminocryptes minimus

2006. Singles at Ramla Dam and Għadira on 15th and 27 Mar respectively. 1 at Simar on 24th and 31 Dec.

2007. At Simar, 1–2 from 1 Jan to 21 Feb and 1 on 9 dates from 3 Mar to 1 Apr. Singles at Għadira on 5 dates in Feb and 1 at Lunzjata Valley on 4 Apr. Singles at Għadira, Salina and Simar on 6 dates from 29 Sep to 3 Dec.

2008. Singles at Simar on 2–6 Apr and from 22–24 Nov, 2 on 5 Dec and 1 from 24–28 Dec. 1 at Xagħra l-Hamra on 31 Dec.

2009. 1–2 on 42 dates from 1 Jan to 10 Apr, all at Simar but singles at Għadira on 17 Jan and at Kappuccini Valley on 28 Mar. 1–2 at Simar from 14–23 Nov.

2010. Singles at Għadira on 3 Mar and at Simar on 5–6 Apr. Singles at Simar on 16 Dec and at Għadira on 20 Dec.

2011. Singles at Għadira on 5 dates from 16–29 Jan and on 22 Mar, 24 Mar, 13 Apr, 22 Apr, 15 Nov and 24–25 Dec.

Common Sandpiper (Pispisella)

Actitis hypoleucos

2006. 1–2 during Jan and Feb at Salina and St Elmo Point, then almost daily from 1 Mar to 17 May, in low single figures, with max. 6 on 3 dates in second half of Apr. Return passage from 29 Jun with almost daily sightings till 22 Oct, mostly up to 13, but 20 at Għadira on 20 Jul, 21 at Kemmuna on 26 Jul and 18 at Qawra on 20 Aug. Up to 3 from 4 Nov till end of year.

2007. Throughout year except second half of Jun, at

reserves and coastal areas. All in low single figures, but higher numbers of up to 7 in spring and in autumn. 10 at Mistra on 24 Jul and 14 at St Paul's Bay on 19 Aug.

2008. Up to 2 wintering at Għadira and up to 3 at Salina from Jan to 31 Mar, but 4 at Għadira on 25 Mar and 1 at Marsaskala on 17 Mar. 1–5 daily from 1 Apr to 28 May. In Jun, 1 at Għadira from 12–18 Jun and 5 singles on 3 other dates. Then, 1–5 daily from 1 Jul to 30 Sep but 6 at Simar on 13 Aug and 9 at St Elmo Point on 18 Aug. Then daily mostly 1–2 from 1 Oct till end of year, mostly birds wintering at Għadira, Salina and around coast.

2009. In all months on most days, in single figures, mostly singles but 8 at Għallis on 27 Aug. Most sightings from Għadira, Simar and Salina.

2010. 1–4 almost daily from 1 Jan to 13 May. Singles at Simar on 20–21 May and at Għadira on 29 May. Then singles from 28 Jun till end of year, most at Għadira and Salina, Simar and other coastal sites, but 5 at Simar on 26 Jul and 23 Aug, and 5 at Għadira on 8–9 Nov.

2011. Singles on 25 dates from 1 Jan to 25 Feb from 7 sites, but most at Għadira. Singles daily from 1–17 Mar at Għadira and Salina, 1–4 daily from 18 Mar to 30 Apr but 6 at Salina on 10 Apr and 5 at Għadira on 24 Apr. 1–2 on most days from 3–27 May. 1 at Simar on 1st and 17 Jun, then 1–5 almost daily from 24 Jun to 6 Sep with multiple sightings from different sites on most days, but 30 at Għallis on 4 Aug. 27 sightings of 1–2 from 7 Sep to 30 Oct, 2 at Salina on 9 Nov and 1 at Għadira on 19 Nov. Singles at Salina on 3 dates in Dec.

Green Sandpiper (Swejda)

Tringa ochropus

2006. 1 on 27 Jan and 2 on 13 Feb, both at Għadira, then 1–6 on 18 dates from 5 Mar to 20 Apr. On 4 dates in May, on 6 dates in Jun and on 4th and 9 Jul, all singles at Għadira and Simar. 1–3 on 15 dates from 27 Jul to 8 Oct, and 1 at Għadira on 15 Nov.

2007. 1 at Għadira on 23 Feb, then 1–5 on 23 dates from 7 Mar to 12 Apr. In autumn, 1–6 on most dates from 15 Jun to 4 Sep, then singles on 12 dates till 25 Oct.

2008. 1 at Simar on 22 Feb, 2 at Għadira on 24 Feb and 1 at Għadira on 26 Feb, then 1–3 almost daily from 9 Mar to 27 Apr. From 15 Jun to 9 Oct, 1–4 almost daily, but 6 on 19 Aug at Għadira and 5 on 22 Aug, also at Għadira. Singles at Għadira on 26 Oct and 4 Nov.

2009. 1 at Simar on 28 Jan. Singles on 6 dates from 18–28 Feb and 3 on 3 Mar and 1 on 5 Mar, both from Għadira. Then single figures almost daily from 10–31 Mar, with max. 8 at Għadira on 19 Mar. 1–3 on 10 dates from 4–23 Apr and 1 at Simar from 4–6 May. 1 on 9th and up to 4 on 11–13 Jun, both at Għadira. Frequently in low single figures from 24 Jun to 19 Aug mainly at Għadira and Simar, with max. 5 at Għadira on 8 Aug. 1–3 on 14 dates from 24 Aug to 17 Sep. 1 at Simar on 14th and 28 Oct and 1 at Għadira on 1–2nd and 11 Nov.

2010. 5 sightings of 1–2 from 22 Feb to 3 Mar. From 7 Mar, 1–5 on most days till 18 Apr, but 9 at Simar on 8 Mar. 3 sightings of 1–2 on 28th and 30 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 13 May. 6 single sightings in Jun, then 1–4 almost daily from 1 Jul to 14 Aug, but 7 on 6 Aug at Għadira. 23 sightings of 1–4 from 20 Aug to 25 Oct, but 9 on 2 Sep at Għadira. 1–2 on 3 dates from 19–25 Nov and 1 on 15 Dec at Għadira. 1 at Simar on 19 Dec.

2011. Singles on 1st, 26th and 31 Jan and 25 Feb at reserves. 3 at Għadira on 1 Mar, then 1–3 on most days from 7 Mar to 27 Apr, but 5 at Għadira on 23 Mar. 1 on 6 May. 1–5 on most days from 6 Jun to 7 Sep. 3 sightings of 1–2 from 18–25 Sep and singles on 4 dates from 28 Oct to 14 Nov. 2 at Għadira on 26 Nov.

Spotted Redshank (Ċuvett)

Tringa erythropus

2006. 1 at Għadira on 3 Mar, 7 at Għadira on 21 Apr, and singles at Salina on 22 Apr and at Għadira on 26 Apr.

2007. Singles on 30 Jun, 11 Jul, 6 Aug and 14 Aug and 2 on 11 Nov, all at Għadira.

2008. Singles at Salina on 29 Apr, at Għadira on 15–16 Aug, at Għadira and at Simar on 7 Nov and at Għadira on 14 Nov.

2009. 1 at Għadira on 9 Mar then low single figures daily at Għadira from 21 Mar to 8 Apr with max. 5 on 25 Mar. Singles daily at Għadira from 24–28 Apr and at Simar on 28–29 Apr. 1 at Salina on 28 Jun and 3 at Għadira on 6 Jul. In autumn, singles at Għadira on 14 dates from 12 Aug to 17 Oct.

2010. Singles at Għadira on 23 Jun, at Simar and Għadira on 28 Jun and at Għadira on 2 Sep and 9 Oct. 2 on 29 Oct and singles on 30 Oct and 6 Nov at Għadira.

2011. Singles at Salina on 30 Jun and at Mellieħa on 7 Nov.

Common Greenshank (Ċewċewwa)

Tringa nebularia

2006. 1–3 on 8 dates from 5–21 Apr, all at Għadira and Salina. 1 at Għadira on 3 Jun, then daily at Għadira from 29 Jun to 9 Jul, mostly in singles, but 2 on 30 Jun. Singles on 11 dates from 23 Jul to 17 Sep mostly from Salina and Qawra, and 3 at Qawra on 21 Sep.

2007. 1 on 16 Mar, then 1–4 on most dates from 1 Apr to 13 May, mostly at Għadira. Singles at Simar on 1 Jun and at Għadira on 14 Jun. Then on several dates from 1 Jul to 29 Sep, in low single figures, with max. 7 at Għadira on 17 Jul.

2008. 1 at Għajn Tuffieħa on 16 Mar, then 1–4 almost daily from 28 Mar to 16 May, mostly at Għadira. 1–2 daily from 12–31 Jul. 1–2 on 10 dates from 8 Aug to 29 Sep. 1 at Kemmuna on 20 Oct.

2009. 1–2 daily at Għadira from 19 Mar to 10 Apr. Singles also at Għadira on 21–22 Apr and 1 May. 1–2 on 10 days from 5–29 Jul, and up to 3 on 5 days from 6–19 Aug. Singles on 4 days in Sep and 1 on 21 Oct. Most autumn records from Għadira.

2010. 18 singles from 23 Mar to 10 Apr. Then 1 at Simar

from 23–28 Apr. Singles at Għadira on 22 dates from 29 Apr to 1 Jun. 1–2 at Għadira on most dates from 26 Jun to 20 Sep, then 2 late singles on 11th and 26 Nov. Outside Għadira: 1 at Tas-Safra on 18 Jul, 1 at Kemmuna on 1–2 Sep, 1 at Simar on 6 Sep and 4 records from Qawra from 7–22 Sep.

2011. Most sightings from Għadira. 1–3 on most days from 28 Mar to 7 Jun but 8 on 6 Apr, 4–5 on 23–26 Apr and 6 on 9 May. 1–2 on most days from 29 Jun to 15 Jul and 1–2 on most days from 7–30 Aug. Singles on 8th, 19th and 27 Sep, and 23 Oct.

Common Redshank (Pluverott)

Tringa totanus

2006. Singles on 7 Feb, 15th and 24 Mar, on 4 dates from 5–14 Apr, then 1–2 on most days from 13 Jun to 4 Jul. Singles again on 14 Aug and on 3rd and 25 Sep. Most sightings from Għadira and Salina.

2007. Singles at Għadira on 20th and 25 Mar and on 18 Apr, and at Salina on 19–20 Apr. 1–4 on most days from 3 Jun to 29 Jul, almost all at Salina and Għadira. 1 at Salina on 23 Aug, 3 at Għadira on 27 Oct and 1 at Għadira on 5 Nov.

2008. Singles at Salina on 8 Mar and at Għadira on 1 Apr, then 1–2 daily at Għadira from 24 Apr to 3 Jun. 1 at Salina on 5 dates in Apr. Singles daily at Għadira from 26–29 Jun, and from 22 Sep to 3 Oct. At Salina, singles from 12–14th and 30 Jul. At Simar, 1 on 21 Jul.

2009. At Għadira, 1 on 5 Feb then 1–2 almost daily from 6–22 Mar. 1–2 in different sites on 4 dates from 26–31 Mar. 1 at Għadira on 7 Apr and 1 at Salina on 13–14 Apr. 1–4 almost daily at Għadira and Simar from 12–30 Jun. Singles again at Għadira and Simar on most days from 3–16 Jul. 1 on 30 Jul and 1–2 on 8 dates from 1–22 Aug and on 3 dates from 22–29 Sep. Singles on 1st and 3 Oct.

2010. 2 on 8 Mar and 1 daily from 22–28 Mar at Għadira. 2 at Simar and singles at Salina on 10th and 30 Apr. 1–3 at Għadira on 5 dates in Jun but 5 on 24 Jun. 1 at Għajn Tuffieħa on 29 Jun. 1–2 daily from 10–19 July at Għadira. Singles at St Thomas Bay on 2 Aug, at Għadira 16 Oct and at Simar on 23 Oct.

2011. Singles on 6 dates from 11–27 Mar at Salina and Għadira. 1 at Salina from 8–12 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 21st and 23 Apr. 1–2 at Għadira from 10–16 Jun. 1–3 daily from 27 Jun to 4 Jul from 3 different sites. Singles at Għadira and Simar from 18–22 Jul but 5 at Salina on 19 Jul.

Wood Sandpiper (Swejda Ċara)

Tringa glareola

2006. 4 at Salina on 5 Mar, then 1–7 regularly from 24 Mar to 27 May, mostly at Għadira, Simar and Salina. Singles on 6 dates from 13 Jun to 16 Jul, but 20 at Għadira on 8 Jul. 1–4 on 10 dates from 12 Aug to 20 Sep, but 22 at Salina on 13 Aug. Then 1 at Għadira on 1–7 Oct.

2007. 1–6 on most dates from 18 Mar to 2 May, mostly at Għadira, but 10–20 on 3 dates at Simar from 12–24 Apr.

Singles on 19th and 28 May and 9 Jun, then regularly from 25 Jun to 22 Sep. Mostly 1–8, but 55 at Simar on 1 Aug and on 5 Aug, and 127 at Għadira also on 5 Aug.

2008. 1–5 on most days from 21 Mar to 15 May but 15 at Għadira on 1 Apr. Singles on 3 dates from 28 May to 12 Jun. Then, 1–5 on most dates from 29 Jun to 25 Sep. At Għadira, singles on 8 dates from 3 Oct to 4 Nov, and 1 on 20 Dec.

2009. 1–5 on 9 dates from 17–31 Mar, then almost daily from 3–24 Apr. Then 1–6 almost daily from 29 Apr to 17 May. 2 on 21st and 1 on 29 May, most from Għadira and Simar. 1 at Għadira on 25–26 Jun and 4 at Simar on 26 Jun. 1 at Simar on 2 Jul then single figures daily from 4 Jul to 1 Sep but 12 on 26 Jul and 10 on 23 Aug, both at Għadira. 1–3 on 18 other dates from 3–30 Sep, and 1–2 almost daily at Għadira from 1–26 Oct.

2010. 3 sightings of 1–2 from 16–19 Mar, all at Għadira. 1–10 on most days from 28 Mar to 12 May, but 17 at Salina on 10th, 14 on 25th, 70 on 26th and 25 on 30 Apr, all at Għadira. 2 at Simar on 24 May and 2 at Għadira on 25th and 31 May. 46 sightings of 1–6 from 30 Jun to 15 Sep. Singles at Għadira on 5th and 16 Oct.

2011. 1 at Għadira from 12–16 Mar, then 1–15 daily from 26 Mar to 14 May, but 20–30 at Għadira on 6 Apr, at Simar and Salina on 21 Apr and 41 at Kemmuna on 16 Apr. 7 sightings of 1–2 from 17–30 May. 1–3 on 21st, 26th and 29 Jun. 1–7 almost daily from 1 Jul to 31 Aug but 65 at Għadira on 17 Aug. 6 sightings of 1–2 from 4–14 Sep.

Marsh Sandpiper (Ċewċewwa Żgħira)

Tringa stagnatilis

2006. Singles at Għadira on 5 Apr, 25 Apr and 26 Jun.

2007. Singles at Għadira on 16 Mar and 28 Apr, at Salina on 21 Mar and at Simar from 19–27 Jul.

2008. All records from Għadira. Singles on most days from 27 Mar to 16 Apr, but 3 on 2–3 Apr. Singles from 26–28 Apr, from 22–30 Jun and on 17–18 Aug.

2009. Singles from 24–28 Mar and 1–2 from 7–12 Apr. Singles on 4 Jul, 23 Jul, 14 Aug, from 30 Aug to 6 Sep and on 20 Sep. All records from Għadira.

2010. Singles at Għadira on 12–13 Apr, 15–17 Jun, 25 Jun, 25–26 Jul and 6 Sep. At Simar singles on 27 Jul and on 1 Sep.

2011. 2 on 20 Apr and 1 on 16th and 18 Jul, all at Għadira.

Cream-colored Courser (Nankina)

Cursorius cursor

2008. 1 at Luqa Airport from 21–23 May.

2009. 2 on 4–5th and 1 on 17 Feb, both at Luqa Airport.

Collared Pratincole (Perniċjotta)

Glareola pratincola

2008. 1 at Luqa Airport and at Baħar ic-Ċagħaq on 12 Apr, 1 on 14th and 3 on 23 Apr, both at Luqa Airport.

2009. 1 at Kemmuna on 3 May.

2010. 1 at Safi on 25 Apr and 1 at Għadira on 19 Sep.

Little Gull (Gawwija Żgħira)***Hydrocoloeus minutus***

2006. Singles at Ċirkewwa on 10 Feb and at Qawra on 3 dates from 14–26 Feb.

2007. Singles at Rinella on 18 Feb and at Marsa Race Course on 31 Dec.

2008. 1–2 at Simar from 24–26 Jan. 1 at Għadira on 17 Feb.

2009. 1–2 on four dates from 12 Jan to 1 Feb, all at Għadira.

2011. 1 at Għadira on 26th and 28 Dec.

Black-legged Kittiwake (Gawwija tal-Ingilterra)***Rissa tridactyla***

2006. Singles at Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq on 15 Jan, at Rinella on 22 Jan, at St Elmo Point on 29 Jan and at Pembroke on 3–4 Nov.

2007. 1 on 13 Nov and 2 on 6 Dec, both at Qawra.

2008. 1 at Għar Lapsi on 24 Jan.

2009. 1 at Qawra on 26 Jan. Singles from various localities on most days from 9–15 Feb. Singles at Valletta on 18 Feb and at Wied il-Mielah on 22 Feb. At Ċirkewwa, 1 on 2nd, 2 on 9th and 3 on 11 Mar. 1 offshore on 28 Mar.

Slender-billed Gull (Gawwija Munqarha Rqiq)***Larus genei***

2006. 6 sightings from 14 Jan to 22 Apr, all singles but 4 at Ċirkewwa on 26 Mar. 1–3 on 4 dates from 8–25 Aug, and 3 on 17 Sep. Then up to 8 on 10 dates from 7 Oct to 2 Nov, but 16 at St Elmo Point on 29 Oct.

2007. 1 at Salina from 1 Jan to mid-Feb, 28 at Għajn Tuffieħa on 29 Mar, 1 on 30 Mar and 2 on 22 Apr. 1–8 on 31 dates from 30 Jul till end of year.

2008. 11 sightings of 1–4 birds from 4 Mar to 3 Apr. 8 at Għadira on 11 Apr, 1 offshore Gozo on 4 May and 1 on 25 Jul from Delimara. 1 on 2 Aug at Salina and 2 on 11 Aug at St Elmo Point. 9 at Qawra on 12 Oct.

2009. 3 at Marsaxlokk on 14 Jan, 1 at St Elmo Point on 3 Feb and 9 at Għadira on 1 May. 1 at Għadira from 7–9 Jul. Single figures on 6 dates from 12 Sep to 18 Oct, with max. 6 at Qawra on 26 Sep and 6 at Għadira on 3 Oct. 1 at Birżebbuġa on 25 Dec.

2010. 4 at Ċirkewwa on 26 Mar. Singles at Għadira on 10 May and 8 Jul. 1–2 on 8 dates from 12 Sep to 26 Oct, mostly from Qawra. 5 at L-Aħrax on 28 Oct and 1 at Salina on 27 Dec.

2011. 4 singles and 3 records of 6–19 from 16 Mar to 30 Apr, all from around Kemmuna Channel. 2 at Simar and Għadira on 12 May. 1–2 at Qawra on 15 Aug and 24–25 Sep and 2 at Salina on 27 Dec.

Black-headed Gull (Gawwija Rasha Kannella)***Larus ridibundus***

2006. In double to low treble figures from Jan to mid-Mar, mainly in the main harbours, with up to 550 at Marsa on 24 Feb, then 1–2 till 11 Apr, mainly at Salina. 1–4 at Salina from 5–8

July, 2 on 30 Jul, 1–3 from 28 Aug to 3 Sep, and 1–2 on 18–19 Sep. Then in single to mostly low double figures on most dates from Oct to Dec, with max. 400 at St Elmo Point on 31 Dec.

2007. Regularly in treble figures in Jan and early Feb with max. 1000 at St Elmo Point on 28 Jan, then decreasing to single and low double figures till 24 Mar. 1 at Salina on 8 Jul, then on several dates from 26 Jul onwards, mostly in single figures till end Oct, increasing to treble figures from end Nov, with max. 650 at Marsa Racecourse on 26 Dec.

2008. Up to 50 birds on most days from Jan to 9 Mar. 4 records of 100+ with max. 300 at Rinella on 5 Feb. Then 1–3 on 4 dates from 12–15 Mar. 6 at Għadira on 14 Apr. In summer, 1 at Għadira on 21 Jun, 1–4 on various dates at St Elmo Point from 19 Jul to 27 Aug and 1 at Kemmuna Channel on 23 Aug. 1–5 on 11 dates from 19 Sep to 31 Oct but 25 on 28 Oct. Then up to 40 on most days from 3 Nov till end of year, but 200 at Ta' Xbiex on 23 Nov.

2009. Almost daily in single and double figures with occasional treble numbers, along coast from 1 Jan to 29 Mar, with max. 600 on 23 Jan at Marsa. 2 on 6 April at Għadira, singles at Salina on 23–24 Jun, at Għadira on 30 Jun and on 21 Jul near Għar Hasan. Then from 9 Oct almost daily till end of year in single and double figures, with max. 70 at Manoel Island on 9 Dec.

2010. Up to 70 almost daily from 1 Jan to 14 Mar, but 200 at Marsa on 16 Jan and at Valletta Breakwater on 10 Mar. 7 sightings from 23 Jun to 26 Jul and 4 on 24 Jul at Qawra. 1 on 29 Aug, then up to 120 on most days from 22 Sep till end of year, but 150 on 20th and 24 Dec at Valletta Breakwater.

2011. In single and double figures on most days from Jan to 10 Mar but up to 100 on 4 dates and 300 at Marsa on 24 Feb. 5 sightings of 1–6 from 14–22 Mar. 1 at Għadira on 12–13 Jun. Singles on 3 dates from 29 Jun to 31 Jul. 8 at Salina on 2 Aug and singles on 5 dates from 6 Aug to 4 Sep. 2 at Qawra on 21 Sep and 13 Oct. 15 at Qawra on 17 Oct and 2 at Mellieħa Bay on 18 Oct. Up to 100 regularly on most days from 2 Nov till end of year but 150 at Marsa on 27 Dec.

Mediterranean Gull (Gawwija Rasha Sewda)***Larus melanocephalus***

2006. Regular mostly in main harbours throughout winter until 19 Mar, mostly in double to low treble figures, with max. 300 off Rinella on 22 Jan. Singles on 7 Apr and 30 Jul. In autumn from 10 Oct till end of year, in single to double figures of up to 60, but 120 at St Elmo Point on 31 Dec.

2007. Up to 80 on several dates from 1 Jan to 1 Apr, but treble figures at end Jan to beginning Feb, with max. 600 at Rinella on 11 Feb. Singles at Għallis on 31 Jul and at Għadira on 11 Aug, then 1–2 at St Elmo Point on 1–9 Sep. Regularly again from 8 Oct, increasing to treble figures by Nov, with max. 600 off Qawra on 11 Nov, then in lower numbers, mostly up to 150, throughout Dec.

2008. 44 records of up to 50 from 1 Jan to 4 Apr but 300

at Rinella on 5 Feb and 72 at Ċirkewwa on 1 Mar. Singles on 4 May at Birgu, at St Elmo Point on 18 Jul and 5 Aug and at Qawra on 19 Sep. Then 29 records of up to 25 from 12 Oct till end of year, but 40 at Qawra on 25 Nov.

2009. Single to double figures from 1 Jan to 31 Mar, but 300 at St Elmo Point on 9 Feb, and 200 on 15th and 150 on 18 Feb at Valletta Breakwater. Single to low double figures from 18 Oct till end of year, with max. 50 at Qawra on 28 Dec.

2010. Up to 150 on several dates from 1 Jan to 29 Mar, but 300 at Qawra on 14 Jan and 200 at Valletta Breakwater on 16 Feb. Singles on 17–18th and 22 May at Salina. 1–2 regularly from 20 Jun to 27 Jul, mostly at Salina. Then up to 125 again present from 15 Oct till end of year, but 150 on 20 Dec.

2011. In single, double and treble figures of up to 400 on 32 dates from 1 Jan to 28 Mar but 700 on 24 Feb at Marsa. Singles on 31 Jul and 28 Aug and 5 on 21 Sep at Qawra. On 28 dates from 13 Oct till end of year in single, double and treble figures of up to 450, but 700 at Marsa on 20 Dec.

Audouin's Gull (Gawwija Munqarha Ahmar)

Larus audouinii

2006. Singles at Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq on 12 Feb and at Ċirkewwa on 13 Mar. Regularly with up to 4 from 3 Aug to 5 Oct, most along NE coast, then on 9 dates from 17 Oct to 24 Dec, all in singles but 3 at St Elmo Point on 13 Dec.

2007. 1–2 on 8 dates from 1 Jan to 25 Mar from several coastal areas. 1 at Bengħisa on 5 Jul, then regularly from 29 Jul to 7 Oct, mostly 1–7 but 9 on 19 Aug and up to 15 from 2–8 Sep, all at St Elmo Point. 1–4 on 10 dates from 28 Oct till end of year.

2008. Singles at Għallis on 1 Apr and at Marsaskala on 14 Apr. 27 sightings on 21 dates of 1–2 from 21 Jul to 28 Sep, but 3 at Qawra on 19th and 22 Sep. Then 9 sightings of 1–2 on 7 dates from 28 Nov to 22 Dec, all from Qawra but 2 at Għadira on 11 Dec.

2009. 1 at Qawra on 18 Feb. Then on 8 dates in Aug in single figures, with max. 8 at Għallis on 5 Aug. Singles on 15th and 26 Sep. 2 on 4th and 1 on 17 Oct.

2010. 2 at Qawra and 1 at Salina on 14 Feb. Singles at Għadira on 6 Apr and at Qawra on 25 Apr. 2 on 6 May at Għadira and 4 on 31 Jul at Għallis. 10 singles from 29 Aug to 26 Sep but 2 on 2nd and 13 Sep, and 3 on 26 Sep, mostly from Qawra. Singles on 8–9th and 22 Nov.

2011. Singles at Ċirkewwa on 19 Feb and at Żonqor Point on 23 Feb. Singles on 1st and 7 May. 1–5 on 18 dates from 27 Jul to 20 Sep from Qawra and Għallis.

Mew Gull (Gawwija Sekonda)

Larus canus

2006. 1 at Marsaskala on 7 Apr.

2007. 1 at Għadira on 26 Jan.

2008. 1 at Xemxija Bay on 27 Jan.

2011. Singles at Marsa on 24 Feb and at Salina on 30 Jul.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (Gawwija Daharha Iswed)

Larus fuscus

2006. Singles on 16 dates from 1 Jan to 22 Mar. 1 at Marsaskala on 27 Aug, then 1–2 regularly from 10 Sep till end of year along coast and in main harbours, but 6 at St Elmo Point on 10 Sep and 5 at Qawra on 17 Sep.

2007. 13 sightings of 1–3 on 11 dates from 1 Jan to 31 Mar. Singles on 12th and 14 Jul, then 1–5 on several dates from 12 Aug till end of year, mostly from end Oct onwards.

2008. Singles at San Luċjan on 2 Mar, Għajn Tuffieħa on 8 Mar and San Luċjan on 28 Mar, then 3 at Marsaskala on 3 Apr and 1 at Marsaskala on 14 Apr. 13 records of 1–3 from 10 Aug to 5 Oct. Singles at Qawra on 3 Nov and at Marsaxlokk on 9 Nov.

2009. 1 at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 27 Jan, then singles on 7 dates from 11 Feb to 12 Apr. 1 at Għallis on 18 Jul and singles on 6 dates from 20 Sep to 23 Oct.

2010. 1 on 13 Jan, then 7 singles from 2 Feb to 14 Mar. 2 on 29 Mar. In autumn, 3 on 5th and 7 Sep and singles on 10 Oct, 15 Oct and 24 Dec.

2011. Singles at Ċirkewwa and Għadira on 13th and 18 Mar, and on 7th and 14 Apr. From Qawra, singles on 28 Aug, 19 Sep and 24 Sep. 5 at Qawra on 27 Sep and singles at Għadira on 29 Sep and 31 Dec.

Yellow-legged Gull (Gawwija Prima)

Larus michahellis

2006. Present throughout year and breeding at established sites. Mostly observed in single to double figures, with max. 160 at main harbours and along S coast facing Filfla. Generally lower figures in second half of year, with max. 100 at Qawra on 2 Nov.

2007. Present throughout year and breeding at established colonies, with 240 ads and 80 juvs at main colony on Filfla on 18 May. Observed along coast, mostly in double to low treble figures of up to 250.

2008. Present all year round in single, double and low treble figures. Max. 300 on 28 Jun from Filfla.

2009. Resident species present throughout year. Max. 350 at Għar Lapsi on 13 Feb.

2010. Resident breeder. Highest numbers in winter due to overwintering birds but present all year round in double and treble figures, 300 regularly counted. Max. 400 on 24 Nov at Qawra.

2011. Present throughout year in single and double figures with treble figures up to 150 on some dates. Main breeding colony on Filfla, where 100 recorded on 17 Jun.

Little Tern (Ċirlewwa Żgħira)

Sternula albifrons

2006. Singles at Salina on 30 Apr and 4 Jun.

2011. 1 at Għadira on 29 Jun.

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

- 2006.** 2 on 30 Jun and 1 on 3 Jul, both at Għadira.
- 2007.** Singles at Għadira on 21 Apr and 30 Aug. 3 at Qawra on 25 Sep.
- 2008.** Singles at Għadira and at Salina on 4 Jun, and at Għadira on 11–12 Jul.
- 2009.** 1 at Salina on 31 Mar and 2 at Għadira on 1 May.
- 2010.** Singles at Għadira on 25 Apr and 19 Jun.
- 2011.** Singles at Għadira on 9th and 16 Apr. 2 on 18 Oct at Mellieħa Bay.

Caspian Tern (Ċirlewwa Prima)***Hydroprogne caspia***

- 2006.** 1 at Marsaskala on 8 Apr. 3 at Għallis and 1 at Salina on 8 Aug, 1 at Marsaskala on 30 Aug, then 1–3 on 8 dates from 23 Sep to 19 Oct. 2 on 9th and 1 on 28 Nov, both at Għadira.
- 2007.** 4 at Għajn Tuffieħa on 31 Mar. In autumn, 1–2 on 15 dates from 9 Jul to 28 Oct, but 5 at Simar on 2 Oct.
- 2008.** 2 at Għadira on 2 Jun. Then in Sep, 24 sightings of mostly 1–2 on 9 dates but 4 at St Paul's Bay on 10 Sep, 4 at Simar on 11 Sep and 5 at Għadira on 18 Sep. 3 at Għadira on 1 Oct and 3 at Simar on 3 Oct.
- 2009.** 4 at Għadira on 11 Apr. 1 at Qawra on 2 Aug, then singles on 2 dates from 21–27 Sep, but 12 at Qawra on 21 Sep. 1–5 on 5 dates from 3–26 Oct.
- 2010.** 13 sightings of 1–4 from 31 Aug to 27 Oct, mostly from Qawra and Għallis.
- 2011.** 7 sightings of 1–3 from 21 Aug to 18 Oct, but 22 at Qawra on 18 Sep, 9 at Delimara on 23 Sep and 9 at Qawra on 27 Sep.

Whiskered Tern (Ċirlewwa tal-Mustaċċi)***Chlidonias hybrida***

- 2006.** 4 at Salina on 5–6 Jul, 1 staying till 9 Jul.
- 2007.** Singles at Għadira on 25 May, at Simar on 1 Jun and 24 Aug.
- 2009.** 1 at Għadira from 21–28 Sep.
- 2011.** Singles on 19 May at Għadira and Simar and at Għadira from 21–23 May. 2 at Għadira on 28 Jun.

White-winged Black Tern (Ċirlewwa tal-Lvant)***Chlidonias leucopterus***

- 2011.** 1 at Għadira on 25 May.

Black Tern (Ċirlewwa Sewda)***Chlidonias niger***

- 2006.** Up to 12 on 4 dates from 21 Aug to 8 Sep, all off NE coast.
- 2007.** On 11 dates from 12 Aug to 24 Sep, in single to double figures, with max. 50 at Marsaskala on 1 Sep.
- 2008.** Up to 140 recorded 14 times in Aug, but 500 at Marsaskala on 29 Aug. 5 records of up to 15 in Sep, but 120 at

Marsaskala on 8 Sep. 1 at Qawra on 12 Oct.

- 2009.** 1 at Simar on 7 May (in summer plumage). 2 offshore on 27 Jul, then on 7 days from 18–30 Aug. Most sightings from offshore boat-based observations. High double figures on most dates but 1477 on 24 Aug and 939 on 25 Aug. 200 off Marsaskala on 17 Sep.
- 2010.** 47 at Għallis on 31 Aug, 10 at Żonqor Point and 20 from Qawra on 2nd, 2 on 3rd and 5 on 11 Sep.
- 2011.** Singles at Għadira on 14 Aug and at Qawra on 26 Sep.

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

- 2006.** 1 at Marsaxlokk from 25–27 March.

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

- 2006.** Along coast from 1 Jan to 31 Mar, mostly in single figures, with max. 12 at Marsaxlokk on 12 Mar. 1 at San Luċjan on 1 Jun, then 1–10 from 5 Aug to 29 Nov, but 19 at Għallis on 5 Nov.
- 2007.** 1–5 on 13 dates from 2 Jan to 31 Mar. Then mostly in single figures on several dates from 4 Aug till end of year, with most sightings from end Sep to mid-Dec, with max. 15 off Qawra on 23 Oct.
- 2008.** 1–10 on 30 dates from 3 Jan to 4 Apr. 1–2 almost daily from 19 Jul to 3 Aug, 1–4 on most days from 15–31 Aug, and up to 10 on 10 dates from 17 Sep to 19 Oct, but 15 at Qawra on 12 Oct. Up to 6 on most days from 11 Nov till end of year.
- 2009.** Up to 7 from 1 Jan to 25 Mar. 1–2 on 31 Mar and 1 on 13 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 14 Aug, then up to 6 from 12–27 Sep. Single figures on 6 dates from 3–22 Oct but 10 at Qawra on 21 Oct. Up to 5 on 2 dates from 3–9 Nov, then up to 10 on 17 dates throughout Dec.
- 2010.** In single and low double figures of up to 16 on 55 dates from 1 Jan to 12 Apr, but 80 at Ċirkewwa on 31 Mar. 2–3 on 25–26 Jul at Qawra and Kemmuna. 41 sightings of 1–6 from 2 Sep to 29 Dec.
- 2011.** 2 at Qawra on 3 Jan, then 40 sightings of up to 35 from 22 Jan to 6 Apr. 2 on 14 Apr. 1–3 on 25 Jul and 2 Aug. 24 sightings of 1–6 on 23 dates from 23 Aug to 18 Dec.

Pomarine Jaeger (Skuwa)***Stercorarius pomarinus***

- 2006.** 1 at Marsaskala on 27 Sep.
- 2007.** 1 at Qawra on 25 Oct.
- 2008.** 1 at Marsaxlokk on 9 Mar and 1 at Marsaskala on 17 Mar.
- 2009.** 1 offshore during boat-based observation on 11 Oct.
- 2010.** 1 at Ċirkewwa on 31 Mar.
- 2011.** Singles at Ċirkewwa on 5 Mar, at Pembroke on 8 Mar, and at Qawra on 17 Sep.

Great Skua (Skuwa Prima)

Catharacta skua

2006. 6 singles on 5 dates from 7–28 Feb, then 1 at Ċirkewwa on 14 Mar.

2007. 1 at Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq on 3 Jan.

2008. 1 at Ċirkewwa on 29 Feb. Then singles on 11th and 13 Dec at Qawra.

2009. Singles at St Elmo Point on 9 Feb, at Għar Lapsi on 13–14 Feb, at Qawra on 15 Feb, offshore on 2 Mar and at Ċirkewwa on 11 Mar. 1 offshore on 15th and 2 on 16 Mar, both from boat-based observations.

2010. 2 offshore on 24 Jan.

2011. Singles on 19th, 21st and 27 Feb. 1 at L-Aħrax on 1 Mar.

Common Barn-owl (Barbaġann)

Tyto alba

2008. 1 at Xagħra on 6 Feb.

Eurasian Scops-owl (Kokka)

Otus scops

2006. 1 at Buskett on 7 Jan. Then 1–3 on 9 dates from 10 Apr to 3 May. 1 at Buskett on 30 Sep, then on 11 dates from 12 Oct to 23 Dec, almost all singles from Buskett, but 3 on 16 Nov.

2007. 1–2 on 10 dates from 26 Mar to 28 Apr, most at Kemmuna. Then 1–2 on 5 dates from 6–27 Oct.

2008. 1 at Valletta on 12 Mar, then 1–2 on 4 dates at Kemmuna from 21–29 Apr. 1 on 28 Sep at Buskett. Singles on 5 dates from 7 Oct to 1 Nov, but 4 at Buskett on 7 Oct and 2 at Kemmuna on 29 Oct. Singles at Bengħisa on 20 Nov and at Rabat on 6 Dec.

2009. Low single figures on 9 dates in Apr, with max. 3 at Kemmuna on 17 Apr. 1 at Kemmuna on 3 May. In autumn, singles at Saqqajja on 25 Sep, at Buskett on 27 Sep, at Kemmuna on 23 Oct and at Għadira on 22 Nov.

2010. Singles on 20th, 24th and 29 Mar, and on 4 dates from 19 Apr to 1 May, but 3 on 16 Apr. 1 at Mosta on 25 May. Singles at Kemmuna on 22nd and 24 Oct and at Mġarr ix-Xini on 6 Nov.

2011. Singles on 9 dates from 10 Apr to 2 May but 2 at Kemmuna on 22 Apr. Singles at Buskett on 29 Sep and 10 Oct, and at Marsa on 20 Oct.

Short-eared Owl (Kokka tax-Xagħri)

Asio flammeus

2006. Singles on 2nd, 17th and 26 Mar. In autumn, singles at Marsaskala on 27 Sep, and on 5 dates from 17 Oct to 28 Nov.

2007. 5 singles from 2 Mar to 24 Apr. 1–2 on 10 dates from 23 Sep to 9 Nov.

2008. Singles on 3 dates from 26 Mar to 6 Apr. 3 singles from 27 Sep to 5 Oct and 2 at Buskett on 17 Oct.

2009. Singles at Ċirkewwa on 14 Mar, at Kemmuna on 9 Oct and at Mellieħa on 2 Nov.

2010. 6 sightings of 1–2 on 5 dates from 6–23 Mar, most

from Ċirkewwa. 1 at Fomm ir-Riħ on 12 Apr. 1 at Kemmuna on 19 Sep and 4 singles from 25 Oct to 7 Nov.

2011. Singles at Ċirkewwa on 4 dates from 13 Mar to 2 Apr. 2 at Tal-Bardan on 17 Oct.

Osprey (Arpa)

Pandion haliaetus

2006. 5 singles from 22 Mar to 26 Apr. In autumn, mostly singles on 14 dates from 3 Sep to 22 Oct, but 4 at Buskett on 22 Sep.

2007. Singles on 13 Mar and on 6 dates from 5 Apr to 5 May. Singles on 19th and 27 Aug, then 47 sightings of 1–4 on 19 dates from 3 Sep to 13 Oct. 1 at Mellieħa on 1 Nov.

2008. Singles at Ċirkewwa on 20 Mar and at Għadira on 8 May. In autumn, 30 records of 1–2 from 29 Aug to 6 Oct but 3 on 2 Sep at Dwejra (M) and 3 at Nadur (M) on 19 Sep. 1 at Buskett on 18 Oct.

2009. Singles at Għadira on 28th and 30 Mar, at Kemmuna on 4 Apr and at Simar and Salina on 18 Apr. In autumn, low single figures almost daily from 25 Aug to 30 Sep, with max. 5 at Buskett on 21 Sep. 1 at Buskett on 17 Oct.

2010. 1 at Għadira on 13 Mar and 4 sightings of 1–2 from 7–10 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 16 May. In autumn, 22 sightings of 1–3 from 1 Sep to 11 Oct, but 4 at Buskett and 5 at Dwejra (M) on 21 Sep.

2011. 5 singles on 4 dates from 20 Mar to 3 May. In autumn, 20 sightings of 1–3 from 8 Sep to 23 Oct, but 5 on 18th and 4 on 25 Sep. Singles on 5th and 25 Nov.

European Honey-buzzard (Kuċċarda)

Pernis apivorus

2006. Up to 6 on 16 dates from 16 Apr to 3 Jun, but 20 at Xagħra on 25 May. In autumn, on most days from 26 Aug to 15 Oct, mostly in low double figures but peaking from 21–23 Sep with daily totals of ca 150. 1 on 29th and 2 on 31 Oct at Buskett.

2007. Regularly from 15 Apr to 6 Jun, mostly in single to low double figures of up to 21, but significant passage on 9 May with 500 at Luqa Airport and 83 at Simar on 10 May. In autumn, regularly from 28 Aug to 13 Oct, with single to double figures of up to 87 on most dates and treble figure peaks on two days: 100 at Buskett on 15 Sep, and 110 at Buskett and 217 at Dwejra (M) on 22 Sep. Singles on 24 Oct, 1 Nov and 5 Nov.

2008. 1 on 7 Apr at Ta' Gajdor, then up to 15 regularly from 18 Apr to 3 Jun, but 46 at Sarraflu, Kemmuna and Simar on 11 May. 2 at Simar on 1 Jul. In autumn, up to 80 almost daily from 24 Aug to 28 Oct, but 100 on 18 Sep and 400 on 19 Sep at Buskett. 1 at Buskett on 5 Nov.

2009. Low double figures at Kemmuna from 25–28 Apr, with max. 36 on 27 Apr. 1 at Xagħra on 29 Apr then almost daily from 2–18 May, mostly in single figures. On 17–18 May low double figures from different localities, with max. 43 at Simar. Singles at Simar and Mizieħ on 25 May and 4 at Mdina on 29 May. 1 at Buskett on 21 Jun. In autumn, single and double figures

regularly from 22 Aug to 15 Oct, but 108 at Buskett on 30 Sep.
2010. 42 sightings of 1–12 on 22 dates from 23 Apr to 30 May, but 46, 10 and 20 from Simar, Luqa Airport and Kemmuna respectively on 5 May. Singles at Pwales on 6 Jun and Foresta 2000 on 11 Jun. In autumn, almost daily from 1 Sep to 17 Oct, with 103 sightings in single and double figures, but 100 at Dwejra (M) on 16th, 143 at Buskett on 17th, 109 at Buskett on 19th and a peak on 21 Sep, with 450 at Buskett and 350 at Dwejra (M). 2 on 22nd and 29 Oct and singles on 1st and 13 Nov.

2011. 1 at Bidnija on 15 Apr, then 112 sightings of single, double and treble figures from 19 Apr to 8 Jun with strong passage on 27 Apr, with 600 at Kemmuna and Luqa Airport and 480 at Simar on 28 Apr. Treble figures also on 29 Apr. 102 from Ghadira on 25 May. Singles on 17 Jun and 21 Jul. 1–2 at Buskett on 13th and 18 Aug, then 73 sightings of single and double figures of up to 89, but 130 on 18 Sep and 110 on 23 Sep, both at Buskett. 1–3 at Buskett and Girgenti on 12 Oct and 1 at Kemmuna on 28 Oct.

Egyptian Vulture (Avultun Abjad)

Neophron percnopterus

2009. 1 at Buskett on 28 Sep.

Short-toed Snake-eagle (Ajklja Bajda)

Circaetus gallicus

2006. Singles on 5 dates from 11–24 Sep. 1 at Mizieb on 1 Nov and 14 at Luqa Airport on 3 Nov.

2007. Singles at Buskett and Dwejra (M) on 12 Sep, at Dwejra (M) on 15 Sep and 8 Oct, at Rabat on 3 Nov, at Buskett on 4 Nov and at Luqa Airport on 6 Nov.

2008. 1 at Buskett on 26 Sep.

2009. 1 at Buskett and Dwejra (M) on 4 Oct.

2010. Singles at Mellieħa on 16 Sep and at Buskett, Haż-Żebbug and Dwejra (M) on 1 Oct.

2011. Singles at Mtarfa on 23 Sep and at Buskett on 29 Sep. 4 at Buskett and Dwejra (M) on 30 Sep.

Lesser Spotted Eagle (Ajklja tat-Tikek)

Clanga pomarina

2006. 1 at Buskett on 28 Sep.

2007. 1 at Buskett on 15 Sep.

2008. All records from Buskett. 1 on 21st, 3 on 24th and 5 on 28 Sep, and 1 on 5 Oct.

2009. Singles at Buskett on 24th, 26th and 28 Sep.

2010. 1 at Buskett on 29 Sep.

2011. 4 at Buskett on 29 Sep, 1 observed leaving roost in Girgenti the following day. 4 at Buskett on 3 Oct, with 2 observed leaving roost the following day.

Booted Eagle (Ajklja tal-Kalzetti)

Hieraaetus pennatus

2011. 1 at Kemmuna on 12 May. At Buskett: 1 on 3–4 Oct, 2–3 on 22–23 Oct and 1 on 12 Nov.

Western Marsh-harrier (Bagħdan Aħmar)

Circus aeruginosus

2006. 1 at Luqa Airport on 13 Jan. Regular from 23 Feb to 26 May, mostly in single to low double figures of up to 20, but 40 on 22 Mar and 38 on 16 Apr. In autumn, from 20 Aug to 13 Nov, in single to high double figures on most dates, but 538 on 23 Sep (combined morning and afternoon figures from Qawra and Buskett).

2007. In spring, on most days from 19 Feb to 28 May, with most sightings from 10 Mar till end Apr. Max. 50 at Kappuccini Valley on 12 Apr and at Ghadira on 21 Apr. 1 at Ghadira on 9 Jul. Then regular again from 26 Aug to 7 Nov, with single to low treble figures and peaks of 300 on 15 Sep and 500 on 22 Sep both at Buskett. 1 at Luqa Airport on 5 Dec.

2008. 1 at Għar Lapsi on 17 Feb, then almost daily in single or double figures of up to 30 from 6 Mar to 28 May but 35 at Mosta on 8 Mar. In autumn, in single and high double figures almost daily from 23 Aug to 19 Oct, but 100 at Buskett on 12th and 19 Sep. Singles on 5 dates from 26 Oct to 7 Nov and 1 at Ghadira on 27 Nov.

2009. Singles at Simar and Ghadira on 24 Feb, at Ghadira on 25 Feb and 2 at Qawra on 27 Feb. Then daily from 5 Mar to 6 May, frequently in low double figures but good passage on 22–23 Mar with low treble figures, with max. 110 at Delimara on 23 Mar. Single figures almost daily from 8–26 May. Singles at Mosta on 3 Jun and at Dwejra (M) on 16 Jun. In autumn, 2 on 2nd and 6 on 23 Aug, both at Buskett, then daily from 25 Aug to 11 Oct. Low double figures frequently, mainly from Buskett but low treble figures recorded from the same area on 21st, 22nd and 24 Sep, with max. 125 on 24 Sep. Up to 4 daily from 14–19 Oct and singles from 21–23rd, 28th and 30–31 Oct.

2010. Singles at Manikata on 6 Jan, at Għallis and Simar on 7 Feb, then almost daily from 21 Feb to 20 May in single and low double figures of up to 35, but 40 on 27 Mar at Luqa Airport, 47 on 12 Apr at Mizieb and 38 on 13 Apr at Gianpula. In autumn, up to 85 almost daily from 20 Aug to 3 Nov with treble figures on 4 dates. 148 at Buskett on 17th, 226 at Buskett on 18th, 300 at Buskett, 250 at Dwejra (M) and 145 at Mellieħa on 21st, 200 at Buskett and Dwejra (M), and 117 at Mellieħa on 22 Sep. Singles at Simar on 13 Nov, at Luqa Airport on 25 Nov, at Simar on 6 Dec and at Luqa Airport on 12 Dec.

2011. Singles at Kemmuna on 17 Jan and 16 Feb. 2 at Ċirkewwa on 21 Feb then up to 30 on most days from 27 Feb to 31 May, but 40 at Simar on 15 Apr, 55 at L-Aħrax on 22 Apr and 50 at Luqa Airport on 27 Apr. 1 on 5 Jun. 1–2 at Buskett on 22–23 Aug, then in single and double figures of up to 60 almost daily from 27 Aug to 28 Oct but treble figures from Buskett of up to 220 on 3 dates: 3rd, 17th and 24 Sep. 1 at Simar on 16 Nov.

Hen Harrier (Bagħdan Ikħal)

Circus cyaneus

2007. 1 at Buskett on 1 Oct.

2009. 1 at Ghadira on 23 Sep.

2010. 1 at Ta' Ċenċ on 6 Nov.

2011. Singles at Buskett on 19 Oct, at Għadira/Ċumrija on 12 Nov and at Luqa Airport on 20 Nov.

Pallid Harrier (Baghdan Abjad)

Circus macrourus

2006. 8 sightings on 6 dates from 31 Mar to 17 Apr, all in singles but 3 at Victoria on 17 Apr. Singles on 21–22 Sep.

2007. All records of singles: 18 on 16 dates from 10 Mar to 27 Apr. In autumn, 8 from 3 Sep to 1 Oct.

2008. 11 singles from 16 Mar to 22 Apr. In autumn, 2 at Buskett on 12 Sep, then 7 other singles from 17 Sep to 15 Oct.

2009. Low single figures on 9 dates from 21 Mar to 19 Apr, with max. 3 over Tal-Bardan on 19 Apr. In autumn, singles on 5 dates from 18–27 Sep and on 5 Oct, most from Buskett.

2010. 1 at Sannat on 5 Mar, then 34 sightings of 1–3 on 25 dates from 14 Mar to 16 Apr, but 4 at Luqa Airport on 27 Mar and at Manikata on 15 Apr. 1 at Għarb on 23 May. In autumn singles at Dwejra (M) and Buskett on 21 Sep. Singles on 2nd, 3rd and 8 Oct, and 3 on 11 Oct from Dwejra (M) and Buskett.

2011. 19 sightings of 1–2 from 23 Mar to 28 Apr, but 5 on 22 Apr at Kemmuna. In autumn, 8 singles from 10 Sep to 14 Oct.

Montagu's Harrier (Baghdan Griż)

Circus pygargus

2006. 1–4 on 21 dates from 1 Apr to 2 May, but 6 at Dwejra (M) on 17 Apr and 7 at Luqa Airport on 19 Apr. 1 at Dwejra (M) on 30 May. Up to 4 on 17 dates from 19 Aug to 30 Sep.

2007. 1–6 on most dates from 2 Apr to 10 May, but 10 at Għadira and 16 at Dingli Cliffs, both on 21 Apr. In autumn, 1–2 on 17 dates from 22 Aug to 23 Sep, but 6 at Buskett on 4 Sep. Then singles on 1st, 16th and 18 Oct.

2008. 1 at Għadira on 1 Apr then 52 records of 1–4 from 7 Apr to 12 May, but 8 at Xagħra l-Hamra on 17 Apr. In autumn, 1–3 on 10 dates from 27 Aug to 19 Sep, mostly from Buskett.

2009. 2 on 28th and 1 on 30 Mar. Then, single figures frequently from 8 Apr to 4 May, but 15 at Marsalforn Valley on 18 Apr. 1 on 12 May. In autumn, up to 3 on 4 dates from 22–31 Aug and on 8 dates from 2–26 Sep.

2010. Singles at Dwejra on 20 Mar, at Luqa Airport and Mosta on 27 Mar, then 55 sightings of 1–6 on most days from 8–27 Apr, but 7 on 10 Apr at Dwejra. 5 sightings of 1–2 from 5–8 May. In autumn, 1–2 on 15 dates from 21 Aug and 27 Sep.

2011. 65 sightings from 3–30 Apr in single and double figures of up to 25, but 35 on 15 Apr. Singles on 11th and 14 May. In autumn, singles on 13th, 22nd and 30 Aug. On 2 Sep, 15 at Buskett and 8 at Mdina. Singles on 3rd and 13 Sep.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk (Sparvier)

Accipiter nisus

2006. 1 at Wied Qannotta on 16 Apr. In autumn, 1–2 from 21 Sep to 18 Oct, mostly from Buskett.

2007. 1 at Dwejra (M) on 8 Apr. In autumn, 21 sightings of

1–3 on 17 dates from 16 Sep to 19 Oct. 1 on 3 Nov at Rabat.

2008. 1 at Simar on 17 Apr. In autumn, 1–2 on most dates from 19 Sep to 20 Oct.

2009. 1 at Għadira on 12 Mar, 2 at Kemmuna on 27 Mar and 1 at Buskett on 25 Apr. First in autumn on 11 Sep, followed by 17 more sightings of 1–3 till 13 Oct. 2 on 20th and 28 Oct. Almost all autumn records from Buskett.

2010. Singles on 19 Mar, 24 Mar, 13 Apr and 3 May. First autumn sighting on 9 Sep from Dwejra (M), then 1–3 on 18 dates from 16 Sep to 25 Oct, most from Buskett. 1 at Safi on 28 Nov.

2011. Singles at Dwejra (M) on 30 Mar and at Kemmuna on 25–26 Apr. 1 on 15 Sep, then 1–2 on 11 dates from 22 Sep to 4 Oct. Singles on 17th and 21 Oct. Most autumn records from Buskett.

Red Kite (Astun Aħmar)

Milvus milvus

2011. 1 at Luqa Airport and Buskett on 18 Nov.

Black Kite (Astun Iswed)

Milvus migrans

2006. Singles on 11 dates from 23 Mar to 11 May, but 3 on 3rd and 2 on 8 Apr, both at Luqa Airport. In autumn, up to 5 on 15 dates from 19 Aug to 24 Sep.

2007. Singles on 19 dates from 11 Mar to 15 May, but 2–3 on 4 dates in Mar. In autumn, 1–2 on 12 dates from 28 Aug to 29 Sep, then singles on 6 Oct and 18 Nov.

2008. 37 sightings of 1–2 on 36 dates from 28 Mar to 21 May, but 5 at Red Tower and Birkirkara, 4 at Simar and 9 at Għadira, all on 2 Apr. In autumn, 38 sightings of 1–3 on 28 dates from 25 Aug to 6 Oct. 1 late bird at Dingli on 9 Nov.

2009. 1 at Qawra on 5 Mar then in single to low double figures from 21 Mar to 25 May, with max. 37 at Mellieħa on 23 Mar. In autumn, single figures on 11 dates from 2–25 Sep, with max. 4 at Buskett on 19 Sep. 1 at Tal-Bardan on 8 Oct.

2010. Singles on 20th and 23 Feb, then 42 sightings of 1–3 on various days from 13 Mar to 23 May, but 5 at Luqa Airport on 28 Mar. Singles on 3rd and 16 Jun. In autumn, 11 sightings of 1–2 from 5 Sep to 2 Oct, mostly from Buskett, but 3 on 16 Sep. 1 on 25 Oct.

2011. 33 sightings of 1–5 from 18 Mar to 30 Apr. Singles on 19th and 24 May. 1 in Gozo on 23 Aug, then 13 sightings of 1–2 from 30 Aug to 4 Oct. 1 on 29 Oct.

Eurasian Buzzard (Kuċċarda Prima)

Buteo buteo

2006. 1 at Foresta 2000 on 18 Dec.

2007. Singles at Buskett on 14 Sep, at Dwejra (M) on 15 Sep and on 1 Dec at Luqa Airport.

2008. 1 at Mellieħa on 28 Sep. Steppe Buzzard *B. b. vulpinus*: singles at Buskett on 1–3rd, 13th and 15 Oct.

2009. 2 on 21st and 1 on 22 Sep at Buskett.

2011. Steppe Buzzard *B. b. vulpinus*: 2 on 13 Aug and 1 leaving roost on 14 Aug. Singles on 29 Sep, 4 Oct and 17 Oct, all from Buskett.

Common Hoopoe (Daqquqa tat-Toppu)

Upupa epops

2006. Up to 1–2 from 20 Feb to 1 May, but 5 at Kemmuna on 18 Apr. 1 at Dwejra (M) from 30 May to 7 Jun. In autumn, 1–2 from 10 Aug to 28 Sep.

2007. 1–4 on most dates from 21 Feb to 23 May with most sightings from mid-Mar to mid-Apr. Singles on 1 Jun and on 22 Jul, then 1–3 on several dates from 6 Aug to 28 Sep.

2008. 1–2 daily from 4–9 Mar at Dwejra (M), then up to 3 daily from various sites from 19 Mar to 26 Apr, but 9 at Kemmuna on 26 Mar. In autumn, 1–3 from 2 Aug to 1 Sep and singles from 14–27 Sep. 1 at Buskett on 7 Oct.

2009. 1 at Bingemma on 10 Feb. Singles on 4 dates from 7–12 Mar, but 5 at Dwejra (M) on 7 Mar. Daily in low single figures from 14 Mar to 10 Apr, but 9 at Kemmuna on 27 Mar. Then 1–2 frequently up to 29 Apr and singles on 3 dates in May with last record at Ghadira on 26 May. 1 at Ghadira on 30 Jul. 1–2 almost daily from 12–30 Aug, then singles from various sites from 7–10 Sep, 1–2 regularly from 19 Sep to 3 Oct.

2010. 1 at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 22 Feb. Singles at Mellieħa on 2–3 Mar, then 1–4 almost daily from 8 Mar to 5 May, but 11 at Kemmuna on 21 Apr. 1 at Ghadira on 29 May. 1–4 on most days from 10 Aug to 22 Sep.

2011. 2 at Dwejra (M) on 2 Mar. 85 sightings of 1–4 on most days from 7 Mar to 30 Apr, but 5 at Dwejra (M) on 4 Apr and 6 at Kemmuna on 19 Apr. 1 at Kemmuna on 13 May. 28 sightings of 1–2 from 9 Aug to 25 Sep and 1 at Qawra on 1 Oct.

European Bee-eater (Qerd in-Naħal)

Merops apiaster

2006. On most dates from 1 Apr to 28 May, in single to low double figures of up to 65. 5 on 6th and 10 on 16 Jun. 2 on 22 Jul. Then regular from 14 Aug to 5 Oct, with max. 100 on 5 Sep.

2007. Regular from 4 Apr to 17 Jun, mostly in single to double figures of up to 50, but 70 on 16 Apr and 80 on 3 May. In autumn, on most dates from 20 Aug to 6 Oct, up to 100 on several dates, with max. 150 on 30 Aug and 200 on 2 Sep.

2008. Singles on 16 Mar from Ghajn Tuffieħa and on 1 Apr from Victoria. Then up to 100 daily from 6 Apr to 31 May, but 150 from Wardija and 150 from Luqa, both on 23 Apr. 9 at Ghadira on 12 Jun. Singles on 7th and 17 Aug, then up to 170 daily, mostly around Buskett area, from 23 Aug to 8 Oct, but 180 at Dwejra (M) on 12 Sep.

2009. 1 at Ghadira on 28 Mar and 2 at Mellieħa on 31 Mar. On 6 dates from 2–11 Apr, with max. 35 at Simar on 7 Apr. Then daily from 13 Apr to 14 May. Up to 100 on most days, but 185 over Simar on 24 Apr and 250 at Kemmuna on 25 Apr. Low single figures almost daily from 16–31 May. Regularly throughout Jun, mainly in single figures but 19 at Simar on 20

Jun. 2 pairs bred at Fawwara in Jun and Jul having 3 and 2 young respectively. 7 at Buskett on 17th and 23–24 Aug. Then daily from 26 Aug to 29 Sep, in double figures but treble figures on 29–30 Aug, and on 9 days from 1–17 Sep, with max. 220 at Buskett on 8 Sep. Singles from 5–7th and 28 Oct.

2010. Single and double figures almost daily from 1 Apr to 27 May with treble figures on 4 dates, with max. 140 at Kemmuna and 155 at Dwejra (M), both on 21 Apr. 5 on 2 Jun and singles on 7th and 10 Jun. In autumn, on most days in single, double and low treble figures from 24 Aug to 3 Oct, with max. 300 at Buskett on 6 Sep. 1 on 11 Oct.

2011. 7 sightings of 1–5 from 2–4 Apr, then in single and double figures of up to 80 almost daily from 9 Apr to 12 May but 9 sightings of 100–200 on 6 dates from 26 Apr to 3 May. 1–3 on several dates from 14 May to 8 Jun but 14 at Ghadira and 8 at Simar on 25 May. Almost daily from 27 Aug to 28 Sep in single, double and treble figures of up to 200, but 300 on 8th and 13 Sep, and 400 on 15 Sep, all at Buskett. 1 at Buskett on 5 Oct.

European Roller (Farruġ)

Coracias garrulus

2006. 7 sightings from 21 Apr to 13 May, all in singles, but 2 at Nadur on 13 May. In autumn, singles on 8 dates from 8 Sep to 1 Oct.

2007. 6 singles on 5 dates from 25 Apr to 20 May, but 3 at Gharghur on 5 May. Then singles on 4 dates from 27 Aug to 12 Sep.

2008. Singles on 3 dates from 3 Apr to 14 May. 3 at Buskett on 9 Sep.

2009. 1–2 on 5 dates from 16 Apr to 15 May. In autumn, 2 on 15 Sep and 3 on 25 Sep, all from Buskett.

2010. Singles on 5 dates from 28 Apr to 27 May. Singles on 9 Jun, 30 Aug and 9 Sep.

2011. Only recorded in spring. 10 sightings of 1–3 on 8 dates from 28 Apr to 12 May. 2 at Dwejra (M) on 26 May.

Common Kingfisher (Għasfur ta' San Martin)

Alcedo atthis

2006. Present throughout Jan–Mar with latest on 3 Apr, mostly 1–2 but 3 on 21 Mar, almost all at Ghadira and Simar. On several days from 6 Aug onwards, then daily from 1 Oct till end of year, mostly 1–2 but 5 at Simar on 5 Oct and 4 at Ghadira on 19 Oct.

2007. 1–2 daily till 4 Apr, mostly at Ghadira. Then from 15 Jul, mostly at Ghadira, Simar and Salina, with up to 5 at Simar in Aug, then 1–3 till end of year.

2008. Up to 3 wintering at Ghadira till 25 Mar, 2 at Salina till 18 Mar and 1 at Simar till 11 Mar. Then, 1–4 daily at Ghadira and Simar and up to 2 at Salina from 27 Jul to 20 Sep but 5 at Simar on 27 Aug. Elsewhere, singles at St Paul's Bay on 30 Jul, Għar Lapsi on 31 Jul and 26 Aug, Pembroke on 6 Sep, Mgarr ix-Xini on 13 Sep and Kappuccini Valley on 21 Sep. 2 wintering at Ghadira, 1 at Simar and 3 at Salina from 1 Oct till end of year.

2009. 1 at Għadira from 1 Jan to 27 Mar but 2 there on 23 Mar. 1–3 at Salina from 2 Jan to 23 Mar and singles at Simar from 4 Jan to 9 Mar. 1 at Salina on 18 Jul, then daily in low single figures, mainly from Għadira, Simar and Salina till end of year, with max. 5 at Għadira on 9 dates from 19 Sep to 10 Oct.

2010. 1–2 at Għadira till 4 Apr, 1 at Simar till 10 Mar, and singles at Salina on 4 dates from 5 Feb to 16 Mar. 1–2 on most days at Simar from 16 Jul to 17 Nov, and 1 on 28 Nov. 1–3 almost daily at Għadira from 22 Aug till end of year. Outside reserves, single birds at Salina on 4 dates in Jul, Aug and Dec, 2 at Tal-Bardan on 20 Aug, singles at Fõnduq ir-Rummien on 26 Aug, at Mġarr ix-Xini on 17 Sep and at Msida on 18 Nov.

2011. 1–2 at Għadira from 1 Jan to 31 Mar, singles at Simar on 3–11 Jan and 15 Mar, and singles at Salina on 5 dates from 2 Jan to 20 Mar. 1 at Għadira on 14 Jul, then 1–2 at Għadira from 21 Jul till end of year, but 3 on 2 dates in Oct and on 2 Dec. At Simar, 1–3 from 21 Jul to 2 Nov but 4 on 3 dates from 23 Sep to 3 Oct; 1 on most days from 3–28 Nov and 1 on 17 Dec. At Salina, singles on 15 dates from 30 Jul to 3 Dec, but 2 on 27 Aug and 22 Sep. Outside these 3 sites, singles at Mġarr ix-Xini on 31 Jul, at Ta' Ċenċ on 24 Aug, at Wied Babu on 31 Aug, at Mġarr ix-Xini on 9 Oct, and at Kemmuna on 3 dates from 15–28 Oct.

Eurasian Wryneck (Bulebbiet)

Jynx torquilla

2006. 1–3 regularly from 5 Mar to 30 Apr, but 5 at Kemmuna on 11th and 17 Apr. In autumn, 1–3 from 2 Sep till end of year, but 5 at Buskett on 1 Nov.

2007. 1–2 on 13 dates from Jan–Mar, then 1–4 almost daily throughout Apr and singles on 3 dates in May, latest on 11 May. 1–2 from 30 Aug and throughout Sep, then 1–2 from Oct till end of year but 4 at Simar on 2 Oct and 3–5 at Kemmuna from 24–26 Oct.

2008. 1–2 wintering at Għadira and Simar from Jan to 27 Feb. 1 at Għadira on 10 Mar, then 1–3 daily from 19 Mar to 22 Apr but 4 at Kemmuna on 15 Apr. 1 at Dwejra (M) on 5 May. In autumn, 1 at Xagħra l-Famra on 22 Aug, then 1–3 daily from 5 Sep to 30 Nov. 14 sightings of wintering birds in Dec.

2009. Singles from Buskett and Simar on 1–6 Jan. 1 at Salina on 3rd and 10 Mar. Then low single figures almost daily from 29 Mar to 30 Apr, but 4 at Simar on 1 Apr and at Kemmuna on 4th and 16 Apr. Singles at Simar and at Kemmuna on 31 Aug, then single figures regularly from 2 Sep till end of year, but 5 at Għadira on 5 Oct.

2010. 16 sightings of 1–2 from 1 Jan to 5 Feb. Then 12 sightings of 1–2 from 21 Feb to 21 Mar and 1–3 on most days from 29 Mar to 24 Apr, but 8 at Kemmuna on 7 Apr. 3 at Kemmuna on 1 May. Singles at Mġarr ix-Xini on 23 Aug and at Buskett on 13 Sep, then 1–3 on several days from 20 Sep till end of year.

2011. 9 sightings of 1–2 from 2–16 Jan, 7 singles from 2 Feb to 4 Mar, 12 singles from 17 Mar to 4 Apr, and 10 sightings of

1–2 from 12 Apr to 15 May. 1–2 on most days from 10 Sep to 24 Dec.

Lesser Kestrel (Spanjulett Sekond)

Falco naumanni

2006. 1–4 on 20 dates from 4 Mar to 23 Apr. Singles on 1 Sep, then on 19 dates from 11 Sep to 28 Oct, mostly 1–10 but 20 on 21st and 18 on 22 Sep, both at Buskett.

2007. 1–8 on most dates from 6 Mar to 8 Apr, then 2 on 27 Apr and 2 on 12 May. In autumn, from 27 Aug to 28 Oct with most sightings from mid-Sep and 5 Oct, in single to low double figures, with max. 25 on 13 Sep at Buskett.

2008. 1–10 on most days from 13 Mar to 13 May but 22 on 31 Mar at Ta' Gajdoru and 16 at Victoria on 11 Apr. Then, 1–20 almost daily from 31 Aug to 7 Oct, but 54 at Buskett on 19th, 25 at Dingli on 20th and 50 at Buskett on 27 Sep. 4 at Buskett on 19 Oct.

2009. 2 at Qawra on 5 Mar and 1 at Dwejra (M) on 7 Mar, then in single figures on 16 dates from 21 Mar to 29 Apr, but 10 at Marsalforn Valley on 14 Apr. In autumn, up to 30 on 17 dates from 4 Sep to 10 Oct, but 36 at Buskett on 19 Sep.

2010. 4 on 19th and 1 on 22 Feb, both at Salina. Then 88 sightings of up to 16 on 37 dates from 2 Mar to 27 Apr, but 97 at Ċirkewwa on 14 Mar and 21 at Mselliet on 15 Mar. 3 on 6 May, then singles on 9th and 29–30 May. 1 at Dwejra on 6 Sep then 26 sightings on 13 dates in single figures and up to 20 from 15 Sep to 10 Oct. 40 at Buskett on 11 Oct.

2011. 26 sightings on 18 dates of up to 8 from 28 Feb to 30 Mar, but 17 at Ċirkewwa on 8 Mar. 29 sightings on 14 dates of up to 7 from 8–30 Apr but 15 at Simar, 60 at Tarġa Gap and 30 at Kemmuna, all on 15 Apr. Singles on 3rd and 8 May. 1–3 on 4 dates from 10 May to 2 Jun at Dwejra (M). In autumn, up to 12 on 17 dates from 3 Sep to 2 Oct, but 24 on 18 Sep.

Common Kestrel (Spanjulett)

Falco tinnunculus

2006. Noted throughout year except from mid-Jun to 22 Aug, with 1–2 from Jan to mid-Mar and from mid-Oct till end of year. Higher numbers during migration, with up to 5 on 19 Mar and on 10–11 Apr in spring, and 15 on 23 Sep.

2007. 1–3 at any one site throughout winter, then up to 7 during migration with most frequent sightings from mid-Mar to end Apr, and 1–4 regularly throughout May till 8 Jun. 7 sightings of 1–2 on 6 dates from 8 Jun to 13 Aug, then from 28 Aug till end of year, with peak migration from end Sep to mid-Oct, with max. 15 on 1 Oct.

2008. 20 records of 1–2 from Jan till 24 Feb. Then 1–5 daily from 1 Mar to 19 May but 10 at Għadira on 1 Apr and 13 at Luqa on 13 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 19 Jul. In autumn, 1–10 daily from 22 Aug to 30 Oct, but 20 on 1st and 16 on 6 Oct, both at Buskett. 1–2 almost daily from 1–23 Nov. 13 records of 1–2 in Dec.

2009. 1–2 on 14 dates from 1 Jan to 1 Mar. In spring, up to 6 almost daily from 5 Mar to 27 May. 1 pair bred at Mġarr ix-Xini

in Jun and raised 3 young. 1–2 on 3 dates at other sites in Malta from 4 Jun to 29 Jul. In autumn, up to 12 on most days from 3 Sep till end of year.

2010. 1–2 on 30 dates in Jan and Feb. 1–8 on most dates from 1 Mar to 20 May, but 12 on 13 Mar and 11 and 13 on 12 Apr. One successful breeding record at Mġarr ix-Xini, where 1 pair had 3–4 young. Outside Mġarr ix-Xini, 24 sightings of 1–3 from 20 May to 28 Aug. Singles and low double figures of up to 18 on most days from 1 Sep to 3 Nov but 50 at Buskett on 11 Oct. Then, 1–3 on most days till end of year.

2011. 16 Sightings of singles from 2 Jan to 20 Feb. 2 at Ċirkewwa on 21 Feb, then 1–6 almost daily from 27 Feb to 17 May with multiple sightings at different locations on most days, but 10 at Mistra Valley on 15 Apr, 10 on 17th and 27 Apr at Kemmuna. 13 sightings of 1–3 from 21 May to 7 Jun, but 5 at Mġarr ix-Xini on 7 Jun including 3 juvs. 3 singles from 13–24 Aug. 1–5 almost daily from 29 Aug to 2 Nov with 6 days with sightings of 6–10, with max. 11 on 5 Oct at Buskett. 1–3 on 20 dates from 5 Nov to 26 Dec.

Red-footed Falcon (Żumbrell)

Falco vespertinus

2006. 1–2 on 6 dates from 20 Apr to 6 May, but 11 at Ta' Hida on 23 Apr and 34 at Ramla Valley on 6 May. In autumn, singles at Buskett on 11 Oct and at Mtaħleb on 15 Oct.

2007. 1–2 on 14 dates from 20 Apr to 26 May.

2008. 44 records of 1–7 from 17 Apr to 12 May but 10 at Mizieb on 25 Apr and 33 at Kemmuna on 27 Apr. Then, 4 at Mizieb on 25 May, and singles at Foresta 2000 on 27 May, at Għadira on 28 May and at Mellieħa on 1 Jun. In autumn, singles at Buskett on 1st and 8 Oct.

2009. Singles on 4 dates from 17–28 Apr, then in low single figures on 7 dates from 30 Apr to 14 May, with max. 6 at Kemmuna on 2 May. In autumn, 2 at Mtaħleb on 23 Sep, 1–2 at Buskett on 29–30 Sep.

2010. 26 sightings of 1–5 from 24 Apr to 16 May, but 10 at Kemmuna on 30 Apr. 2 at Dwejra on 24 May and 1 at Mizieb on 13 Jun. Singles at Buskett on 9th and 11 Oct.

2011. 24 sightings of 1–5 on 18 dates from 18 Apr to 30 May.

Eleonora's Falcon (Bies tar-Regina)

Falco eleonora

2006. Singles on 10 dates from 29 Apr to 30 May. In autumn, on 23 dates from 20 Aug to 22 Oct, mostly 1–2 but 3 at Dingli on 8 Sep and at Buskett on 17 Sep.

2007. 6 singles from 22 May to 9 Jul, then 1–3 on 28 dates from 4 Aug to 8 Oct.

2008. In spring, 1–2 on 14 dates from 8 Apr to 16 Jun. In autumn, 1–2 from 18 Aug to 27 Sep, but 3 at Buskett on 8 Sep and 14 Sep. 1 at L-Aħrax on 1 Nov.

2009. Singles at Għadira and Simar on 18 May and at Bengħisa on 30 Jun. Up to 6 on 12 dates from 23 Aug to 24 Sep, mainly at Buskett. Singles on 10th and 20 Oct.

2010. 2 at Għadira on 24 Apr then 7 sightings of singles from 25–30 Apr. Singles on 30 May, 2 Jun and 17 Jul. In autumn mostly from Buskett with 1–2 on 11 dates from 22 Aug to 30 Sep, and singles on 6th and 13 Oct.

2011. 14 sightings of singles from 17 Apr to 31 May but 2 at Kemmuna on 3–4 May. 29 sightings of 1–3 from 17 Jul to 4 Oct, but 7 at Għarb on 22 Aug. 6 singles from 22 Oct to 3 Nov.

Merlin (Seqer ta' Denbu)

Falco columbarius

2006. Singles at Marsaxlokk on 28 Feb and at Rabat on 7 May. In autumn, singles on 6 dates from 24 Sep to 15 Oct.

2007. Singles on 7 dates from 21 Sep to 24 Oct.

2008. 1 at Luqa Airport on 10 Nov.

2009. Singles at Buskett on 5 Oct and at Mellieħa and Buskett on 15 Oct.

2010. 1 on 26 Sep, then 5 singles at Buskett from 8–29 Oct.

2011. 6 singles on 5 dates from 6 Oct to 18 Nov.

Eurasian Hobby (Seqer tal-Ħannieqa)

Falco subbuteo

2006. In spring, regular sightings from 4 Apr to 26 May, mostly of 1–2 but 10 at Mellieħa on 23 Apr. 1 at Buskett on 18 Jun. In autumn, 1–5 regularly from 1 Sep to 26 Oct, but 7 at Dwejra (M) on 2 Oct.

2007. 1 on 31 Mar, then on most dates from 5 Apr to 19 May, with max. 10 at Ta' Gajdoru on 23 Apr. 1 at Dwejra (M) from 6–9 Jun. Then on most days from 27 Aug to 13 Oct, in single to low double figures, with max. 25 at Dwejra (M) on 14 Sep and at Clapham Junction on 22 Sep.

2008. 1–5 on most days from 30 Mar to 19 May, but 6 at Luqa and Foresta 2000 on 13 Apr and 7 at Delimara on 15 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 5 Jun. Then in autumn, 1–10 daily from 24 Aug to 27 Oct, mainly from Buskett area. Counts of 10+ on 7 occasions from 18 Sep to 1 Oct, with max. 25 on 18 Sep.

2009. Frequently in low single figures from 1 Apr to 19 May. Best day 23 Apr with 5 at Dwejra (M) and 7 at Nadur (M) Tower. 1 at Mizieb on 22 May was the last spring record. In autumn, 2 on 24th and 1 on 29 Aug, both from Buskett. 1–2 on most days from 1–6 Sep, then daily from 8 Sep to 11 Oct. Single figures and low double figures on 5 days in Sep (max. 13 on 9 Sep) and 15 on 1 Oct, all at Buskett. 2 at Buskett on 20 Oct.

2010. 49 sightings of 1–6 on 29 dates from 1 Apr to 15 May, but 8 at Mizieb on 23 Apr. 1–2 on 3 dates from 23–30 May. In autumn, 85 sightings of single and low double figures of up to 30 on 48 dates from 25 Aug to 30 Oct. Peak on 24 Sep, with up to 65 from 5 different sites recorded.

2011. Singles on 4 dates from 29 Mar to 4 Apr, then 55 sightings of 1–4 on most days from 10 Apr to 15 May. 6 sightings of 1–2 from 18 May to 1 Jun. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 27 Aug, then 1–6 almost daily from 31 Aug to 8 Oct, but 18 on 10th, 8 on 11th and 10 on 23 Sep, all from Buskett. 2 on 12 Oct.

Saker Falcon (Bies tal-Lvant)

Falco cherrug

2007. Singles at Mellieħa on 7 Apr and at Buskett on 23 Sep.

Peregrine Falcon (Bies)

Falco peregrinus

2006. Singles at Kemmuna on 15th and 23 Apr and on 4 dates from 8 Sep to 31 Oct.

2007. Singles on 4 dates from 4 Sep to 29 Nov.

2008. Singles at Buskett on 13 Sep and at Mellieħa on 29 Nov.

2009. Singles at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 14 Mar, at Kemmuna on 2 May, and at Dwejra (G) on 2 Jun. 2 at Buskett on 22–23 Sep, singles at Dwejra (M) on 4 Oct and at Buskett on 4 dates from 10–17 Oct.

2010. 12 single sightings from 5 Mar to 5 May, but 2 at Kemmuna on 4 May. 1 at Ta' Ċenċ on 8 Aug. Four singles from 8 Sep to 11 Oct, 1 at Qammieħ on 21 Nov and 1 at Luqa Airport on 12 Dec.

2011. 9 singles from Ċirkewwa from 27 Feb to 29 Mar. 12 singles from 15 Apr to 1 May but 2 on 21 Apr. 1 at Dingli cliffs on 31 Jul. Singles on 24 Sep, 3 Oct and 28 Oct. 1 at Xrobb l-Għaġin on 31 Dec.

Eurasian Golden Oriole (Tajra Safra)

Oriolus oriolus

2006. Regular with up to 20 from 11 Apr to 16 May, but 40 at Madliena on 30 Apr. Singles on 28th and 30 May. In autumn, 1–5 on 8 dates from 25 Aug to 20 Sep, all at Buskett.

2007. Almost daily from 5 Apr to 10 Jun, mostly in single to low double figures of up to 30, but 50 at Wied il-Luq on 28 Apr. 1 at Buskett on 8 Jul, then 1–3 on 7 dates from 28 Aug to 14 Sep.

2008. Up to 20 daily from 10 Apr to 3 Jun but 30 at Salina on 29 Apr. Then, 1–3 on 6 dates from 4–19 Sep.

2009. 1 at Simar on 4 Apr, then single figures almost daily from 15 Apr to 13 May, but up to 20 on 25th and 12 on 26 Apr, both from Buskett. 1–2 up to end May but 12 at Buskett on 19 May. Singles on 6 dates from 4–17 Jun. 2 at Buskett on 30 Aug, then in single figures on 12 dates from 1–25 Sep, with max. 7 at Għadira on 24 Sep.

2010. In single and low double figures of up to 20 almost daily from 10 Apr to 14 May, but 38 at Ġirgenti on 26 Apr. 6 singles from 19 May to 5 Jun. 1 on 21 Aug at Dwejra (M) and 7 singles on 5 dates from 12–20 Sep. 2 on 12 Oct at Għadira, then singles on 7 dates till 25 Oct.

2011. Almost daily from 15 Apr to 21 May in single and double figures of up to 30. Peak from 22–24 Apr with 6 sightings of 10–30 at Wied Qannota, Wied Qirda, Buskett and Tarġa Gap. 5 sightings of 1–3 from 24 May to 7 Jun. 1–2 on 18th, 21st and 24 Aug at Buskett and Blata l-Bajda. 1–2 at Buskett on 7–8 Sep.

Red-backed Shrike (Kaċċamendula Ħamra)

Lanius collurio

2006. 1 at Ta' Gajdoru on 25 May.

2007. Singles at Buskett on 6 Sep, at Għadira on 11 Sep and at Kemmuna on 23–24 Oct.

2008. Singles at Kemmuna on 4 May and at Għadira on 7 May. 1 at Dwejra (M) from 24–28 Jul. Singles at Buskett on 6 Sep and at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 1 Oct.

2009. 1 at Rabat on 13 Sep.

2010. Singles at Kemmuna on 2 May and 25–26 Oct.

2011. 1 at Kemmuna 11 May.

Red-backed Shrike x Woodchat Shrike

2007. 1 ringed at Kemmuna on 27 Apr.

Great Grey Shrike (Kaċċamendula Nordika)

Lanius excubitor

2006. 1 at Ta' Lambert (G) from 3–6 Jul.

2008. 1 at Buskett on 6 Jul.

2009. 1 at Kemmuna on 2 May.

Woodchat Shrike (Kaċċamendula)

Lanius senator

2006. 1 on 24 Mar, then on most dates from 1 Apr, mostly in single to low double figures of up to 20, but 40 at Kemmuna on 17 Apr. 1 pair bred successfully at Buskett in early Jun, with ads and juvs observed there throughout Jul. Singles also at Ta' Lambert and at St Paul's Bay on 6th and 9 Jul respectively. 1–5 on 7 dates from 18 Aug to 17 Sep.

2007. Up to 10 on most dates from 31 Mar to early May, but 20 at Dwejra (M) on 30 Apr. 1 pair at Buskett observed in May and early Jun, and 2 sightings elsewhere till 21 Jun. In autumn, 1–3 on 13 dates from 12 Aug to 22 Sep.

2008. 1 at Laferla Cross on 10 Apr, then up to 10 daily from 13 Apr to 16 May but 30 at Kemmuna on 19 Apr. In autumn, singles on 8 dates from 12–30 Aug.

2009. 1 at Il-Hofra on 29 Mar and 3 singles from different places on 31 Mar. 1–2 on 2nd and 4 Apr. Daily from 7–20 Apr and from 23–27 Apr, all in single to low double figures, with max. 25 at Kemmuna on 17 Apr. Up to 5 on 6 dates from 2–24 May. In autumn, singles at Tal-Bardan on 31 Aug and at Buskett on 4 Sep and 30 Sep.

2010. 1 at Ta' Ċenċ from 30 Mar to 3 Apr, then up to 8 on most days from 4 Apr to 10 May but 15 on 2 May at Kemmuna. Singles on 3 dates from 27 May to 4 Jun. Singles on 4 dates from 11 Aug to 8 Sep.

2011. Singles on 28 Mar at Kemmuna and at Clapham Junction on 5 Apr. 1–2 from 2 sites on 10 Apr, then up to 10 almost daily from 15 Apr to 3 May, but 35 at Kemmuna on 30 Apr, including 3 Eastern Woodchat Shrike *L. s. niloticus*. Up to 6 on 8 dates from 7–25 May. 1 at Għadira 4 Jun. Singles on 7 dates from 18–31 Aug.

Carrion Crow (Ċawlun)

Corvus corone

2011. 1 Hooded Crow *C. c. cornix* at Dwejra (M) on 6 May.

Great Tit (Fjorentin)***Parus major***

2011. 1 ringed at Simar on 12 Mar.

Eurasian Penduline-tit (Pendulin)***Remiz pendulinus***

2007. Up to 7 on most dates from 30 Oct to 24 Dec, mostly at Simar, Ghadira, Salina and once at Rabat.

2008. Up to 8 present daily at Simar from 6 Jan to 29 Mar. At Ghadira, 4 records of up to 7 from 26 Feb to 16 Mar.

2010. Singles at Simar on 7th and 25 Dec.

2011. 1♂ at Simar on 4 dates from 28 Jan to 2 Mar.

Bar-tailed Desert Lark (Alwetta Qastnija)***Ammomanes cinctura***

2010. 1 at Delimara from 31 Mar to 5 Apr. 1 at l/o Xlendi on 11 Nov.

Mediterranean Short-toed Lark (Bilbla Sekonda)***Alaudala rufescens***

2010. 1 at Ta' Ċenċ on 2–3 Apr.

Greater Short-toed Lark (Bilbla)***Calandrella brachydactyla***

2006. 1 at Ghajn Tuffieħa on 22 Feb, then from 18 Mar at breeding sites till 27 Jul. Mostly in single figures, but 20 at Luqa Airport from mid-Apr to mid-May, 35 at Kemmuna on 23 Apr, and 15 at Kerċem on 30 Apr. 1–8 on 16 dates from 17 Aug to 1 Oct, but 18 at Clapham Junction on 23 Sep.

2007. Present and breeding in low numbers from 10 Mar to 28 Sep. Somewhat higher figures in Gozo, with up to 25, and at Kemmuna rather than in Malta during the breeding period, with higher numbers of up to 70 in Sep, presumably boosted by migrant birds.

2008. Up to 25 on most dates from 29 Mar to 30 Jun but 30 at Kemmuna on 31 May. 7 sightings of 1–2 in Jul but 10 on 30 Jul at L-Irdum tal-Madonna. In autumn, 4 at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 2 Aug, then up to 30 on most dates from 13 Aug to 12 Sep, but 80 at Wardija (G) on 28 Aug and 100 at Dwejra (M) on 5 Sep. 1 at Fawwara on 27 Sep.

2009. First bird on 30 Mar at Xatt l-Aħmar, then almost daily from 2 Apr to 15 Sep in single and low double figures. Most sightings from Gozo and Kemmuna, with max. 45 at Dwejra (G) on 30 May, and 43 at Ta' Ċenċ and 47 at Tal-Bardan on 28 Aug. 28 on 31 Aug was the max. number at Kemmuna.

2010. 11 sightings of 1–5 from 22 Feb to 26 Mar. Up to 15 almost daily from 29 Mar to 8 Sep, but double figures of up to 80 from 25 Aug to 6 Sep at 4 sites in Gozo: Ta' Ċenċ, Tal-Bardan, Sarraflu and Qala.

2011. 5 sightings of 1–4 from 8–27 Mar and 13 at Xaghra l-Hamra on 30 Mar. Up to 20 on most days from 3 Apr to 10 Jul; 1–3 on 19th and 27 Jul and 14 on 12 Aug. In double figures of up to 80 daily from 21–28 Aug from sites in Gozo but 100–125

at Gharb on 22–23 Aug. 1–2 on 9 dates from 30 Aug to 25 Sep, but 8 at Fiddien on 22 Sep.

Horned Lark (Alwetta Safra)***Eremophila alpestris***

2007. 1 at Xaghra l-Hamra on 2–3 Jun.

Woodlark (Ċuqlajta)***Lullula arborea***

2007. 1 at Tal-Ghejjun (Xaghra) from 2–6 Nov.

2011. 1 at Buskett on 17 Oct.

Eurasian Skylark (Alwetta)***Alauda arvensis***

2006. Up to 10 wintering at some locations. In spring, 1–5 from 1 Jan to 8 Apr. Then from 8 Oct till end of year, mostly in single to low double figures, but with peak passage days of up to 70 on 15th and 50 on 27th and 30 Oct.

2007. 1–10 throughout Jan and Feb, with return passage in early Mar with 3 sightings of 10–14, then single figures till 10 Apr. In autumn, from 3 Oct till end of year, mostly in single to mid-double figures, but 100 on several dates from 25 Oct to 7 Nov, with max. 366 at Qawra on 25 Oct and 300 at Kemmuna on 26 Oct.

2008. Wintering in small numbers of 1–15 from 1 Jan to 31 Mar. Then, 1–50 daily from 2 Oct till end of year, but 120 at Buskett on 23 Oct, 300 at Kemmuna on 29 Oct, 102 at Qawra on 3 Nov and 78 at Buskett on 4 Nov.

2009. Single to low double figures almost daily throughout Jan to Mar, with max. 30 at Luqa Airport on 5 Feb. 1 at Ta' Ċenċ on 10 Apr. In autumn, 6 on 5 Oct then daily from 7 Oct to 30 Nov. Frequently in double figures but treble figures recorded from various localities from 21–23 Oct, with max. 500 at Saqqajja on 22 Oct. Single to low double figures almost daily from 2 Dec till end of year.

2010. Up to 15 on several dates in Jan and Feb, but 30 at L-Aħrax on 27 Feb. Numbers increasing to double figures of up to 50 in first half of Mar, but 100 on 15 Mar at Luqa Airport. Recorded till 7 Apr, then 1 on 14 Apr. First autumn record on 1 Oct, then almost daily from 9 Oct till end of year in single and double figures of up to 90, but 134 at Buskett on 22 Oct, 100 and 320 at Kemmuna on 25th and 30 Oct respectively.

2011. Up to 15 on most days from 1 Jan to 13 Mar, but 35 at Fiddien on 8 Mar. 6 sightings of 1–3 from 18 Mar to 10 Apr. 1 at Ċumnija on 21 Apr. 1–2 on 29–30 Sep. Then in single and double figures of up to 80 on most days from 11–30 Oct, but 100 at Kemmuna on 19 Oct, 200 at Buskett and 400 at Kemmuna on 28 Oct. Almost daily in single or double figures of up to 40 from 31 Oct till end of year, but 50 at Luqa Airport on 16 Nov.

Zitting Cisticola (Bufula tal-Imrewħa)***Cisticola juncidis***

2006. Resident and present throughout year in various

habitats, in single to low double figures of up to 30 at any one site.
2007. Resident and breeding commonly throughout in appropriate habitats, with single to low double figures at any one site, with max. 30 at Lunzjata (G) on 8 Sep.

2008. Common and widespread breeder in Malta and Gozo. Mostly in single and double figures of up to 25 but 71 at Ghajn Tuffieħa on 19 Mar, 35 at Burmarrad on 29 Mar and 32 at Hal Far on 11 Jun.

2009. Widespread resident breeder recorded daily throughout year in single and low double figures. Highest single counts include 34 at Żonqor Point on 23 May, 44 at Dwejra (G) on 30 May, 32 at Majjistral Park on 6 Jun and 30 at Ghadira on 8 Jun.

2010. Common and widespread breeding resident, with max. 30 on 7 Apr at Foresta 2000.

2011. Common and widespread breeding resident, with max. 35 on 5 Jun at Bahrija.

Olivaceous Warbler (Bekkafik tal-Lvant)

Iduna pallida

2007. 1 at Sarraflu on 30 Apr.

Isabelline Warbler (Bekkafik Griż)

Iduna opaca

2011. Singles ringed at Kemmuna on 1st and 3 May (second bird retrapped on 5 May).

Olivaceous/Isabelline Warbler

2007. 1 at Ghadira on 18 May.

2008. 1 at Dwejra (G) on 17 May.

Icterine Warbler (Bekkafik Isfar)

Hippolais icterina

2006. 1 at Kemmuna on 18 Apr, then 1–6 from 1 May to 7 Jun. In autumn, singles at Buskett on 8th and 13 Sep.

2007. 1–5 on most dates from 24 Apr to 26 May. Then singles on 7 dates from 3 Sep to 6 Oct.

2008. 1 at Kemmuna on 17 Apr. Then up to 10 almost daily from 22 Apr to 22 May, but 25 on 3rd and 16 on 6 May, both at Kemmuna. In autumn, singles on 9 dates from 10 Sep to 6 Oct. Singles at Simar on 22 Oct and on 7 Nov.

2009. On most days in spring from 25 Apr to 19 May, mainly low single figures but up to 10 at Kemmuna on 29 Apr. Singles at Buskett on 22nd and at Simar on 29 May. In autumn, 1 at Ghadira on 8 Sep, then low single figures almost daily from 16 Sep to 2 Oct, with max. 4 at Simar on 28 Sep. Singles on 4 Oct and 8 Oct.

2010. 3 singles from 19–28 Apr at Kemmuna. 1–5 on several days in May, but 50 on 3rd and 20 on 4–5 May at Kemmuna. 1 at Simar on 3 Jun. 1 at Kemmuna on 11 Aug. Singles on 3 dates from 3–16 Sep from Simar and Kemmuna.

2011. 1–10 almost daily from 25 Apr to 19 May, but 40 on 9th, 25 on 13th, 50 on 14th and 25 on 15 May, all at Kemmuna. Up to 3 at Ghadira on 3 dates from 26–30 May and 1 at Mgarr

ix-Xini on 26–27 May. Only two singles in autumn, both at Buskett, on 7th and 13 Oct.

Moustached Warbler (Bufula Qastnija)

Acrocephalus melanopogon

2006. 1–2 at Simar from 17 Nov to 31 Dec.

2007. Recorded only from Simar. 1–2 throughout Jan and Feb, then 1–2 on 9 dates from 31 Oct to 3 Dec.

2008. Singles on 7 dates at Simar from 21 Jan to 27 Feb. Then, singles at Ghadira on 30 Oct, at Salina on 11 Nov and on 5 dates at Simar from 2 Nov to 3 Dec, but 2 on 15th and 17 Nov.

2009. 1 at Simar on 7 dates from 5 Jan to 4 Mar. Again at Simar on 11 dates from 6 Nov to 29 Dec, all singles but 2 on 8 Dec. 1 at Ghadira on 14 Nov and 2 at Ramla Dam on 30 Dec.

2010. Singles at Ramla Dam on 4 Jan and at Simar on 12 dates from 3 Jan to 28 Feb. 1–2 at Simar on 17 dates from 15 Nov to 31 Dec.

2011. 1–2 at Simar from 1 Jan to 9 Mar. 1 at Wied Ghajn Rihana on 7 Mar. 1–2 at Simar from 1 Nov to 17 Dec and 3 on 18 Dec. 1 at Ramla Dam on 22 Dec.

Sedge Warbler (Bufula tas-Simar)

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

2006. 1 at Rabat on 12 Feb, then regularly from 11 Mar to 21 May, mostly in low single figures with occasional double figures of up to 20, but 36 at Kemmuna and 60 at Simar on 21 Apr. In autumn, singles on 5 dates from 13 Sep to 17 Oct.

2007. 1–15 on most dates from 9 Mar to 19 May at various localities with suitable habitat. Singles at Ghadira on 9 Jun and 28 Aug, at Lunzjata on 12 Sep. Then 1–2 on 10 dates from 9 Oct to 2 Nov.

2008. Records of 1–20 on most days from 16 Mar to 28 May but 25 at Simar on 15 Apr. In autumn, 4 singles from 23–30 Aug and 11 records of 1–2 from 21 Sep to 24 Oct.

2009. 1 at Wied Ghajn Rihana on 23 Feb. Single figures frequently from 4–25 Mar then daily in single to low double figures of up to 15 from 27 Mar to 20 May. 1–2 on 4 dates from 23–27 May. In autumn, singles on 23 Aug, 27 Aug and 2 Sep. Single figures of up to 8 frequently from 9 Sep to 20 Oct.

2010. 1 on 18 Feb at Simar, then up to 15 almost daily from 22 Feb to 10 Jun, but 18 at Simar on 31 May. Singles at Simar on 17–18 Jun. 6 sightings of 1–2 from 23 Aug to 2 Sep and 6 singles from 20 Sep to 6 Oct. Singles on 26th and 30 Oct, both at Kemmuna.

2011. 1 at Wied Ghajn Rihana on 7 Mar, then in single figures on most days from 14 Mar to 19 May, but 10–25 at Simar on 5 dates from 22 Apr to 3 May. Singles on 3 dates from 25 May to 5 Jun. 1 at Ghadira on 20 Aug and 1–2 on 7 dates from 1 Oct to 3 Nov.

Marsh Warbler (Bufula tal-Ghadajjar)

Acrocephalus palustris

2006. 1 at Wied il-Luq on 19 Aug.

2007. 2 at Lunzjata on 10 Sep.

Common Reed-warbler (*Bufula tal-Qasab*)

Acrocephalus scirpaceus

2006. Up to 10 from 9 Apr till end May, almost all from Ghadira, Simar and Buskett. Singles at Ghadira on 5 Jun and 1 Jul, and on several dates at Simar throughout Jun till 2 Jul, with max. 15 on 13–14 Jun. 1 at Salina on 30 Jul, then up to 4 on several dates from various locations from 19 Aug to 7 Nov, but 8 at Rabat on 5 Nov.

2007. Continuous presence from 31 Mar to 15 Nov, with 6 breeding pairs at Simar. Outside Simar 1–2 in spring and higher figures in autumn with 20 at Lunzjata (G) on 8 Sep.

2008. Up to 10 on most dates from 11 Apr to 7 Jun, mostly from Ghadira and Simar but singles at Wied Ghajn Rihana, Chadwick Lakes and Rabat. Up to 15 at Simar in Jun and Jul where 7 pairs bred. 1–2 pairs also present at Salina, and possibly bred. In autumn, 1–5 on most dates from 2 Aug to 24 Oct. 3 singles from 2–5 Nov.

2009. Almost daily from 16 Apr to 28 Oct, mostly from Simar, followed by Ghadira and Salina. Bred at Simar, Ghadira and Salina. Max. 20 at Simar in Jun and Jul.

2010. Up to 12 present at Simar from 23 Apr, increasing to 15 on 16 Jun and 20 on 30 Jul. Decreasing to 1–8 in Sep but recorded regularly till 8 Oct. Then 1–2 from 22–29 Oct. At Ghadira singles on 21st and 23 May and on several dates in Jun. 1–5 on various dates from 3 Aug to 3 Oct, most in Sep. Singles on 16 Oct, 30 Oct and 6 Nov. Outside reserves, singles at Wied Ghajn Rihana and Kemmuna on 6 Jun and at Buskett on 29 Aug.

2011. 1 at Simar on 17 Mar. Then up to 10 almost daily, mostly from Simar, from 12 Apr to 25 Oct but up to 15 from mid-Jun to end Aug with sightings of family parties at Simar. At least 1 singing ♂ at Ghadira and Wied Ghajn Rihana in May–Jun.

Great Reed-warbler (*Bufula Prima*)

Acrocephalus arundinaceus

2006. Regular from 25 Mar to 20 May, mostly 1–5 but 15 on 21 Apr and 10 on 22 Apr, both at Simar. Singles at Simar and Ghadira on 15th and 27 Jun respectively. In autumn, on 15 dates from 5 Aug to 19 Oct, mostly 1–2 but 4 at Buskett on 14 Sep.

2007. Up to 5 almost daily from 5 Apr to 1 May, then 1–2 on 7 dates from 7 May to 6 Jun. Singles on 7 dates from 28 Jul to 30 Aug, then 1–3 at Simar from 18 Oct to 10 Nov.

2008. 1 at Simar on 27 Mar, then 1–6 daily from 2 Apr to 23 May. 1 at Simar on 30 Jul. 27 sightings of 1–3 on 22 dates from 22 Aug to 26 Oct.

2009. Almost daily in single figures from 30 Mar to 30 May, but 10 at Wied Ghajn Rihana on 4 Apr. In autumn, singles on 10 dates from 3 Aug to 4 Sep. More frequent from 9 Sep to 20 Oct in low single figures, with max. 5 at Simar on 28 Sep.

2010. Single figures on most dates from 20 Mar to 1 Jun,

with max. 10 at Simar on 7 Apr. 1 on 28 Jun at Ghadira. 22 sightings of 1–2 from 21 Aug to 26 Oct, all from Ghadira and Simar.

2011. 1–2 at Simar from 14–16 Mar, then 1–4 on most days from 25 Mar to 25 May, with multiple sightings on some days. Singles on 5 dates from 30 May to 21 Jun at Ghadira and Simar. Singles on 8th and 31 Aug at Ghadira, and singles on 9 dates from 26 Sep to 15 Nov at Ghadira and Simar.

Savi's Warbler (*Bufula tal-Buda*)

Locustella luscinioides

2006. 1 at Lunzjata on 10 Oct.

2007. Singles at Rabat and Simar on 6th and 9 Apr respectively. 1 at Ghadira on 5 dates from 8 Sep to 20 Oct.

2009. 1 at Simar on 28 Aug.

2010. 1 ringed at Ghadira on 7 Apr.

Common Grasshopper-warbler (*Bufula tal-Gurati*)

Locustella naevia

2011. 1 ringed at Salina on 10 Mar and 1 at Ghadira on 27 Sep.

Northern House Martin (*Hawwiefra*)

Delichon urbicum

2006. In single to double figures from 30 Jan and throughout Feb to early Jun, with higher numbers from mid-Apr to mid-May, with max. 500 at Salina on 26 Apr and 1500 at Qala on 7 May. Singles on some dates in Jun till 24th. In autumn from 5 Sep to 31 Oct, with up to 50 on several dates at each site, but 100 on 23 Sep, 200 on 12 Oct and 300 on 13 Oct, all at Buskett. 1 late bird at Ghadira on 16 Nov.

2007. Almost daily from 30 Jan to 10 Jun. Numbers increasing from single to low treble figures by early Apr and remaining high till early May, with max. 400 on 1 May at Kemmuna. 1–2 on 5 dates from 16 Jun to 8 Jul. In autumn, from 8 Sep to 17 Nov mostly in single to double figures but 250 at Dwejra (M) on 26 Sep. Singles on 2nd and 5 Dec.

2008. Singles on 5 dates from 31 Jan to 26 Feb, then up to 200 daily from 1 Mar to 31 May but 300 at Luqa on 23 Apr and 400 at Gharghur on 27 Apr. 5 records of 1–4 from 3–22 Jun, 1 on 15 Jul at Dingli and 1 at Swatar on 26 Aug. Up to 200 daily from 13 Sep to 30 Oct, but 500 at Buskett on 1st, 800 at Buskett on 3rd, 250 at Foresta 2000 on 7th and 250 at Buskett on 8 Oct. 5 records of 1–2 from 4–16 Nov but 5 at Buskett on 5 Nov.

2009. 1 at Ghadira on 28th, 29th and 31 Jan. Up to 4 on 1–2 Feb, then daily from 4 Feb to 4 Jun, with max. 1500 at Nadur (M) Tower on 16 Apr and 1000 at Xaghra on 10 May. Sightings also on 9 other dates from 10 Jun to 17 Aug, mostly from Dingli area, with possible breeding but nests never found due to inaccessibility. In autumn, singles on 28 Aug and on 3 dates from 3–11 Sep, up to 15 on 13 Sep, then up to 100 almost daily from 15 Sep to 28 Oct, but 500 on 6 Oct at Buskett.

2010. 21 sightings of 1–5 from 26 Jan to 11 Feb, mostly

at Simar. Then up to 400 almost daily from 12 Feb to 6 Jun, but 500 at Dwejra on 30 Apr. 13 sightings of 1–6 from 10–28 Jun, but 20 at Simar on 17 Jun. 3 at Dingli Cliffs on 25 Jul. In autumn, up to 50 almost daily from 8 Sep to 3 Nov, but 100 at Buskett on 2–3 Oct. 2 on 12 Nov at Simar and 1–2 on 8 dates in Dec.

2011. Up to 300 almost daily from 21 Jan to 25 May. Up to 20 on several dates from 29 May to 3 Jul with quite a few from Ta' Żuta area, 2–8 at Dingli Cliffs from 17 Jul to 14 Aug. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 26 Aug then up to 60 on several days from 9 Sep to 29 Oct, but in treble figures of up to 300 from 5–7th, 18–21st and 26 Oct. 5 sightings of 1–10 from 6–9 Nov and 2 at Sarraflu on 25 Nov.

Red-rumped Swallow (*Regina tal-Huttaf*)

Cecropis daurica

2006. Regular from 23 Mar to 6 Jun, mostly in low single figures but 10 at Dwejra (M) on 22 Apr. In autumn, 4 singles from 9–30 Sep, all from Buskett, and 1 at Dwejra (M) on 4 Nov.

2007. On 20 dates from 11 Mar to 30 Apr, mostly in single figures but 15 at Simar on 2 Apr. 1 on 25 May, then singles on 3 dates from 8–18 Sep.

2008. 26 records of 1–2 from 7 Mar to 25 Apr but 30 at Victoria on 21 Apr. In autumn, 1 at Buskett and 2 at Girgenti on 21 Sep, singles at Buskett and Nadur (M) on 24 Sep and at Buskett on 1 Oct.

2009. In single figures almost daily from 21 Mar to 28 Apr, but 20 at Simar on 24 Apr. In autumn, singles on 3 dates from 8–22 Sep and on 24 Oct.

2010. 30 sightings of up to 3 from 4 Apr to 18 May and 4 singles from 30 May to 4 Jun. In autumn, singles at Dingli on 15 Sep and at Buskett on 20 Sep.

2011. A good spring, with singles at Simar on 9th and 11 Mar. Then, 57 sightings of up to 18 on 29 dates from 19 Mar to 5 May, but 50 at Chadwick Lakes on 23 Apr. In autumn, 10 singles from 16 Sep to 31 Oct.

Barn Swallow (*Huttafa*)

Hirundo rustica

2006. 1 at Buskett on 5 Feb, then daily from 24 Feb, mainly in single to double figures, but up to 400 on several days mainly in late Apr. Up to 10 in several locations from end May to 27 July, including 1 pair that bred at Tas-Sellum (Mellieħa) and 1 pair that bred in Gozo. In autumn, 2 on 14 Aug, then almost daily from 20 Aug to 4 Nov, mostly in single to low treble figures but up to 500 on 1st and 11 Oct, both at Buskett.

2007. 1–3 on most dates from 10 Feb to early Mar, then almost daily and up to a few 100s on several dates till early May, with max. 400 at Kappučini Valley on 22 Apr and 5000 roosting there on 30 Apr. In single to low double figures throughout May, then single pairs breeding at 4 sites from Jun to early Aug, including Sannat, Għadira, Buskett and Tas-Silġ. Regular again from mid-Aug to 26 Nov, with max. 300 at Dwejra (M) on 2 Oct.

2008. 5 singles from 2–27 Feb, then treble figures up to 500 from 1 Mar to 31 May but 1500 on 21 Apr at Victoria. 2 pairs bred at Hal Far / Bengħisa, 1 pair with 2 broods and 1 pair bred at Sannat, also with 2 broods. Apart from the breeding birds, in Jun and Jul, records of up to 5 on 22 dates, but 6 at Fawwara on 3 Jun and family part of 6 seen at Għallis on 12 Jul. In autumn, up to 800 on most days from 17 Aug to 8 Nov, but 2000 at Buskett on 19 Sep, 850 at Girgenti on 22 Sep, 1000 at Buskett on 27 Sep, and 5000 at Buskett on 1 Oct. Singles at Għadira on 15 Nov and at Simar on 30 Nov.

2009. Singles on 5 dates from 11–19 Feb then 1–2 daily from 21–27 Feb. Daily from 2 Mar to 26 May, mainly in double to low treble figures, with max. 500 at Għadira on 14th, at Nadur (M) on 16th and at Simar on 20 Apr. Single figures daily from 28 May to 10 Jun. Up to 3 on 4 dates from 12–24 Jun. At least 4 pairs bred in Malta and at least 3 pairs in Gozo. Single figures occasionally in Jul from other areas apart from the known breeding sites. In autumn, 1 on 10th and 2 on 14th and 17 Aug, then daily from 24 Aug to 1 Nov. In double to treble figures, highest numbers throughout Sep up to mid-Oct, with max. 700 at Buskett on 19 Sep. Up to 3 on 5 dates from 4–22 Nov.

2010. 1 on 8 Feb and 7 sightings of 1–2 from 19–27 Feb. Then multiple sightings daily from 1 Mar to 4 Jun, with max. 350 at Kemmuna on 24 Apr. Up to 9 on various dates from 6 Jun to 2 Aug, mostly at Sannat and Hal Far areas, where they bred. Then, almost daily till 26 Oct, with max. 1200 at Girgenti on 21 Sep and 4000 at Buskett on 22 Sep. Up to 15 on most dates from 29 Oct to 31 Dec. Most records in Dec were singles at Għadira.

2011. Singles almost daily from 1 Jan to 17 Feb mostly at Għadira and Simar increasing to 1–10 on most days from 18 Feb to 7 Mar. Then daily in double and treble figures of up to 300 from 8 Mar to 12 May, but 500 at Salina on 29 Mar. Up to 15 on several days from 13 May to 30 Aug but 24 at Sannat on 17 Aug. Daily from 31 Aug to 11 Nov in double and treble figures of up to 900 but 1000–1500 on 4 dates from 24 Sep to 6 Oct at Girgenti and Buskett. Up to 7 on most days from 13 Nov to 31 Dec, mainly at Għadira.

Eurasian Crag Martin (*Hawwiefia tal-Blat*)

Ptyonoprogne rupestris

2006. 1 at Ta' Ċenċ on 21 Dec.

2007. 1 at Ta' Ċenċ on 16 Mar.

2011. 1 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 16 Oct.

Collared Sand Martin (*Hawwiefia tax-Xtut*)

Riparia riparia

2006. 1 on 25 Feb, then on most days from 18 Mar to 3 Jun, in single to treble figures, with 1000–3000 on 5 dates from 26 Apr to 7 May, with highest on 29 Apr, all at Simar. 1 on 14 Jun, then regularly from 5 Sep to 14 Oct, mostly in single to low double figures, but 150 at Buskett on 21 Sep.

2007. Regular from 10 Mar to 9 Jun, mostly in single to

double figures of up to 50, but 150 on 29 Apr and 100 on 7 May, both at Simar. In autumn, up to 30 on most days from 20 Aug to 6 Oct, with late singles on 30 Oct at Simar and on 4 Nov at Lunzjata (G).

2008. Single, double and treble figures daily from 6 Mar to 30 May, with max. 500 at Victoria on 21 Apr and 500 at Luqa on 23 Apr. 4 singles in Jun. In autumn, up to 20 daily from 27 Aug to 12 Oct. 2 at Buskett on 18 Oct, 1 at Simar on 20 Oct and 1 at Ghadira on 15 Nov.

2009. 1 at Ghadira on 22 Feb and 2 at Salina on 3 Mar. Up to 150 on most days from 5 Mar to 15 May, but 200 at Simar on 20 Apr. Single figures on 11 dates from 18 May to 24 Jun but 24 at Marsaskala on 29 May and 10 at Ghadira on 1 Jun. In autumn, singles at Ghadira on 21 Aug and at Buskett on 9 Sep, then single figures almost daily from 12 Sep to 1 Oct but 10 at Ghadira on 25 Sep. Up to 5 on 9 dates from 5–28 Oct.

2010. 7 sightings of up to 6 from 20–25 Feb, most at Simar. Then in single, double and treble figures of up to 300 almost daily from 2 Mar to 4 Jun. Peak on 30 Apr with 300 at Dingli and 250 at Dwejra. 4 on 10th and 1 on 20 Jun, both at Simar. In autumn, 1–5 on several dates from 4 Sep to 9 Oct, but 15 on 15 Sep and 30 on 17 Sep.

2011. 1 at Simar on 26 Feb and 1–2 on 13–16 Mar. Then in single and double figures of up to 80 from 22 Mar to 25 May, but treble figures of up to 200 on 21 Apr at Simar, on 10 May at Ghadira and at Simar, and on 11–12th and 18 May. 5 singles from 4 sites from 2–9 Jun. In autumn, 1 at Ghadira on 1 Sep, then single figures of up to 5 on 32 dates from 9 Sep to 26 Oct, but 10–15 at Ghadira on 29 Sep and 2–3 Oct.

Eastern Bonelli's Warbler (Vjolin tal-Lvant)

Phylloscopus orientalis

2006. Singles at Ramla Dam on 15 Mar and 5 sightings from 26 Apr to 4 May.

2007. 1 on 2nd, 2 on 16th and 1 on 18 Apr, all at Simar.

2009. Singles at Ghadira and Simar on 8 dates from 21 Mar to 7 Apr.

2010. Up to 3 at Simar and Ghadira on several dates from 6–28 Apr. Singles at Rabat on 11 Apr and at Kemmuna on 4 dates from 15–26 Apr.

2011. 1 at Ghadira on 19 Mar, 2 at Simar on 30 Mar, 1 at Wied Ghajn Rihana on 19 Apr and 1 at Foresta 2000 on 22 Apr.

Western Bonelli's Warbler (Vjolin Bajdani)

Phylloscopus bonelli

2006. 1 at Kemmuna on 19 Apr.

2009. 1 at Simar on 16 Apr.

2010. 1 at Kemmuna on 28 Apr.

2011. Singles at Kemmuna on 30 Mar and at Simar on 7 Apr.

Wood Warbler (Vjolin Hadrani)

Phylloscopus sibilatrix

2006. 1 at Ghadira on 23 Mar, then on most dates from 2 Apr

to 23 May, in single to low double figures of up to 40, but higher numbers in late Apr and beginning May, with max. 120 on 21 Apr and 70 on 5 May, both at Simar. In autumn, 1–2 on 9 dates from 8 Sep to 7 Oct.

2007. Mostly up to 50 from 23 Mar to 5 Jun, but 60–100 from 24–27 Apr at Simar. In autumn, 1–2 on 24 dates from 25 Aug to 25 Oct.

2008. 1 at Delimara on 23 Mar, then up to 60 daily from 1 Apr to 17 May but 100 at Simar on 14 Apr and 200 at Kemmuna on 23 Apr. In autumn, 1 at Ghadira on 26 Aug, then up to 10 on most days from 13 Sep to 10 Oct. 1 at Mellieħa on 1 Nov.

2009. 1 at Foresta 2000 on 23 Mar, then daily from 27 Mar to 13 May. Double figures frequently with occasional low treble figures. Max. 120 on 20 Apr and 100 on 21 Apr, both at Simar. Singles on 3 dates from 15–19 May. In autumn, singles at Simar on 24th and 31 Aug, then in single and double figures on most dates from 2 Sep to 14 Oct, with max. 30 at Simar on 28 Sep. Singles at Saqqajja and Simar on 17 Oct and again at Saqqajja on 22 Oct.

2010. Almost daily from 23 Mar to 18 May in single and double figures up to 80, but 150 on 7th and 100 on 12 Apr, both at Simar. 9 sightings of 1–2 from 24 May to 11 Jun. In autumn, 9 sightings of 1–2 from 13 Sep to 9 Oct. Singles at Simar on 25 Oct and at Dwejra (M) on 7 Nov.

2011. Up to 30 on most days from 29 Mar to 18 May, but 50 at Simar on 26 Apr. 1–2 at 3 sites on 26 May and 1 at Dwejra (M) on 1 Jun. In autumn, singles on 3 dates from 11–30 Sep, up to 5 daily from 3–14 Oct, and singles at Ghadira on most days from 17–26 Oct.

Yellow-browed Warbler (Vjolin tal-Faxx)

Phylloscopus inornatus

2006. 1 at Wied Ghajn Żejtuna on 19 Oct.

2007. Singles at Simar from 30 Oct to 2 Nov, at Salina on 1 Nov, and at Simar on 29 Nov.

2008. Singles on 6 dates from 6 Oct to 3 Nov, most from Buskett and Simar.

2009. Singles at Salina on 21 Sep and at Ghadira on 30 Oct.

2010. Singles at Ghadira on 12 Oct, at Kemmuna on 26–27 Oct, at Ghadira on 3–6 Nov, and at Simar on 29 Nov.

2011. Singles at Simar on 9–10 Oct, at Kemmuna on 17 Oct and at Saqqajja on 27 Nov.

Dusky Warbler (Vjolin Skur)

Phylloscopus fuscatus

2008. 1 at Ghadira from 31 Oct to 19 Nov.

2009. 1 ringed at Saqqajja on 1 Nov.

Willow Warbler (Vjolin Safrani)

Phylloscopus trochilus

2006. 1–5 on several dates from 17 Mar to 16 May. In autumn, 1–5 from 19 Aug to 21 Oct, but 10 at Buskett on 1 Oct.

2007. Regular from 20 Mar to 17 May, mostly in single to low

double figures of up to 25, but 40–70 on 5 dates from 26 Mar to 6 Apr. 1 at Simar on 20 Jul, then on several dates from 25 Aug to 7 Nov, with max. 20 at Simar on 19 Oct.

2008. 1 early bird at Għadira on 3 Feb, then up to 20 from 4 Mar to 17 May, but 25 at Għadira on 29 Mar and 30 at Simar on 2 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 23 May. In autumn, 1 at Simar on 30 Aug, then up to 10 on most days from 6 Sep to 30 Oct, but 35 on 2nd and 20 on 3 Oct, both at Simar. Singles at Għadira on 3 dates from 7–15 Nov.

2009. Singles on most dates from 7 Mar to 2 May in single to low double figures, with max. 30 at Simar on 2 Apr. 1–2 on 7 dates from 5–19 May. In autumn, 1 at Simar on 15 Aug then singles regularly from 19 Aug to 4 Sep and daily from 9 Sep to 22 Oct in single to low double figures, with max. 20 at Simar on 28 Sep. 2 at Għadira on 30 Oct.

2010. Up to 5 almost daily from 22 Feb to 1 May, but 10 at Għadira on 5 Apr and 10 at Kemmuna on 25 Apr. 12 sightings of 1–2 from 5–31 May. In autumn, up to 5 on most days from 20 Aug to 31 Oct but 10 on 6th and 8 on 14 Sep, both at Għadira.

2011. Singles at Simar on 10th and 15 Mar, then up to 8 on most days from 19 Mar to 16 May, but 10 at Simar on 25 Mar and 10 at Kemmuna on 9 May. 1 at Għadira on 26 May. In autumn, singles on 5 dates from 16–27 Aug, then 1–5 on most days from 5 Sep to 30 Oct, but 10 on 23 Sep and 8 on 3 Oct, both at Simar. Singles on 3 dates from 2–10 Nov.

Iberian Chiffchaff (Vjolin Spanjol)

Phylloscopus ibericus

2010. Singles at Simar on 11 dates from 27 Feb to 18 Mar and at Għadira on 27–28 Feb and 6 Mar.

Common Chiffchaff (Vjolin tax-Xitwa)

Phylloscopus collybita

2006. Up to 15 at any one site throughout winter, but 40 on 12th and 35 on 18 Feb, both at Rabat. Daily till 1 Apr, then 1–2 on 10 dates till 22 May. Daily again from 17 Oct till end of year in single to low double figures, with up to 50 at Lunzjata on 18 Nov, at Għadira on 20th, at Ta' Pinu on 27th and at Għadira on 29 Dec.

2007. In single to double figures of up to 60 throughout winter, with the higher numbers recorded from Għadira, Simar, Wied Għajn Riġana and Lunzjata. Single figures through Apr till 25th, then singles at Għadira on 9 Jun and at Simar on 7th and 26 Jul. In autumn, from 12 Oct onwards, with max. 70 at Lunzjata on 11 Dec.

2008. Daily records of up to 40 from 1 Jan to 14 Apr, with the highest numbers recorded from Għadira. 1 at Għadira on 8 Jun. Then, up to 80 daily from 7 Oct till end of year, but 100 at Għadira on 24 Nov.

2009. Double figures of up to 60 almost daily throughout Jan to Mar, with the highest numbers recorded from Għadira, Chadwick Lakes and Simar. Single figures on 17 dates from 1 Apr to 20 May. 1 at Buskett on 14 Jun. 1 at Rabat on 11 Oct,

then daily from 14 Oct till end of year. Mainly in low double figures, with max. 50 at Simar on 2 Nov.

2010. Up to 60 daily throughout Jan till 7 Apr, but 80 at Għadira on 9 Mar. Highest counts were from the reserves. Singles on 13 dates from 10 Apr to 25 Jun. In autumn on most days from 9 Oct, in single to double figures of up to 80 till end of year, but 100 at Simar on 15 Nov and at Għadira on 7 Dec.

2011. Daily, with multiple sightings most days, in single and double figures from 1 Jan to 5 Apr. Max. 70 at Simar on 7 Mar. 1–2 on 13 dates from 7 Apr to 30 May. 1 at Għadira on 5 dates from 23 Jun to 13 Jul. Almost daily from 7 Oct till end of year in single, double and low treble figures. Max. 150 at Għadira on 28 Nov.

Radde's Warbler (Vjolin tas-Siberja)

Phylloscopus schwarzi

2007. 1 ringed at Kemmuna on 2 Nov.

Cetti's Warbler (Bifula tal-Għolliq)

Cettia cetti

2006. Resident and breeding in suitable habitat, with sightings in low single figures at most locations. Higher numbers recorded in late spring and summer, with up to 15 in valleys and sheltered sites, like Buskett.

2007. Resident and widespread at locations with suitable habitat, mostly in single figures or up to 10 at any one site. Higher figures in early summer when family parties present, and up to 20 at Buskett on any one day from end Jun to early Jul.

2008. Resident breeder in suitable areas. Mostly in single figures birds but 10–15 at some sites, namely Għadira, Simar and Buskett. Max. 20 at Chadwick Lakes on 25 May.

2009. Breeding resident, recorded from usual sites, mostly in single figures of up to 8, but 20 from Simar on 3 dates in Jun and Jul.

2010. Breeding resident recorded in single figures on most days, with up to 10 at Simar, Buskett and Wied Qirda. Numbers increasing in May–Jun with up to 20 at Simar and 10 at Għadira.

2011. Breeding resident, present in single and low double figures of up to 15 throughout year, and in May–Jun up to 20 at Simar.

Eurasian Blackcap (Kapinera)

Sylvia atricapilla

2006. On most days at various locations throughout winter and early spring till 10 Apr, in single to low double figures, but up to 50 at Buskett on 2 Jan. Singles on 5 dates from 17 Apr to 8 May. 1 at Wied il-Luq on 31 Aug, then regular again from 21 Sep till end of year, with up to 60 at Buskett on 22 Dec.

2007. Throughout winter and regular in spring till 30 Apr, mostly in single to low double figures, but 100 at Buskett on 6 dates in Jan–Feb and 200 there on 31 Jan. Then up to 30 from 13 Sep till end of year at various locations.

2008. Up to 30 almost daily from Jan to 11 May, but 45 at Buskett on 10 Feb. 1 at Rabat on 14 Sep, then up to 30 almost daily from 20 Sep till end of year, but 40 at Buskett on 24 Oct.

2009. Daily from Jan to 11 Apr in single to low double figures in most places but higher numbers from Buskett, with max. 50 on 23 Feb. 1–2 daily from 13–18 Apr and singles on 4 dates from 20 Apr to 5 May. Singles on 8th and 12 Sep, up to 4 on 4 dates from 20–26 Sep, then daily from 30 Sep till end of year in single to low double figures, with max. 25 at Buskett on 26 Dec.

2010. Almost daily from Jan to 16 Apr, in single to low double figures of up to 40, with highest counts at Buskett. 2 on 22 Apr and 1 on 6 May. 6 singles in Sep from 19th, then up to 25 almost daily from 2 Oct till end of year.

2011. Almost daily from Jan to 19 Apr, in single and double figures of up to 50, with highest counts at Buskett. 4 at Buskett on 23 Apr and 1 at Kemmuna on 5 May. Up to 20 on most days from 18 Sep till end of year.

Garden Warbler (Bekkafik)

Sylvia borin

2006. In single to double figures from 11 Apr, with treble figures on 8–13 May at Buskett and peak of 1000 recorded there on 10 May. Singles till end May and singles on 3 dates till 14 Jun. In autumn, singles at Buskett on 3 dates from 4–20 Aug, then regular from 26 Aug to 3 Nov, in single to low double figures, with max. 50 at Buskett on 14 Sep.

2007. Single to low double figures on most dates from 14 Apr to 9 Jun, with 50 at Kemmuna on 27th and at Buskett on 30 Apr. Up to 20 on most dates from 19 Aug to 7 Nov.

2008. Up to 40 almost daily from 10 Apr to 3 Jun, but 50 at Kemmuna on 3 May. 1 at Buskett on 22 Jun. Up to 25 almost daily from 23 Aug to 8 Nov, but 40 at Saqqajja on 27 Sep. 1 late bird at Ghadira on 8 Dec.

2009. Almost daily from 15 Apr to 27 May, in single and low double figures, with max. 50 at Kemmuna on 29–30 Apr. Singles on 3 dates from 31 May to 9 Jun. Then almost daily from 23 Aug to 27 Oct in single to low double figures on most days, but 60 on 20th, 100 on 25th and 70 on 26 Sep, all at Saqqajja. 4 on 1st then singles on 2nd and 13 Nov.

2010. Singles on 3rd and 6 Apr, then almost daily from 14 Apr to 29 May. In low double figures of up to 30, but 50 at Kemmuna on 3rd and 60 at Bingemma on 8 May. Single to low double figures of up to 20 on most days from 19 Aug to 8 Nov, but 30 at Buskett on 19 Sep. Singles on 15 Nov at Ghadira, on 21 Nov and 12 Dec at Buskett.

2011. Almost daily in single and double figures of up to 60 from 14 Apr to 1 Jun but 6 sightings of 100 on 4 dates from 8–15 May. Almost daily in single figures or low double figures of up to 20 from 23 Aug to 28 Oct. 1 at Ghadira on 10 Nov.

African Desert Warbler (Bufula tad-Deżert)

Curruca deserti

2010. 1 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 22–23 Apr.

Barred Warbler (Bekkafik tal-Istrixxi)

Curruca nisoria

2007. 1 ringed at Ghadira on 14 Sep.

Western Orphean Warbler (Bekkafik Sewdieni)

Curruca hortensis

2010. 1 at Buskett from 27 May to 6 Jun.

2011. 1 at San Anton Gardens from 3–27 Jun.

Lesser Whitethroat (Bekkafik Irmiedi)

Curruca curruca

2006. Singles at Kemmuna on 1 May and at Simar on 28 Dec.

2007. Singles at Kemmuna on 14 Apr and at Mellieħa on 3 Nov.

2008. Singles at Ghadira on 16 Oct, at Ta' Gajdoru from 25–27 Oct and at Simar on 5 Nov.

2009. Singles at Kemmuna on 17th and 23 Sep and at Mellieħa on 25–26 Sep.

2010. Singles at Kemmuna on 4 Oct and at Ghadira on 10 Nov.

2011. Singles at Kemmuna on 27 Oct and at Ghadira on 9 Dec.



Ménétries's Warbler (Bufula tal-Makkja)

Curruca mystacea

2011. 1 ringed at Saqqajja on 21 Aug. **First record for Malta**

Sardinian Warbler (Bufula Sewda)

Curruca melanocephala

2006. Resident and common in all areas with suitable habitat, with higher concentrations in locations like Buskett and several areas in Gozo. Higher numbers observed in spring with more prominent territorial behaviour linked to breeding season, and in summer with the presence of fledged young.

2007. Resident and breeding in consistent numbers in all areas with appropriate habitat, including urban green areas. Migrant birds observed in both spring and autumn, with the latter more evident, with up to 50 at Kemmuna on 2 Nov. Otherwise in single to low double figures at any one site.

2008. Common and widespread breeding resident on all three main islands, in numbers of 1–25 but 92 at Kemmuna on 31 May.

2009. Common resident breeder recorded in single and low double figures throughout year but 60 on 5th and 67 on 14 Apr, both at Kemmuna.

2010. Common and widespread breeder present in single and double figures throughout year. Max. 54 at Kemmuna on 6 Jun.

2011. Common breeding resident in a wide variety of habitat across all three main islands. Present throughout year in single and low double figures. Max. 30 at Buskett on 20 Feb and 14 Aug.

Subalpine Warbler (*Bufula Passajra*)

Curruca cantillans

2006. 1 at Għadira on 3 Mar, then regular from 17 Mar to 28 Apr, mostly 1–10 but 30 at Kemmuna on 11 Apr. In autumn, up to 12 from 23 Jul to 14 Oct, but 15 at Buskett on 3 Sep. 1 late bird at Għadira on 8 Nov.

2007. 1–15 on most dates from 23 Feb to 11 May, with most sightings throughout Mar and early Apr. Then again from 15 Jul to 23 Oct and almost daily in Sep, with max. 30 at Dingli Cliffs on 9 Sep.

2008. Singles at Għadira and Ta' Gajdor on 5 Mar, then 1–10 almost daily from 9 Mar to 5 May. 1 at Għadira on 15 May. Then in autumn, up to 10 almost daily from 19 Jul to 20 Oct but 30 on 23 Aug at Buskett and 15 at Għadira on 24 Sep. 1 late bird at Għadira on 15 Dec.

2009. Almost daily from 8–18 Mar then daily from 22 Mar to 18 Apr. Mainly in single to low double figures, but 100 at Kemmuna on 27 Mar. Up to 4 almost daily from 22–29 Apr and singles on 5 dates from 1–10 May. Singles on 17th and 21 Jul then almost daily from 28 Jul to 11 Oct, in single to low double figures predominantly in Sep, with max. 25 at Kemmuna on 23 Sep.

2010. Up to 20 almost daily from 22 Feb to 28 Apr, but 50 on 23 Mar at Kemmuna and 30 on 27 Mar at Għadira. 1–2 on 7 dates from 1–12 May. Single and double figures of up to 25 almost daily from 18 Jul to 8 Oct but 30 on 23 Aug, 40 on 19 Sep and 50 on 20 Sep, all at Kemmuna. 1–8 on 12 dates from 12–30 Oct.

2011. 1 at Simar on 9 Mar, then up to 10 on several dates from 12 Mar to 30 Apr, but 25 at Kemmuna on 29 Mar. Singles at Kemmuna on 8th and 12 May. Up to 6 on several dates from 16 Jul to 22 Oct, but 20 at Buskett on 14 Aug and at Kemmuna on 22 Aug.

Rüppell's Warbler (*Bufula tal-Pavalor*)

Curruca ruppeli

2006. 1 at Dwejra (M) from 27 Mar to 1 Apr.

Common Whitethroat (*Bekkafik Aħmar*)

Curruca communis

2006. In spring from 8 Apr to 30 May, mostly in single to double figures of up to 50, but 150–300 on 3 dates at Kemmuna from 17–26 Apr. In autumn, singles on 16 Sep and 1 Oct.

2007. Regular from 31 Mar to 6 Jun, mostly up to 20 but 40–50 on 4 dates from 25 Apr to 15 May. In autumn, singles on 3 Oct, 23 Oct and 3 Nov.

2008. Singles at Kemmuna on 22–23 Mar, at Red Tower on 1 Apr and at Simar on 6 Apr. Then up to 60 daily from 13 Apr to 16 May, but 70 on 17th and 150 on 29–30 Apr at Kemmuna, and 100 at Dwejra (M) on 30 Apr. In autumn, singles at Munxar on 27 Sep, at Miżieb on 28 Sep and at Kemmuna on 21st and 26 Oct.

2009. 1–2 on 5 dates from 29 Mar to 5 Apr, then in single to

low double figures daily from 8 Apr to 18 May, with max. 50 at Kemmuna on 17 Apr. Singles at Għadira on 30 May and 2 Jun. In autumn, recorded on 7 days from 8–28 Sep in low single figures, with max. 5 at Saqqajja on 26 Sep.

2010. In single and double figures on most days from 3 Apr to 25 May, but 100 at Kemmuna on 1 May. Singles on 29 May and 3 Jun.

2011. Singles on 4 dates from 29 Mar to 12 Apr, then in single and double figures of up to 30 on most days from 15 Apr to 15 May, but 40–60 on 6 dates at Kemmuna. Singles on 25th and 29 May. In autumn, singles at Tal-Bardan on 21st and at Ta' Ċenċ on 24 Aug, and at Mgarr ix-Xini on 9 Oct.

Spectacled Warbler (*Bufula Hamra*)

Curruca conspicillata

2006. Resident in low numbers in suitable habitat on the three main islands. Higher numbers in spring with low figures during rest of year.

2007. Resident but scarce, present in areas with suitable habitat on all three main islands. Mostly in low single figures at any one site, but up to 20 at Ta' Ċenċ on several dates.

2008. Resident breeder in small numbers, mostly in single or low double figures, on all three main islands. Max. 13 at Kemmuna on 31 May.

2009. Scarce resident breeder in small numbers mostly in rocky coastal areas. Stronghold at Ta' Ċenċ, Għarb and Dwejra (G) with up to 24 on 30 May at Dwejra (G) and 20 at Ta' Ċenċ on 10 May. 10 at Majjistral Park on 6 Jun and 9 on Kemmuna on 14 Jun.

2010. Resident breeder present throughout year in single figures of up to 8, but 12 at Ta' Ċenċ on 3 Apr.

2011. Breeding on three main islands with up to 6 on several days throughout year, but 10 (2 family parties) on 11 Jun at Ġebel Ciantar. Earliest observation of fledglings on 24 Apr at Kemmuna.

Marmora's Warbler (*Bufula Griża*)

Curruca sarda

2010. 1 at Kemmuna from 27–30 Oct.

Dartford Warbler (*Bufula tax-Xagħri*)

Curruca undata

2007. Singles at Mġiebaħ on 15 Jan and at Kemmuna on 24 Oct.

2008. Singles at Buskett on 2 Feb and at Wied Żnuber on 24 Feb.

2009. 1 at Għadira on 13 Nov.

Northern Wren (*Bumistur*)

Troglodytes troglodytes

2007. 1 at Buskett on 10th and 18 Jan. Then singles at Mellieħa on 29 Sep and at Kemmuna on 21 Oct.

Common Starling (Sturnell)***Sturnus vulgaris***

2006. In single to low treble figures from Jan to mid-Mar, but 1000 on several dates at Simar, Għadira and Haż-Żebbuġ. 1–5 almost daily from 18 Mar to 17 Jun, mostly at Kemmuna and Simar, but 20 on 31 Mar and 10 on 15 Apr and 5 Jun, all at Kemmuna. 4 on 24 Aug and on 1–2 Sep at Rabat, then regularly from 23 Sep onwards. Mostly up to 1000, but peaks from end Oct to mid-Nov, with 7000 at Kemmuna on 28 Oct, 6000 at Għadira on 6 Nov and 10,000 at Luqa Airport on 13 Nov.

2007. In double to treble figures of up to 500 in Jan and Feb, with max. 1000 at Birkirkara roost on 7 Jan, then in single to low double figures throughout Mar. 1–10 throughout Apr to mid-Sep, mostly from Simar, but 16 at Kemmuna on 15 Jun. Regular passage from 21 Sep, increasing markedly from 24 Oct onwards, with 2000–8000 regularly till mid-Dec, mostly from Luqa Airport, Kemmuna and Gozo.

2008. Wintering in treble figures of up to 800 in most locations from Jan to Mar, but 1000 from Simar on 17 and 24 Jan. Then, up to 10 at Kemmuna from 15 Apr to 11 May, followed by 4 on 31 May and 2 on 26 Aug. Up to 10 at Simar from 1 Apr to 14 Sep. Otherwise, 1 at Għadira on 28 May, 2 at Burmarrad on 7 Jun and 2 at Haż-Żabbar on 13 Jul. Then up to 3000 on most dates from 19 Sep till end of year, but 5000 at Għadira on 24 Oct, 5000 at Luqa on 3 dates and 10,000+ at Kemmuna on 5 dates, with max. 25,000 on 31 Oct.

2009. Recorded in all months in single, double and treble figures from various sites in Malta, Gozo and Kemmuna. Max. 10,000 at Luqa Airport on 3–4 Nov, otherwise up to 5000.

2010. Double, treble and quadruple numbers on most dates in Jan and Feb, mostly up to 1500–2000, but 2500 at Simar on 4 Feb. Then in decreasing numbers up to 200 in Mar. 1–14 irregularly from Apr to 20 Sep, almost exclusively at Kemmuna and Simar. Then almost daily from 23 Sep till end of year, regularly in quadruple figures from 20 Oct. Max. 5000 on 3 dates in Dec, all from Luqa Airport.

2011. Up to 1000 daily from 1 Jan to 17 Mar, but 1500–2000 at Simar from 13–31 Jan and 2000 at Ġebel Ciantar on 13 Feb. Then in single and double figures of up to 30 from 18 Mar to 7 Apr, but 200 at Salina on 3 Apr. Then 1–10 till Sep, mostly at Simar and Kemmuna. Then daily from 25 Sep in double and treble figures and up to 2000 from 17 Oct. Max. 6000 from Buskett on 18 Oct, 3000 on 4 dates at 3 sites in mid-Nov, and 2500–3000 at Għadira on 22nd and 29 Nov.

Mistle Thrush (Malvizzun Prim)***Turdus viscivorus***

2006. 1 at Buskett on 14 Jan.

2007. 1 at Buskett on 19 Oct.

2008. 1 at Foresta 2000 on 21 Oct.

2009. 1 at Tal-Bardan on 31 Oct.

2010. Singles at Buskett on 15th, at Għadira on 21st and at

Foresta 2000 on 26 Oct.

2011. Singles at Buskett on 2 Feb, then at Foresta 2000 on 13th, at Kemmuna on 24th and at Wied Qirda on 29 Oct.

Song Thrush (Malvizz)***Turdus philomelos***

2006. Present in single to low double figures from 1 Jan to 1 Apr, with max. 30–40 at Buskett in mid-Jan. In autumn, from 4 Oct to 31 Dec, with 50 on 8 dates from 13–29 Oct, with max. 100 at Kemmuna on 20 Oct.

2007. On most dates in single to double figures up to 30 from 1 Jan to 18 Apr. 1 at Buskett on 12 May, then regular again from 30 Sep with single to low double figures up to 50 till end of year, with most sightings from end Oct to early Nov.

2008. Up to 10 from Jan to Mar, with max. 20 on 10 Jan and 15 on 14 Jan at Buskett. Singles on 7 dates from 1–21 Apr and 2 at Miżieb on 2 May. In autumn, 10 on 2 Oct at Kemmuna, then sightings of 1–40 daily from 6 Oct till end of year.

2009. Sightings almost daily from 1 Jan to 31 Mar, mostly in single figures but low double figures on 6 dates, with max. 20 at Buskett on 6th and 18 Jan and at Kemmuna on 23 Feb. Singles on 2nd and 4 Apr and 4 records of singing ♂♂ from 22–30 May. 1 singing ♂ also at Ġirgenti on 6th and 13 Jul. In autumn, practically daily from 6 Oct to 31 Dec in single to low double figures. Good passage on 27–28 Oct with 65 at Buskett on 27 Oct and 50 at Foresta 2000, 80 at Kemmuna and 70 at Buskett on 28 Oct.

2010. In single figures on most dates from 1 Jan to 31 Mar. Up to 30 at Buskett on 21st and 23 Jan and on 4 dates from 14–21 Mar. 10 sightings of 1–4 from 1–18 Apr and 1 on 29 Apr. 1 at Chadwick Lakes on 5 Aug. 3 at Rabat on 3 Oct, then almost daily from 10 Oct to 31 Dec in single and double figures up to 20 (up to 80 from 20–30 Oct), but 450 at Buskett and 100 at Dwejra (M) on 22 Oct and 170 at Buskett on 23 Oct.

2011. Sightings of 1–10 on most dates from 1 Jan to 19 Mar, but 15 at Buskett on 6 Feb. 6 sightings of 1–2 on 4 dates from 25 Mar to 16 Apr and 1 at Kemmuna on 2 May. 1–4 at Għadira and Buskett on most dates from 30 Aug to 7 Oct. Then double figures of up to 80 daily from 11–31 Oct, but 220 on 12 Oct and 120 on 29 Oct at Buskett. 1–30 daily from 1 Nov to 5 Dec and up to 8 daily from 6–31 Dec.

Redwing (Malvizz Aħmar)***Turdus iliacus***

2006. Up to 15 at Buskett from 11 Jan to 4 Mar, 5 at Ta' Gajdor on 11 Feb and 1 at San Ġwann on 18 Feb. Then singles at Buskett on 26 Nov and at Ta' Pinu on 27 Dec.

2007. 1 at Wied Ġhajj Riħana on 24 Feb, then on 5 dates from 11 Nov to 12 Dec, always in singles but 6 at Buskett on 17 Nov.

2008. 3 on 10th and 14 Jan, and 1 on 31 Jan and 7 Feb, all at Buskett. 1 at Dwejra (M) on 29 Jan.

2009. Singles at Buskett on 4 Jan and at Għadira on 17 Nov,

and 2 at Buskett on 26 Nov.

2010. 1 at Għadira on 26 Oct and 3 at Buskett on 12 Dec.

2011. Singles at Buskett on 8th, 11th and 20 Feb. 1 at Kemmuna on 26 Oct and 3 at Buskett on 11 Dec.

Eurasian Blackbird (Malvizz Iswed)

Turdus merula

2006. 1–3 on most dates from 1 Jan to 18 Feb. 2 on 25 Feb and 1 on 4 Mar, both at Buskett, then 1 on 15 Mar at Ramla Dam and 1 at Buskett on 16 May. In autumn, 1–2 regularly at various sites from 18 Oct to 31 Dec, but 5 at Buskett on 2 Dec.

2007. 1–3 on several dates from 1 Jan to 14 Mar, mostly at Buskett. Then 1–3 regularly again from 23 Oct to 31 Dec at several sites.

2008. 18 singles from 4 Jan to 8 Mar. Then 13 singles from 14 Oct to 25 Dec. Most sightings from Għadira, Buskett and Kemmuna.

2009. Singles on 2nd, 3rd and 14 Jan and on 3 dates from 21–28 Feb. 2 at Miżieb on 15 Mar. Then singles at Tal-Bardan on 13th, 18th and 19 Oct. Sightings of 1–2 on 4 dates from 23–28 Oct and singles on 8 dates from 5–28 Nov. 1 at Rabat on 13 Dec and 1–2 at Buskett on 26th and 30 Dec.

2010. One at Foresta 2000 on 13 Jan. Then 1 on 13 Oct and 1–2 on several dates from 21 Oct to 31 Dec, mostly at Kemmuna and Buskett.

2011. 2 at Buskett on 5 Jan and singles on 9 dates from 6 Jan to 20 Feb. 1♂ at Buskett on 21 Apr and singing ♂♂ at Girgenti on 10 dates from 29 May to 5 Jul and at Buskett on 7 Jun. Then, singles at Buskett on 16 Sep and at Għadira on 5 Oct. 1–5 on most dates from 16 Oct to 25 Dec, but 30 on 15 Nov and 15 on 2 Dec at Buskett.

Fieldfare (Malvizzun tal-Qtajja')

Turdus pilaris

2006. Mostly singles on 7 dates from 13 Jan to 18 Feb, but 3 at Buskett on 14 Jan.

2007. 1 at Dwejra (M) on 8 Jan, 2 at Buskett on 19 Oct and 1 at Xagħra on 9 Nov.

2008. 1 at Mosta on 23 Nov.

2010. Singles at Luqa Airport on 23rd and at Buskett on 25 Dec.

2011. 2 at Buskett on 20 Jan.

Ring Ouzel (Malvizz tas-Sidra)

Turdus torquatus

2011. 1 at Buskett on 12 Oct.

Rufous-tailed Scrub-robin (Rożinjol tax-Xagħri)

Cercotrichas galactotes

2007. 1 at Dwejra (M) on 14 May.

2009. 1 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 17 Apr.

2011. 1 ringed at Kemmuna on 6 May.

Spotted Flycatcher (Żanzarell tat-Tikek)

Muscicapa striata

2006. Sightings from 11 Apr, in double figures with peak in early May, with max. 80 at Buskett on 5 May. Breeding mostly at Buskett where 25 on 9 Jul, and at L-Addolorata, where at least 1 pair fledged 4 young. In autumn, up to 10 till 1 Oct, with last singles on 13th and 19 Oct.

2007. Sightings on most dates from 15 Apr, with migrants mostly till 3rd week of May, in single to double figures of 40, but 100 at Dwejra (M) on 14 May. 2–4 pairs breeding at L-Addolorata and at Buskett. Autumn migrants from mid-Aug to 17 Oct, mostly in low single figures but 10 at Buskett on 11 Sep.

2008. Up to 30 daily from 11 Apr to 31 May, but 45 at Dwejra (M) on 2 May, 40 at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 13 May and 40 at Buskett on 16 May. 1–15 almost daily in Jun and Jul, mostly from Buskett, L-Addolorata and Rabat where some pairs bred, but 20 at Buskett on 13 Jul. In autumn, 1–10 on most dates from 5 Aug to 30 Sep and 12 singles from 1–29 Oct.

2009. Sightings daily from 16 Apr to 31 May in single and low double figures, with max. 59 at Dwejra (M) on 9 May, 50 at Kemmuna on 10 May and 50 at Dwejra (M) on 13 May. Breeding at usual localities with up to 6 pairs at Buskett. Singles from 3 Aug to 22 Oct, mostly at Kemmuna, Simar and Buskett, with max. 20 at Wied Qirda on 25 Sep.

2010. 1 on 2 Apr at Għadira and 3 on 3 Apr at Ramla Dam. Then on most dates from 18 Apr to 4 Jun in single or double figures up to 40, but 75 at Dwejra (M) on 30 Apr and 50 at Kemmuna and Dwejra on 1 May. Sightings of 1–10 on 19 dates from 9 Jun to 15 Aug, but 20 on 17 Jul and 15 on 25 Jul at Buskett. Sightings of 1–8 on most dates from 21 Aug to 28 Sep. 4 singles from 6–23 Oct, followed by singles at Għadira from 23 Oct to 3 Nov and on 8 Nov.

2011. 1–15 daily from 19 Apr to 11 May, but up to 40 on 8–9 May. Several sightings in double figures of up to 80 from 12–15 May, but 100 at Baħrija and 150 at Dwejra (M) on 14 May. 1–8 on several dates from 16 May to 14 Jun. First nest found on 2 Jun, first fledglings on 17 Jun. Up to 15 regularly till 14 Aug. 1–6 on several dates from 15 Aug to 26 Oct.

European Robin (Pitirross)

Erithacus rubecula

2006. Present throughout year. Winter counts in low double figures up to 60, mostly at Buskett, then singles at various localities from Apr to second half of Sep. In autumn, in double to low treble figures, with max. 300 on several dates from mid-Oct to Nov mostly at Buskett, but 600 on 26th and 400 on 27 Oct at Kemmuna.

2007. Present throughout year. 100 at Buskett and in double figures at several locations in Jan and Feb, decreasing to low double figures by Mar, and in single figures from Apr to mid-Sep at various locations. Increasing to treble figures by mid-Oct with peaks of 250 from end Oct to early Nov, then stabilising to double figures till 31 Dec.

2008. Wintering in double figures from Jan to Mar. Then 1–5 from 1 Apr to Sep, with summering birds at Simar, Għadira, Buskett and some public gardens and valleys. Then 1–80 daily from 1 Oct to 31 Dec, with 100 on 7 dates from 20 Oct to 8 Nov at Kemmuna or Buskett.

2009. Present throughout year with highest numbers in Jan–Mar and Oct–Dec. Single figures from Apr to Sep. Max. 150 at Kemmuna on 26 Oct and 100 at Buskett on 14 Nov. Double figures at Buskett from Nov–Dec, with 60–80 on most dates.

2010. Present throughout year. Highest numbers in winter months, in double figures up to 55 from 1 Jan to 23 Mar, but 80 at Buskett on 27 Jan. 1–5 on most dates from 24 Mar to 2 Oct, but only on 11 dates in Aug. 10 at Buskett on 12 Sep, increasing to double or low treble figures from 3 Oct to 31 Dec, but 150 on 25th and 26 Oct, 120 on 27th and 200 on 29 Oct at Kemmuna.

2011. From 1 Jan to 25 Mar in single and double figures of up to 60. 1–5 almost daily from 26 Mar to 19 May and 1–5 less regularly from 24 May to 31 Sep, but 10 at Buskett on 10 Sep. Then daily in single and double figures of up to 80 from 1 Oct to 31 Dec, but up to 500 at Għadira, Buskett and Kemmuna on 13 Oct, from 18–30 Oct and on 7th and 15 Nov.

Bluethroat (Rożinjol Ikħal)

Cyanecula svecica

2006. Singles at Għadira on 25 Mar, at Simar on 5 Oct and at Ramla Dam on 10 Oct.

2007. Singles at Simar on 6 Apr, at Għadira on 3 dates from 4–8 Oct, at Simar on 18 Oct, at Kemmuna on 30 Oct and at Simar on 26 Nov.

2008. Singles at Simar on 22–23 Feb and 27 Mar. In autumn, singles on 8th, 9th and 11 Oct at Simar, and at Għadira on 13 Oct.

2009. Singles at Simar on 16 Mar, at Il-Hofra on 26 Mar and at Simar on 27 Mar, 20 Oct and 19 Nov.

2010. 1 at Rabat on 29 Sep, and 1–2 at Simar on 11 dates from 4 Nov to 29 Dec, but 3 on 29 Nov.

2011. Sightings of 1–2 at Simar on 24 dates from 3 Jan to 15 Mar. In autumn, 1♀ at Tal-Bardan on 17 Oct and singles at Simar on 5 dates from 18 Oct to 12 Nov.

Common Nightingale (Rożinjol)

Luscinia megarhynchos

2006. Regular from 17 Mar to 21 May, in single to low double figures, with max. 19 at Kemmuna on 26 Apr. In autumn, sightings from 20 Aug to 2 Oct, with max. 20 at Buskett on 8 Sep.

2007. 2 on 8 Mar, then regularly from 18 Mar to 13 May, mostly in low single figures, but 20 at Dwejra (M) on 8th and at Kemmuna on 24 Apr. In autumn, up to 10 on several dates from 28 Aug to 6 Oct, then 1 at Kemmuna on 24 Oct.

2008. 1–5 almost daily from 19 Mar to 15 May, but 10 at Kemmuna on 18 Apr. Then 1–3 on most dates from 18 Aug to 1 Oct, mostly at Buskett, but 5 at Kemmuna on 27 Aug and 5 at

Buskett on 27 Sep. 7 sightings of 1–2 from 2–20 Oct.

2009. Singles on 18th and 19 Mar, then daily from 25 Mar to 30 Apr, mostly in single figures, but 10 at Kemmuna on 15 Apr. Singles on 4 dates from 2–7 May and 1 singing ♂ at Rabat on 23 May. In autumn, 3 at Buskett on 23 Aug and 1 at Mgarr ix-Xini on 29 Aug. Then, single figures regularly from 4–30 Sep, with max. 5 at Kemmuna on 23 Sep. Sightings on 6 dates from 3–22 Oct, always of singles but 2 at Kemmuna on 10 Oct.

2010. Sightings of 1–4 on most dates from 11–30 Mar. Then 1–15 daily from 31 Mar to 3 May, but 29 on 4th and 20 on 7 Apr at Kemmuna. 1 on 10 May. In autumn, 1–5 on 20 dates from 15 Aug to 30 Sep, mostly at Buskett and 1 at Kemmuna on 21 Oct.

2011. 1 at Wied Għajn Rihana 17 Mar. Then 1–5 on most dates from 24 Mar to 15 May, with 10–12 at Kemmuna on 4 dates. In autumn, 5 singles from 14 Aug to 2 Oct.

Red-breasted Flycatcher (Żanzarell Żgħir)

Ficedula parva

2006. Singles on 7 dates from 29 Sep to 25 Oct, all at Buskett but 1 at Simar on 25 Oct.

2007. 5 singles from 23 Oct to 17 Nov.

2008. Singles at Għadira on 3 dates from 5–13 Oct.

2009. Singles at Simar on 22 Sep, at Saqqajja on 25 Sep, 1–2 at Buskett from 2–4 Oct, and singles at Kemmuna on 10 Oct and at Simar on 26 Nov.

2010. Singles on 30 Sep and 25 Oct at Simar.

2011. Singles at Rabat on 25 Sep and at Buskett on 7 Oct.

Semi-collared Flycatcher (Żanzarell tal-Lvant)

Ficedula semitorquata

2006. Singles at Mosta on 30 Mar, at Għadira on 13 Apr and at Rabat on 21 Apr.

2007. 1 at Rabat on 14 Apr.

2009. 1–2 daily from 18–26 Mar, mainly at Għadira and Simar, and 1 at Marsalforn Valley on 23 Apr.

2010. 17 sightings of 1–3 on 12 dates from 22 Mar to 7 Apr, mostly from Għadira, Simar and Kemmuna, and 1 at Għadira on 27 Apr.

2011. 1 at Simar on 25 Apr and same bird on 27 Apr.

European Pied Flycatcher (Żanzarell Iswed)

Ficedula hypoleuca

2006. 1 on 18 Mar, then on most dates from 5 Apr to 18 May, mostly in single to low double figures of up to 15, but 20 at Kemmuna on 20 Apr and 25 at Buskett on 27 Apr. Then late singles at Buskett on 18 Jun. In autumn, singles at Buskett on 13 Sep and at Mellieħa on 23 Sep.

2007. Regular from 31 Mar to 14 May, mostly in single figures but double figures of up to 40 on 11 dates in Apr. 1 late record on 27 May. In autumn, 4 singles from 3–21 Sep.

2008. 1–30 daily from 4 Apr to 15 May, but 40 at Simar on 14 Apr, 100 at Kemmuna on 22 Apr and 50 at Kemmuna on 24 Apr. 1 late record at Chadwick Lakes on 30 May. In autumn, 4

singles from 14–24 Sep and 3 at Kemmuna on 5 Oct.

2009. Singles at Bingemma on 16th and at Miżieb on 28 Mar. Then daily from 2 Apr to 9 May, in single to low double figures. Max. 40 at Kemmuna on 29 Apr. 1 late bird at Miżieb on 29 May. In autumn, singles at Buskett on 24th and at Saqqajja on 25 Sep.

2010. 1–15 daily from 29 Mar to 7 May, but 30 on 20 Apr and 40 on 1 May at Kemmuna. 7 singles from 9–18 May, and 1 late bird on 29 May at L-Irdum tal-Madonna. In autumn, singles at Rabat on 12th and at Buskett on 19 Sep.

2011. 1 at Buskett on 4 Apr. 1–10 daily from 12–21 Apr. 1–20 daily from 22 Apr to 3 May, but 40 on 22nd and 30 on 30 Apr at Kemmuna. 1–8 daily from 5–15 May and 1 late record at Simar on 1–2 Jun. In autumn, singles at Buskett on 15th, 17th and 19 Sep, at Għadira on 1–2 Oct and at Kemmuna on 18 Oct.

Collared Flycatcher (Żanzarell tal-Kullar)

Ficedula albicollis

2006. Mostly 1–3 on most dates from 30 Mar to 14 May, but 5 at Buskett on 25 Apr. In autumn, singles at Rabat on 15 Jul and at Buskett on 20 Sep.

2007. 1–4 on most dates from 3 Apr to 11 May, but 10 at Kemmuna on 28 Apr.

2008. 1–3 birds almost daily from 10 Apr to 6 May, but 5 at Simar on 14th and 4 at Miżieb on 17 Apr.

2009. 1–2 on 4 dates from 2–10 Apr, then daily in single figures from 17–24 Apr, with max. 4 at Dwejra (M) on 20 Apr. Then 3 at Marsa on 30 Apr and singles on 4th, 9th and 12 May. 1 late bird at Miżieb on 4 dates from 9–16 Jun.

2010. Low single figures on most dates from 22 Mar to 7 May, with max. 5 at Għadira on 25 Mar and at Buskett on 1 Apr.

2011. 1–10 on most dates from 16 Apr to 1 May, but 25 at Kemmuna on 22 Apr, 15 at Simar on 26 Apr and 15 at Foresta 2000 on 27 Apr. Then singles at Simar on 6 May and at Għadira on 10th and 12 May. In autumn, 1 at Simar on 3 Oct.

Pied Flycatcher x Collared Flycatcher

2006. 1 at Kemmuna on 20 Apr.

Black Redstart (Fjamma Sewda)

Phoenicurus ochruros

2006. Wintering from 1 Jan to 26 Mar, with max. 20 at one location. Late singles on 30 Mar and 11 Apr at Benghisa. Regular again from 17 Oct to 31 Dec, mainly in low single figures but 15 at Rabat on 5 Nov.

2007. Wintering from 1 Jan to 5 Apr, in single figures at any one site. Then again from 19 Oct to 31 Dec, in single to low double figures of up to 20 at any one site.

2008. Wintering from 1 Jan to 31 Mar, mostly in single figures at any one site, but 15 at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 5 Jan, 20 at Xagħra l-Ħamra on 7 Jan and 15 at Dingli Cliffs on 15 Mar. Then singles at Kemmuna on 2nd, at Foresta 2000 on 13th and at Għadira on 18 Oct. Then up to 15 daily from 20 Oct

to 31 Dec, but 20 at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 4 Nov, 20 at Wied il-Għasel on 2 Dec and 20 at Ras il-Pellegrin on 20 Dec.

2009. Single to low double figures daily from 1 Jan to 31 Mar. Max. 20 at Valletta on 10 Jan. 1 late ♂ on 10 Apr. In autumn, first bird on 24 Oct then daily from 26 Oct to 31 Dec in single to low double figures, with max. 25 at Tal-Bardan on 18 Nov.

2010. 1–15 on most dates from 1 Jan to 22 Mar. In autumn, 1 on 19 Oct, then 1–15 daily from 24 Oct to 31 Dec, but 20 on 14 Nov at Xagħra l-Ħamra.

2011. 1–15 almost daily from 1 Jan to 31 Mar, but 20 at Ġebel Ċiantar on 2nd and 9 Jan, and at Xagħra l-Ħamra on 11 Mar. In autumn, daily from 17 Oct to 31 Dec in single and double figures of up to 20, but 25 on 12 Nov at Ċumnija and 30 on 24 Dec at Għarb.

Common Redstart (Fjamma)

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

2006. Sightings from 28 Mar to 23 May, with up to 7 at any one site. In autumn, singles on 8th and 10 Sep, then regular from 24 Sep to 15 Oct, with max. 12 at Wied l-Ahmar on 1 Oct. 1 late sighting on 27 Oct.

2007. 1–5 on several dates from 10 Mar to 14 May, then 1–7 from 2 Sep to 11 Nov with most sightings at end Oct and early Nov.

2008. 1–6 on most dates from 21 Mar to 11 May, but 7 on 17 Apr, 8 on 18 Apr and 8 on 20 Apr at Kemmuna. Then 1–4 on most dates from 1 Sep to 30 Oct.

2009. Singles on most dates from 6–15 Mar. Then 1–2 on 6 dates from 22 Mar to 2 Apr and practically daily from 4 Apr to 8 May, mainly in low single figures, but 8 on 16 Apr and 10 on 25 Apr at Kemmuna. 1 late bird on 19 May. In autumn, 4 at Buskett and 1 at Kemmuna on 16 Sep. Then low single figures regularly from 19 Sep to 28 Oct, but 20 at Kemmuna on 30 Sep.

2010. 1 at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 11 Mar. Then singles almost daily from 28 Mar to 17 Apr, and 1–4 on most dates from 18 Apr to 8 May, but 8 at Kemmuna on 1 May. Late singles on 20th and 28 May and 6 Jun. In autumn, 1–6 almost daily from 15 Sep to 29 Oct, but 15 on 2–3 Oct and 10 on 22 Oct at Kemmuna. 1 late bird on 8 Nov.

2011. Singles at Ċirkewwa on 19 Mar, at Kemmuna on 29 Mar and at Għadira on 8–9 Apr. Then 1–4 daily from 15 Apr to 5 May, but 9 on 1 May and 6 on 3 May at Kemmuna. 7 singles from 8–15 May at 4 sites. In autumn, 3 singles from 8–18 Sep. Then 1–3 daily from 24 Sep to 7 Oct, and 1–5 daily from 18–30 Oct, mostly at Kemmuna.

Moussier's Redstart (Fjamma tat-Tuneżija)

Phoenicurus moussieri

2008. 1♂ at Xagħra l-Ħamra from 30 Nov to 31 Dec.

2009. 1♂ at Xagħra l-Ħamra from 2 Jan to 1 Mar.

2010. 1♀ at l/o Fawwara from 13–31 Dec.

2011. 1♀ at l/o Fawwara from 1 Jan to 7 Mar. 2 ringed at Kemmuna on 23 Oct. Returning ♀ at l/o Fawwara from 8 Nov to 19 Dec and 1♀ at Miġra l-Ferħa on 27 and 29 Dec.

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

2007. Singles on 6 dates from 25 Mar to 27 Apr, and 1 on 25 May. In autumn, singles on 22 Sep at Nadur (M), and on 25th and 29 Sep at Mellieħa.

2008. Singles at Ras il-Pellegrin on 31 Mar and at Dingli Cliffs on 27 Sep.

2009. Singles at Kemmuna on 17 Apr and 8 May.

2010. Singles at Wied Qirda on 8 Apr and at Mellieħa on 10 Apr, and 3 at Kemmuna on 21 Apr.

2011. 1 at Clapham Junction on 5 Apr, 4 at Ġebel Ciantar on 10 Apr, 1 at Laferla Cross on 13 Apr, 1 at Dwejra (M) and 1 at Ċumnija on 20 Apr, 2 at Kemmuna on 30 Apr, and 1 at Wied Ġhajj Rihana on 5 May.

Blue Rock-thrush (Merill)***Monticola solitarius***

2006. Resident throughout year and breeding in usual places, with sightings in low single figures at any one site, with up to 10 in suitable areas.

2007. Resident and breeding in suitable localities, with 10–15 observed at sites such as Dingli Cliffs, Ta' Ċenċ and NW coastal cliffs of Malta. Higher numbers in spring when breeding and territorial behaviour more evident.

2008. Resident breeder in all suitable areas. Most sightings of 1–12 but 22 at Xaghra l-Ħamra on 30 Mar, 21 at Qammieħ on 24 May and 18 at Kemmuna on 31 May.

2009. Resident breeder, recorded almost daily, mostly in single figures, but 23 on 5 Apr and 28 on 6 Jun at Majjistral Park, 16 at Dwejra (G) on 30 May, 15 at Dingli Cliffs on 27 Jun and 15 at Ta' Ċenċ Cliffs on 10 May.

2010. Breeding resident, recorded on most dates throughout year, mostly in counts of 1–15, but 17 and 19 at Majjistral Park on 2 dates in Apr and 23 at same location on 29 May.

2011. Throughout year in counts of 1–10, and up to 15 at sites such as Mġarr ix-Xini, Tal-Bardan and Dingli Cliffs, but up to 20 at Xaghra l-Ħamra on 6 Apr and 19 Jun, and at Ta' Ċenċ on 15 May.

Whinchat (Buċaqq tas-Silla)***Saxicola rubetra***

2006. Regular from 7 Apr to 17 May, in single to double figures up to 50, but 80 at Kemmuna on 11 Apr and 70 at Dwejra (M) on 10 May. In autumn, singles on 7 dates from 21 Sep to 14 Oct.

2007. On most dates from 30 Mar to 19 May, with most sightings in second half of Apr, with 30–100 on 6 dates. In autumn, 1–2 on 11 dates from 27 Aug to 4 Oct.

2008. 1–30 daily from 10 Apr to 17 May, but 60 at Kemmuna on 29 Apr. 2 late birds at Gudja on 23 May. In autumn, 10 sightings from 29 Aug to 5 Oct, always of singles but 2 at Buskett and 4 at Fawwara on 27 Sep.

2009. 1 at Ġhallis on 31 Mar, then single to low double figures

on most dates from 4 Apr to 11 May, with max. 50 at Kemmuna on 26 Apr. Late singles on 13 and 17 May. In autumn, 1 at Ġhadira on 30–31 Aug, and up to 2 at 3 localities on 8th and 9 Sep. Frequent from 21 Sep to 10 Oct in single figures, but up to 10 at Kemmuna and Tal-Bardan on 29 Sep and up to 20 at Kemmuna on 30 Sep. Late singles at Kemmuna on 20th and 26 Oct.

2010. Early singles at Ċirkewwa on 14 Mar and at Qammieħ on 29 Mar. Then almost daily from 2 Apr to 9 May in single and low double figures of up to 30, but 250 on 1 May and 100 on 2 May at Kemmuna. 2 late birds at Foresta 2000 on 24 May. In autumn, 7 sightings of 1–2 from 8–28 Sep. 1 late bird at Kemmuna on 25 Oct.

2011. 1–2 on 4 Apr at Xaghra l-Ħamra and Wied Ġhajj Rihana. Then daily from 15 Apr to 16 May in single and double figures of up to 60, but 100 at Kemmuna on 30 Apr. 1 late bird at Mellieħa on 21 May. In autumn, singles on 22–23 Aug, 29–30 Sep, 3 Oct and 16 Oct.

Common Stonechat (Buċaqq tax-Xitwa)***Saxicola torquatus***

2006. Wintering with up to 10 at any location from 1 Jan and 19 Mar. In autumn, sightings from 6 Oct to 31 Dec, mostly in singles, but up to 30 at Kemmuna on 27–28 Oct.

2007. Widespread in single figures from 1 Jan to 25 Mar. Then from 26 Sep onwards, mostly sightings of 1–25 but 40 on 22 Oct and 30 on 24 Oct at Kemmuna.

2008. 1–5 daily from 1 Jan to 18 Mar, but 7 at Bidnija on 22 Feb. Then 1 at Ġhadira on 29 Sep and 15 at Kemmuna on 2 Oct, followed by 1–25 daily from 11 Oct to 31 Dec, but 30 at Ġhadira on 5 dates in Oct.

2009. Single to low double figures daily from 1 Jan to 20 Mar, with max. 14 at Xaghra l-Ħamra on 22 Feb. 1–2 on 3 dates from 24–27 Mar. 1♀ ringed at Rabat on 29 Jun was very unseasonal. In autumn, daily from 8 Oct to 31 Dec, frequently in low double figures in Oct and Nov. Max. 40 at Kemmuna on 26 Oct.

2010. 1–10 almost daily from 1 Jan to 24 Mar, but 15 at Majjistral Park on 4 Jan. In autumn, first bird on 2 Oct. Then 1–15 on most dates from 11 Oct to 31 Dec. 20–50 on 6 dates at Kemmuna in Oct.

2011. 1–10 daily from different sites from 1 Jan to 19 Mar, but 12 at Qammieħ on 4 Jan, 15 at Simar on 3 Mar, 14 at Wied Ġhajj Rihana on 7 Mar and 15 at Xaghra l-Ħamra on 11 Mar. 1 late bird at Marsalforn on 28 Mar. In autumn, 1–15 daily from 11 Oct to 31 Dec. 20–40 at Kemmuna on 9 dates from 18–29 Oct, but 100 on 19 Oct. 20 at Foresta 2000 on 4 Nov and at Ġhadira on 17 Nov.

Northern Wheatear (Kuda)***Oenanthe oenanthe***

2006. Regular from 11 Mar to 6 May, mostly 1–10 but 15 on 1st and 4 Apr. In autumn, 1–15 on several dates from 18 Aug to 21 Oct.

2007. 1–15 on most dates from 9 Mar to 12 May. In autumn, 1–7 regularly from 19 Aug to 25 Oct, but 35 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 27 Aug.

2008. 1–5 daily from 14 Mar to 30 Apr, but 10 at Delimara, 18 at Miġra l-Ferħa, 10 at Wardija and 8 at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 31 Mar. 1 at Kemmuna on 5 May and 2 at Xagħra l-Ħamra on 9 May. Then in autumn, 1–5 daily from 19 Aug to 9 Oct, but 8 at Mtaħleb on 29 Aug, 6 at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 31 Aug and 6 at Fawwara on 27 Sep. 1 late record at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 4 Nov.

2009. Singles at L-Irdum tal-Madonna and at Qawra on 5 Mar. Then 1–4 daily from 15–20 Mar and single to low double figures daily from 23 Mar to 26 Apr, with max. 25 at San Lawrenz on 7 Apr. Then 2 on 5 May and 1 at Ta' Ċenċ on 10–11 May. In autumn, practically daily from 21 Aug to 30 Sep, always in single figures, with max. 9 at Buskett on 8 Sep. 1–2 daily from 4–7 Oct, then singles on 6 dates from 12–29 Oct. 1 injured at Paradise Bay on 12–13 Dec.

2010. 5 singles from 20 Feb to 8 Mar, then 1–10 almost daily from 13 Mar to 2 May, but 15 at Qammieħ on 29 Mar and at Majjistral Park on 11 Apr. 3 singles from 8–14 May. In autumn, singles on 11th, 15th and 19 Aug, then 1–5 almost daily from 23 Aug to 3 Oct. 1 late bird at Għadira on 21 Oct.

2011. 1–4 almost daily from 8 Mar to 2 Apr, but 8 at Għarb on 27 Mar. 10–20 on 11 dates from 3–18 Apr, but 30 on 3 Apr and 50 on 4 Apr at Xagħra l-Ħamra. 1–5 on most dates from 19 Apr to 3 May. 1 late bird at Kemmuna on 15 May. In autumn, 1 at Dingli on 14 Aug, then 1–5 on most dates from 18 Aug to 3 Oct, but 8 at Għarb on 24 Aug. Late singles on 8th, 16th and 24 Oct.

Isabelline Wheatear (Kuda Ramlja)

Oenanthe isabellina

2006. 1 at Ċumnija on 1 Apr.

2007. 1 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 9 Mar.

2008. Singles at Xagħra l-Ħamra on 30 Mar and at Ras il-Pellegrin on 31 Mar.

2010. Singles at Majjistral Park on 4 Apr and at Miġra l-Ferħa on 8–9 Apr.

2011. Singles at Miġra l-Ferħa on 8 Mar, at Xagħra l-Ħamra on 11 Mar, and at Wied Għajn Riħana from 16–17 Mar.

Desert Wheatear (Kuda tad-Deżert)

Oenanthe deserti

2007. 1♂ at Qammieħ from 5–13 Dec.

2011. 1♂ at Tal-Bardan (G) on 12–13th and 18 Mar.

Black-eared Wheatear (Kuda Dumnikana)

Oenanthe hispanica

2006. Sightings on 8 dates from 21 Mar to 1 May, with max. 5 at Kemmuna on 17 Apr. In autumn, 1 at Għargħur on 1 Sep.

2007. 12 sightings of 1–2 from 16 Mar to 11 May, then in autumn singles on 4 dates from 29 Aug to 23 Sep.

2008. 11 sightings on 7 dates from 23 Mar to 29 Apr, mostly of singles but 2 at Ta' Ċenċ on 23 Mar, 2 at Kemmuna on 16 Apr and 2 at Selmun on 23 Apr.

2009. 2 in Gozo on 27 Mar, 2 at Xagħra l-Ħamra on 30 Mar and 2 singles on 2 Apr. Then single figures on multiple dates from 7–25 Apr, with max. 6 at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 7 Apr. 1 late at Ċumnija on 30 May. In autumn, singles at Għadira on 23 Sep and at Buskett on 30 Sep.

2010. 1–4 on various dates from 3 Apr to 1 May. In autumn, 3 at Għargħur on 5 Sep and 1 at Qawra on 7 Sep.

2011. Singles on 28 Mar at Kemmuna and on 29 Mar at Chadwick Lakes. Then 22 sightings of 1–4 from 3–29 Apr. 1 late bird at Ċumnija on 15 May. In autumn, singles on 3rd and 5 Sep at Qawra.

Goldcrest (Bufula tal-Qamar)

Regulus regulus

2006. 2 on 29 Jan and 10 on 23 Mar at Buskett. Then 1–3 on 5 dates from 15 Nov to 30 Dec, mostly at Buskett.

2007. 1–2 on 7 dates from 1 Jan to 5 Mar. Then almost daily from 15 Oct to 31 Dec, mostly in single figures but 15–25 at Kemmuna from 23–25 Oct.

2008. 1–4 on most dates from 1 Jan to 23 Mar, but 6 at Foresta 2000 on 6 Mar. Then, 1–5 on most dates from 14 Oct to 28 Dec, but 10 at Rabat on 21 Nov and 8 at Għadira on 15 Dec.

2009. 15 sightings from 2 Jan to 17 Feb, with max. 5 at Foresta 2000 on 2 Jan. Then, singles on 26 Mar and 5 Nov.

2010. 1–4 on most dates from 20 Oct to 31 Dec, but 5 at Kemmuna from 21–22 Oct.

2011. 1–4 on 23 dates from 3 Jan to 28 Feb, but 6 at Buskett on 16 Jan. Then singles on 7th, 17th and 20 Mar.

Common Firecrest (Bufula tax-Xemx)

Regulus ignicapilla

2006. 1–2 on most dates from Jan to Mar, with last sighting on 4 Apr. Then 4 at Buskett on 11 Oct, 2 at Dwejra (M) and 1 at Buskett on 22 Oct, and 1 at Foresta 2000 on 30 Oct, then 1–4 regularly till 31 Dec.

2007. 1–3 on several dates from 4 Jan to 23 Mar. Then 1–5 regularly from 27 Sep to 31 Dec, with most sightings from mid-Oct to mid-Nov.

2008. 1–2 on most dates from 1 Jan to 30 Mar, but 4 at Buskett on 14 Jan. Then 3 at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 1 Oct and 1–2 regularly from 15 Oct to 25 Dec, but 6 at Rabat on 21 Nov and 3 at Buskett on 29 Nov.

2009. 1–3 on 15 occasions from 1 Jan to 23 Mar.

2010. 1 on 7 Jan, and 1–2 on 3 dates from 7–24 Mar. Then singles on 21st, 23rd and 29 Oct, and 1–3 on most dates from 2 Nov to 31 Dec, but 4 on 14th and 5 on 21 Nov at Buskett.

2011. 1–2 on several dates from 2 Jan to 17 Mar, mostly at Simar, and 1 at Foresta 2000 on 28 Mar. Then 1–3 regularly from 13 Oct to 26 Dec, but 5 at Buskett 15 Nov.

Dunnock (Żiemel)***Prunella modularis***

2006. Wintering in low numbers, with max. 15 at Buskett on 2 Jan, with last sighting on 21 Mar. Then again from 17 Oct to 31 Dec, mostly 1–15, but 25 at Buskett on 16 Nov.

2007. Up to 12 at any one location from 1 Jan to 17 Mar, then up to 15 again from 6 Oct to 31 Dec.

2008. 1–10 daily from 1 Jan to 23 Mar, but 15 at Buskett on 2 Feb. 1 unseasonal bird at Buskett on 3 Jun. Then, 1–10 daily from 14 Oct to 31 Dec, but 15 at Rabat on 9 Nov.

2009. Wintering at various localities from 1 Jan to 14 Mar, mainly in single figures but 20 at Buskett on 18 Jan and 10 at Ghadira on 21 Feb. Last singles on 19th and 27 Mar. In autumn, daily from 26 Oct to 31 Dec in single to low double figures, with max. 30 at Ghadira on 13 Nov.

2010. 1–12 regularly from 1 Jan to 25 Mar, but 15 at Ghadira on 23 Feb. 1 early on 30 Sep at Buskett. Then 1–10 on most dates from 20 Oct till 31 Dec, but 25 at Kemmuna on 30 Oct, 20 at Buskett on 17 Dec and 15 at Buskett on 29 Dec.

2011. 1–5 on most dates from 1 Jan to 3 Mar, but 8–15 on 7 dates, with max. counts at Buskett. Then singles on 4 dates from 9–21 Mar. 1♂ singing at Foresta 2000 on 25 May. In autumn, 1–15 almost daily from 17 Oct to 31 Dec, but 20–30 on 5 dates from 7–19 Nov and 100 at Ghadira on 12 Nov.

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

2006. Resident and common in most urban and rural areas across the Maltese Islands, gathering in larger numbers at roosts and in post-breeding congregations.

2007. Resident and common in all urban and rural areas, and breeding across all three islands in consistent numbers. Larger numbers observed at roosts, mostly in sheltered ficus or other large trees in village cores.

2008. Very common and widespread breeder on the three main islands. Roosts of a few thousands in various locations, with max. 4500 roosting at Haż-Żebbuġ on 19 Nov.

2009. Common breeding resident, present on all islands, including Filfla. 1000 at Simar throughout summer from 20 May to 30 Aug. Max. 2000 at Buskett / Wied il-Luq on 23 Aug.

2010. Very common resident breeder. Max. 1000 at Simar on multiple dates in Jun, Aug and Sep. Also 1000 at Sarraflu on 4 Sep.

2011. Abundant breeding resident in Malta, Gozo and Kemmuna. 4 at Filfla on 17 Jun, possibly breeding. Max. 1000 at Simar on 25 Jan and 25 Oct. Migratory flocks of up to 150 noted on 18th, 22nd and 28 Oct.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (Ġaħġaħ)***Passer montanus***

2006. Resident and breeding in usual numbers, mostly up to 20, but 40 at Rabat on 10 Jun, 50 at Buskett on 4 Aug, 50 at Mdina on 13 Oct and 100 at L-Aħrax on 17 Oct.

2007. Resident in localised breeding colonies, with up to 40 at suitable sites. Recorded breeding on the two main islands, but 1 at Kemmuna on 28 Oct.

2008. Resident in localised breeding colonies, in single to low double figures of up to 20, but 25 at Buskett on 31 Mar, 35 at Chadwick Lakes on 6 Jul and 35 at Rabat on 3 Sep.

2009. Localised breeding resident in low numbers. Recorded in single and low double figures in all months, mainly from Mosta, Buskett, Dingli and Rabat areas. In the south, 3 at Xrobb l-Għaġin on 19 Mar and 1 at Ħal Far on 31 Mar. In Gozo, only at Tal-Bardan in Oct–Nov, with mostly singles but 12 on 31 Oct. 1 at Kemmuna on 20 Oct.

2010. Localised breeding resident in single and double figures of up to 25 in winter and spring. Most sightings from Ġirgenti, Buskett, Rabat, Chadwick Lakes, Dwejra (M), Mosta, Bidnija, Simar, Ghadira, Foresta 2000, Mgarr ix-Xini and their vicinities. 1–40 regularly from 3 Sep to 7 Nov, but 60 at Rabat on 21 Sep.

2011. From Jan to Jul recorded in single and double figures of up to 20 at breeding sites including Bidnija, Buskett, Chadwick Lakes, Dingli, Dwejra (M), Ġirgenti, Mellieħa, Mosta, Mgarr ix-Xini, Rabat and Wied Qirda. Single and double figures throughout rest of year, with max. 35 at Rabat on 8 Sep.

Tree Pipit (Dizz)***Anthus trivialis***

2006. Regular from 10 Mar to 29 May, mostly in single to low double figures up to 50, but treble figures on 5 dates from 17–30 Apr, with max. 400 at Salina on 21 Apr. 1 late record at Rabat on 25 Jun. In autumn, 1–10 on most dates from 2 Sep to 26 Oct.

2007. 1–20 regularly from 11 Mar to 3 Jun, with most sightings from end Mar to early May. 50–60 on 3 dates in Apr and 150 at Dahlet Qorrot on 9 Apr. In autumn, 1–6 on several dates from 28 Aug to 9 Nov, but 15 at Simar on 18 Oct.

2008. 1 unseasonal bird at Ghadira on 3 Jan. In spring, daily from 16 Mar to 13 May, mostly in single, double or treble figures of up to 400, but 3000 at Red Tower on 13 Apr. 1 late bird at Ta' Ċenċ on 20 May. In autumn, 1 at Buskett on 31 Aug, then up to 40 almost daily from 8 Sep to 11 Oct, but 252 on 26 Sep and 500 on 27 Sep at Dingli. 1 late bird at Dwejra (M) on 12 Nov.

2009. Singles at Ċirkewwa and at Ghadira on 15 Mar. Low single and double figures on 18th and 19 Mar. Then daily from 21 Mar to 5 May, mostly in low double figures, but up to 150 daily from different localities from 30 Mar to 1 Apr. Single figures on 3 dates from 6–19 May. In autumn, singles at Foresta 2000 and Buskett on 1 Sep, then almost daily from 8 Sep to 27 Oct. Mostly in single figures but low double figures frequent from 18–27 Sep and from 14–16 Oct, with max. 56 at Tal-Bardan on 14 Oct. 1 late bird at Saqqajja on 1 Nov.

2010. Almost daily from 8 Mar to 2 May in single and double figures of up to 50, but 200 at Ċirkewwa on 31 Mar, 200 at San Lawrenz on 1 Apr, and 150 at Ta' Pinu on 2 Apr. 6 sightings of

1–3 from 7–15 May. Late singles at Simar on 1st and 4 Jun. In autumn, first sighting on 22 Aug. Then 1–8 regularly from 4 Sep to 12 Oct, but 15 at Foresta 2000 on 29 Sep and 20 at Sannat on 9 Oct. Then 5 sightings of 1–5 from 20–26 Oct, mostly at Kemmuna.

2011. Sightings of 1–25 on most dates from 13 Mar to 15 May, but 60 at Ċumnija and 100 at Għadira on 21 Apr, 30 at Kemmuna and 40 from Simar on 22 Apr, and 30 from Għadira on 27 Apr. Late singles on 24 May, 28 May and 7 Jun. In autumn, singles on 31 Aug and 1 Sep, then 1–10 on most dates from 11 Sep to 23 Oct, but 40 on 28 Sep and 20 on 4 Oct at Buskett. Late singles on 29 Oct, 4 Nov and 11 Nov.

Olive-backed Pipit (Dizz tal-Lvant)

Anthus hodgsoni

2007. 1 at Saqqajja from 17–25 Feb.

2008. 1 ringed at Rabat on 8 Nov.

2011. 1 ringed at Mount St Joseph on 22 Oct.

Red-throated Pipit (Dizz Ahmar)

Anthus cervinus

2006. Singles at Għadira on 24 Feb and 5 Mar. Then 1–3 on 9 dates from 5 Apr to 6 May. In autumn, 4 singles from 26 Oct to 19 Nov.

2007. 1–2 on most dates from 12 Apr to 1 May. Then 1–5 on 11 dates from 19 Oct to 14 Dec, with most sightings at end Oct.

2008. 2 at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 8 Apr, then 15 singles from 11 Apr to 7 May, but 4 at Kemmuna on 24 Apr. In autumn, 8 singles from 20 Sep to 9 Oct, then 4 singles from 1–18 Nov.

2009. 1 at Luqa Airport on 4–5 Feb and 1 at Xagħra l-Ħamra on 30 Mar. Then single to low double figures on 11 dates from 9–29 Apr, with max. 15 at Luqa Airport on 19 Apr. Singles at Kemmuna on 2 May and at Simar on 16 Jun. In autumn, 1–2 on 5 dates from 11–22 Oct. Singles at Ċumnija on 24 Dec and at Luqa Airport from 25–28 Dec.

2010. 1 on 14 Jan and 4 singles from 7 Feb and 7 Mar, all at Ta' Ċenċ or Luqa Airport. 7 sightings of 1–5 from 30 Mar to 11 Apr. 7 sightings of 1–2 from 23 Apr to 2 May, mostly at Kemmuna. In autumn, 17 sightings of 1–2 from 9 Oct to 26 Dec, mostly at Luqa Airport.

2011. Singles at Luqa Airport on 2 Jan and at Għadira on 16 Jan. 1 at L-Aħrax on 6 Apr and 8 singles from 16–30 Apr. 1 at Għadira on 14 May. Then 2 at Girgenti on 29 Sep and singles at Kemmuna on 23rd and 29 Oct, and at Luqa Airport on 18 Nov.

Meadow Pipit (Pespus)

Anthus pratensis

2006. Single to low double figures of up to 50 from 1 Jan to 5 Apr, but 80 on 11 Jan, 60 on 10 Mar and 80–100 from 22–23 Mar, all at Luqa Airport. Autumn passage from 13 Oct, mostly up to 100 but treble figures on 16 dates from 29 Oct to 8 Dec, mostly at Luqa Airport, with max. 500 on 12 Nov. Regular in low single figures till 31 Dec.

2007. Mostly in single to double figures from 1 Jan to 18 Apr, but max. 200 at Luqa Airport on 15 Mar. In autumn, 1 at Pembroke on 25 Sep and then regularly from 19 Oct to 31 Dec in single to double figures up to 80, but regularly in treble figures in first half of Nov, with max. 250 at Luqa Airport on 6 Nov.

2008. 1–30 wintering in various locations from 1 Jan to 6 Apr, but 80 at Luqa on 19 Mar. Late singles at Luqa from 12–13 Apr. Then 5 at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 1 Oct and 1–50 daily till end of year, but 150 at Dwejra on 12–13 Nov, 60 at Bidnija on 30 Nov and 56 at Tal-Bardan on 2 Dec. At Luqa Airport, regular counts of over 250 in Nov, with max. 600 on 13th.

2009. Sightings daily from 1 Jan to 5 Apr, often in low double figures, but 71 at Mġarr ix-Xini on 14 Jan and 100 at Luqa Airport on 21 Mar. Late singles on 4 other dates till 26 Apr. In autumn, 1–2 on 17th and 19 Oct, then daily from 21 Oct till end of year. Double figures frequent but treble figures on 4 dates in Nov, with max. 300 at Luqa Airport on 2 Nov.

2010. Daily from 1 Jan to 4 Apr in single and double figures up to 50, but 60 at Ċirkewwa on 13 Mar and 100 on 13 Feb and 15–16 Mar at Luqa Airport. Late singles at Nadur (M) Tower on 13 Apr and at Ғaḡ-Żabbar on 24 Apr. In autumn, 1 at Dwejra on 15 Oct and 4 at Buskett on 16 Oct, then up to 100 daily from 20 Oct to 31 Dec, but 300 at Dwejra on 29 Oct and 150 at Luqa Airport on 31 Oct.

2011. Daily from 1 Jan to 4 Apr, with multiple counts of 1–30 most dates, but 40 at Luqa Airport on 18 Apr. 1–3 at two sites on 6 Apr. Then almost daily from 15 Oct to 31 Dec, in single and double figures of up to 50, but 250 on 12 Nov and 100 on 16–17 Nov at Luqa Airport.

Water Pipit (Dizz tal-Ilma)

Anthus spinoletta

2007. 1 at Għadira on 23 Oct.

2008. Singles at Salina on 24 Oct and at Għadira from 4–5 Nov.

2010. 1–2 on most dates from 6 Nov to 31 Dec at Għadira.

2011. 1 at Għadira from 1 Jan to 27 Mar and 2 at Simar on 10 Nov.

Richard's Pipit (Bilblun Prim)

Anthus richardi

2008. 1 at Qawra on 3 Nov.

Tawny Pipit (Bilblun)

Anthus campestris

2006. 1–5 on 15 dates from 29 Mar to 27 Apr. 2 at Manikata throughout Jun. In autumn, 1–3 on 8 dates from 3 Sep to 6 Oct.

2007. 1–4 on 18 dates from 17 Mar to 11 May. 1 on 2–3 Jun, then 1–3 on 19 dates from 26 Aug to 11 Oct.

2008. 1 at Għajn Żnuber on 10 Mar, then 1–10 daily from 22 Mar to 30 Apr, but 28 on 27 Apr at Kemmuna. Then 1 at Kemmuna on 9th, 1 at Għajn Tuffieħa on 11th and 2 at Fomm ir-Riħ on 12 May. In autumn, 1 at Għadira on 20 Aug, then 1–5

on most dates from 30 Aug to 1 Oct. 1 late bird at Buskett on 8 Oct.

2009. 1 on 18 Mar, then mostly single figures regularly from 28 Mar to 2 May, but 10 at Xaghra l-Hamra on 1 Apr. In autumn, singles daily from 29–31 Aug, then low single figures on 12 dates from 3–30 Sep, with max. 5 at Qawra on 21 Sep. 2 at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 5 Oct.

2010. 1 early record at Qawra on 20 Feb. Then 8 sightings of 1–2 from 6–27 Mar and 1–10 almost daily from 31 Mar to 5 May, but 18 at Majjistral Park on 4 Apr and 12 at Kemmuna on 30 Apr. 1 at Majjistral Park on 29 May. In autumn, 21 sightings of 1–2 from 27 Aug to 28 Sep. Late singles at Luqa Airport on 25 Nov, and at Majjistral Park on 21st and 31 Dec.

2011. Singles at Ghajn Tuffieħa on 6 Jan and at Anchor Bay on 17 Jan. Singles from 17–19 Mar, then 1–10 on several dates from 27 Mar to 3 May, but 15–20 on 3 dates in Apr at Ċirkewwa and Kemmuna. Breeding at Xaghra l-Hamra, with 1–8 from 19 Jun to 19 Jul, with 3 ads, 1 fledged juv. and 4 pulli in nest on 13 Jul. 1 at Foresta 2000 on 12 Jul. In autumn, 1–3 on 4 dates from 7–18 Sep.

Western Yellow Wagtail (Isfar)

Motacilla flava

2006. 1 early bird on 4 Feb, then regular sightings from 11 Mar to 28 May, mostly in single to low double figures, but higher numbers from 18–29 Apr, with max. 500 at Salina on 26 Apr. 1 at Rabat on 30 Jul. Then regularly from 17 Aug to 15 Oct, with treble figures of up to 300 on several dates, mostly at Buskett throughout Sep, but 400 at Lunzjata on 3–4 Oct.

2007. 1 at Marsa on 25 Jan and 7 Feb. Regularly from 7 Feb to 5 Jun, mostly from mid-Mar to early May in single to low double figures up to 70. In autumn, regular from 6 Aug to 31 Oct, mostly in double to treble figures of up to 300 at roosts from late Aug to early Oct, but 500 on 13th and 22 Sep. 1 late bird at Valletta on 1 Dec.

2008. 1–100 daily from 6 Mar to 19 May, but 300 at Luqa Airport on 21 Apr and 235 at Miżieb on 25 Apr. Late singles on 25 May, 2 Jun and from 6–8 Jun at Ghadira. In autumn, 1 at Simar on 10 Aug, then daily sightings of 1–200 from 13 Aug to 17 Oct, but 250 at Girgenti on 11th, 368 at Girgenti on 20th, 220 at Lunzjata on 20th and 247 at Laferla Cross on 21 Sep.

2009. Daily from 5 Mar to 13 May, mostly in low double figures, but also treble figures mostly at Simar roost, with max. 200 on 20 Apr. Then sightings on 10 dates from 15–30 May, and 1 at Ghadira on 2–3 Jun. In autumn, singles on 5 dates from 3–31 Jul and on 8th and 10 Aug. Then daily sightings from 13 Aug to 22 Oct, with frequent double to treble figures, with max. 600 at Buskett on 24 Sep. 2 at Buskett on 25th and 27 Oct and 1 at Mellieħa on 1 Nov.

2010. 1 at Marsa 3 Jan. Then 1–5 almost daily from 20 Feb to 11 Mar, increasing to double figures of up to 60 from 12 Mar to 10 May, but 250 at Simar and 100 at Ghadira on 8 Apr, and 200 at Ғaž-Żebbuġ on 9 Apr. Sightings of 1–4 on most dates

from 16 May to 3 Jun and singles on 4 dates in Jun at Ghadira and Simar. In autumn, 1 at Ghadira on 14 Aug, then almost daily from 18 Aug to 23 Oct in single to treble figures of up to 754, but 1020 on 19th, 1128 on 22nd, and 1425 on 23 Sep at Girgenti roost. Late singles on 6 dates from 30 Oct to 29 Dec, mostly at Ghadira.

2011. 1 at Ghadira 9 Jan. Then almost daily from 1 Mar to 15 May, mostly in single and double figures of up to 40 but treble figures of up to 200 on 16 Apr, 21–22 Apr and 3 May at Luqa Airport and Simar. 1–2 at Ghadira on most dates from 17 May to 14 Jul, 1 at Simar on 10–11 Jul, and singles at Ghadira on 5 dates from 21–31 Jul. Then in Aug regularly in single and double figures of up to 42, but 145 on 31 Aug. Treble figures regular from 1 Sep to 4 Oct, but 1057 on 25 Sep and 1034 on 29 Sep from Girgenti. Sightings of 1–3 on 9 dates from 5–22 Oct, but 84 at Girgenti on 12 Oct.

Grey Wagtail (Zakak tad-Dell)

Motacilla cinerea

2006. 1–2 at several suitable locations from 1 Jan to 5 Mar. 1 at Buskett on 18 Mar. Then regularly from 21 Sep to 31 Dec, mostly 1–2, but 4 at Qawra on 8 Oct and at Simar on 9 Oct, and 5 at Wied il-Lunzjata on 16 Oct.

2007. Sightings of 1–2 regularly from 1 Jan to 7 Mar, but 4 at Lunzjata Valley on 15 Feb. Then again regularly from 10 Sep to 31 Dec, mostly in low single figures, with max. 6 at Foresta 2000 on 26 Oct and at Kemmuna on 4 Nov.

2008. Wintering mostly in singles at various locations from 1 Jan to 26 Mar. Then 1 at Buskett on 11 Sep. 1–4 daily from 16 Sep to 31 Dec, but 5 at Rabat on 2 Nov and 6 at Simar on 15 Nov.

2009. 1–2 almost daily from 1 Jan to 8 Mar, and 1 on 14 Mar. 1 pair bred at Mater Dei Hospital, with 2 fully grown juvs in May and Jun, with last record on 24 Jul. Then singles on 25th and 29 Aug and on 8 dates from 12 Sep to 1 Oct. Then single figures almost daily from 5 Oct to 31 Dec, with max. 4 at Chadwick Lakes and at Simar on 22 Oct.

2010. 25 singles from 1 Jan to 28 Feb, but 3 at Chadwick Lakes on 7 Jan. 5 sightings of 1–2 from 9–13 Mar, and 8 sightings of 1–2 from 9 Apr to 2 Jul in Tal-Qroqq area, with breeding confirmed. Then 7 sightings of 1–2 from 8–22 Sep, and 1–4 daily from 30 Sep to 31 Dec.

2011. 24 singles from 1 Jan to 16 Mar, but 2 at Chadwick Lakes on 6 Feb. 1 at Blata l-Bajda on 12 Apr and 1 at Mater Dei on 24 May and 15 Jun. Then 1–3 on most dates from 26 Sep to 23 Dec.

White Wagtail (Zakak Abjad)

Motacilla alba

2006. Wintering in usual numbers from 1 Jan to 11 Apr. 5258 at Valletta roost on 14 Jan, and up to 150 roosting at Lunzjata Valley at end Jan and early Feb. Then 1 on 13 Aug, 2 on 8 Sep, and 1 on 28 Sep, all at Salina. Then regular again from 5 Oct

to 31 Dec, with 2000 at Valletta roost on 14 Nov and 650 at Lunzjata Valley in Dec.

2007. Wintering in usual numbers from 1 Jan to 26 Mar. 4352 at Valletta roost on 13 Jan, and 600 at Lunzjata Valley roost in early Feb. 1 at Għadira on 17 May and 2 at Għallis on 21 Aug. Then regularly again from 2 Oct to 31 Dec. Valletta roost 3000+ from 21 Nov.

2008. Wintering in counts of 1–30 from 1 Jan to 5 Apr. 5433 at Valletta roost on 12 Jan. 3 on 13 Jul and 2 on 15th and 19 Jul at Selmun. Then, 2 at Kemmuna on 2 Oct and 1–100 daily from 6 Oct to 31 Dec, but 400 at Lunzjata Valley on 28 Oct, 107 at Haż-Żebbuġ on 9 Dec and 140 at Sannat on 16 Dec.

2009. Daily from 1 Jan to 1 Apr, usually single to low double figures. 7761 at Valletta roost on 10 Jan. 1–2 on 22 dates from 3 Apr to 21 Jul, mostly at Għadira. Then almost daily from 28 Sep to 31 Dec, mostly single to low double figures but low treble figures near roosts, with max. 150 at Blata l-Bajda on 29 Oct.

2010. Daily in single and double figures up to 49 from 1 Jan to 25 Mar. 7600 at Valletta roost on 23 Jan and 200 at Blata l-Bajda on 9 Mar. Late singles from 8–11 Apr and on 7 May at different sites. Then singles at Għadira on 3rd and 7 Oct, and almost daily from 9 Oct to 31 Dec, with max. 600 at Valletta on 5 Dec and 192 at Birkirkara on 13 Dec.

2011. Daily in single and low double figures of up to 15 from 1 Jan to 8 Apr. 3255 on 15 Jan, and 300 on 2 Mar at Valletta roost. 1–3 at Ċumnija on 16th and at Għadira on 20 Apr. Then singles on 30 Aug, 8 Sep and 4 Oct at Għadira and Salina. Daily from 10 Oct to 31 Dec in single and double figures of up to 30, but 800 at Valletta on 23 Oct and 406 and 526 counted from Fleur de Lys on 7th and 8 Nov respectively.

Common Chaffinch (Sponsun)

Fringilla coelebs

2006. Present throughout year in low numbers, with more in spring, autumn and winter. Up to 10 at any one location throughout, with max. 20 at Buskett on 6 Jan, 21 at Dwejra (M) on 17 Mar, and 20 at Buskett on 11 Nov. Summer sightings include some breeding pairs and fledged young.

2007. Sightings in all months, with breeding attempts in at least two locations. Up to 100 on several dates at Buskett in Jan, then in single figures throughout year. In autumn, regularly in low double figures from several locations, with max. 35 at Dwejra (M) on 24 Oct, then up to 20 at Buskett until 31 Dec.

2008. 1–5 daily from 1 Jan to 31 Mar, but 10 at Buskett on 14 Jan. 20 sightings of 1–2 from 3 Apr to 31 May, then 1–2 on 39 dates from 1 Jun to 31 Aug, but family party of 3 at Buskett on 29 Jul. 12 sightings in Sep, mostly of 1–2 but 10 at Buskett on 29 Sep. Then almost daily from 2 Oct to 31 Dec, mostly of 1–15 but 20 on 8th and 15 Nov and 16 on 29 Dec at Buskett.

2009. Single figures from various localities from 1 Jan to 31 Mar, but 12 at Buskett on 4 Jan. 1–2 on most dates in Apr and May. Family party of 2 ads and at least 3 juvs at Għajin Żejtuna on 30 May. Probable breeding also at Dwejra (G), where

3 juvs/♀♀ observed on 7 Jun. 1–2 on 12 other dates in Jun, and singles on 33 dates from 1 Jul to 9 Oct. Then 1–3 on most dates from 10–24 Oct and daily in low double figures from 25 Oct to 31 Dec, but 100 at Saqqajja on 15 Nov and 60 at Buskett on 26 Dec.

2010. 1–12 on most dates from 1 Jan to 4 Apr, but 30 at Buskett on 21 Jan. Various sightings of 1–2 from 9 Apr to 10 Oct. Then almost daily till 31 Dec, regularly in low double figures, with max. 52 at Buskett on 21 Oct.

2011. 1–15 on most dates from 1 Jan to 20 Feb, but 20 at Buskett on 4 Feb. 1–6 on most dates from 22 Feb to 24 Jun, and 1–5 on 9 dates from 1 Jul to 14 Aug. Then more regularly from 24 Aug to 31 Dec, in single and double figures of up to 40, but 50 on 17 Oct and 15 Nov and 100 on 24 Nov at Buskett.

Brambling (Sponsun Salvaġġ)

Fringilla montifringilla

2009. 1♀ at Għadira on 6 Dec.

2010. 1 at Simar on 28 May.

Hawfinch (Taż-Żebbuġ)

Coccothraustes coccothraustes

2006. 1 at Wied il-Lunzjata on 18 Nov.

2007. 1 at Xagħra on 7th and 6 on 9 Nov from various locations in Gozo.

2008. 5 at Kemmuna on 19 Oct, 1 at Kemmuna on 20 Oct, and 1 at Ta' Gajdoru on 8 Nov.

2009. 1 at Għadira on 26 Oct, 5 on 29 Oct and 3 on 1 Nov at Saqqajja, and 1 on 13 Nov at Għadira.

2010. 1 on 27 Mar and 8 singles from 3 Nov to 2 Dec, but 2 on 4 Nov. All at Għadira.

2011. 1 at Buskett on 4 Oct.

Trumpeter Finch (Trumbettier)

Bucanetes githagineus

2008. 1 at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 5 Jan.

2010. 1 at Mnajdra on 12 Mar.

European Greenfinch (Verdun)

Chloris chloris

2006. Mostly 1–2 on several dates from 1 Jan to 31 Jul, but 5 at Red Tower on 27 Feb. Then 1 at Mellieħa on 23 Sep, and 1–3 on most dates from 12 Oct to 20 Nov, but 14 at Clapham Junction on 22 Oct and 10 at Qawra on 9 Nov. 1 at Buskett on 27 Dec.

2007. Sightings in all months from Jan to Jun, with higher frequency in Mar and Apr, always of singles but 2 at Għadira on 5 May. Then 1–6 on 29 dates from 5 Sep to 15 Dec, but 14 at Buskett on 25 Oct.

2008. 5 sightings of 1–3 from 1 Jan to 29 Feb, and 3 singles in Apr. Singles at Rabat on 1 Jun and at Mellieħa on 10 Aug. Then, singles on 2 dates in Sep and 22 sightings of 1–3 from 6 Oct to 25 Dec, but 6 at Kemmuna on 29 Oct.

2009. Singles on 14 dates from 3 Feb to 29 Apr. 1 regularly

at Għadira from 11 May to 8 Jun. Singles at Mellieħa on 26 Jul, at Buskett on 14 Sep and at Simar on 17 Sep. Then 1 on 20 Oct and daily from 25 Oct to 9 Nov, mostly in single figures but 10 at Kemmuna on 26–27 Oct and 11 at Tal-Bardan on 1 Nov. Then single figures regularly from 12–29 Nov. 5 at Miżieb on 6 Dec and singles on 12th and 26 Dec.

2010. Singles at Rabat on 1 Jan and at Għadira on 17 Jan. Then singles on 29 dates from 22 Feb to 17 Jun, mostly at Simar. Singles on 14 Jul, 21 Jul and 7 Aug. Then 1–4 on 19 dates from 5 Oct to 31 Dec.

2011. 1 on 10 Feb, 2 singles on 24 Mar, singles on 21st and 25 Apr, 26 May and 13 Jun. Then 3 singles from 4–14 Nov.

Common Linnet (Ġojjin)

Linaria cannabina

2006. 1 at Foresta 2000 on 26 Jan, then 5 sightings of 1–3 birds from 11 Mar to 24 Apr. In autumn, 1 at Għadira on 4 Oct, then 1–7 on 12 dates from 11 Oct to 12 Nov, and 3 more singles till 31 Dec, but 7 at St Elmo Point on 12 Dec.

2007. 8 sightings of 1–2 from 2 Mar to 14 Apr, but 25 at Ta' Mreġnu on 18 Mar. Singles on 14 Jun, 5 Aug and 24 Sep. Then sightings on most dates from 5 Oct to 31 Dec, mostly in single figures, but double figures on 8 dates from mid-Oct to early Nov, with max. 100 at Kemmuna on 24 Oct.

2008. 4 at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 5 Jan, 1 at San Anton Gardens on 6 Jan and 1 at Ta' Ċenċ on 9 Jan. Then 5 at Għadira on 4 Mar, 1 at Foresta 2000 on 5 Mar and 1–2 almost daily from 10–31 Mar, but 17 at Marsaxlokk on 19 Mar and 8 at Burmarrad on 29 Mar. Then singles on 9 dates from 4 Apr to 14 May. 1 on 3 Jul at Għadira and 3 singles from 12–26 Aug. Mostly 1–15 on most dates from 28 Sep to 30 Nov, but 30 on 21st and 50 on 26 Oct at Buskett. Then 1–3 on 8 dates from 1–26 Dec.

2009. Recorded in all months in single and low double figures. Max. counts in spring 25 at Wied Għajn Rihana on 29 Mar and 60 at Għadira on 7 Apr. Single sightings from May to Aug, increasing from end Sep to 31 Dec. Max. 80 on 26th and 82 on 31 Oct, both at Kemmuna. 75 on 1 Nov at Tal-Bardan.

2010. 19 sightings of 1–4 from 1 Jan to 28 Feb, but 10 at Ta' Ċenċ and Majjistral Park on 4th and 10 Jan. Then 39 sightings of 1–7 from 5 Mar to 2 Jun, but 10 at Kappuccini Valley on 2 Apr. Singles at Għadira on 5th and 12 Jul. 1 on 2 Oct and 3 on 10 Oct, then 45 sightings of 1–10 on several dates from 15 Oct to 19 Nov, but 30 at Kemmuna on 29 Oct. 15 sightings of 1–5 from 23 Nov to 29 Dec.

2011. 15 sightings of 1–2 from 2 Jan to 13 Feb and 13 sightings of 1–3 from 2–31 Mar. Then 1 at Xatt l-Aħmar on 7 Apr, 2 at Kemmuna on 19 Apr, and 1 at Mellieħa on 11–12 Jun. 61 sightings of 1–30 from 12 Oct to 26 Dec, but 180 at Kemmuna on 22 Oct.

Red Crossbill (Kruċjat)

Loxia curvirostra

2010. 26 on 18 Jul, 7 on 19 Jul and 1 from 14–16 Sep, all at

Buskett.

2011. 1 at Buskett from 11–16 Feb.

European Goldfinch (Gardell)

Carduelis carduelis

2006. Singles at Foresta 2000 on 2nd and 26 Jan and on 14 Feb. 2 at Xagħra on 11 Mar, then singles at Għadira on 24 May, at Rabat on 15 Jun and at Għajn Żejtuna on 25 Jun.

2007. Singles on 3rd and 5 Mar, then 1–2 on 3 dates from 22 Oct to 3 Dec.

2008. Singles at Simar on 30 Apr, at Għadira on 6 Aug, at Għadira on 27 Nov and at Foresta 2000 on 8 Dec.

2009. Singles at Simar on 2 Feb, at Ċumnija on 14 Mar, at Salina on 26 Mar, at Simar on 25 Jun, at Għadira on 1 Oct, at Salina on 31 Oct and at Buskett on 5 Nov.

2010. Singles at Foresta 2000 on 22 Oct and at Għadira on 27 Nov.

2011. Singles at Mosta on 10 Feb, at Marsa on 27 Apr, at Saqqajja on 15 May, at Mellieħa on 19 Jun, at Għadira on 5 Jul, and at Foresta 2000 on 7 Nov and 1 Dec.

European Serin (Apparell)

Serinus serinus

2006. 17 sightings of 1–5 from 2 Jan to 7 May, then 11 sightings of 1–5 from 18 Nov to 31 Dec. Most from Buskett.

2007. 1–3 on 17 dates from 1 Jan to 19 May. Then 1–3 on 21 dates from 12 Sep to 31 Dec, with most sightings from mid-Nov.

2008. 1–3 on 18 dates from 1 Jan to 28 Mar, but 4 at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 14 Jan and 5 at Ċirkezza on 14 Mar. 1 at Għadira on 28 Apr. Then, sightings on 17 dates from 1 Nov to 29 Dec, mostly of 1–3 but 7 at Foresta 2000 on 8 Nov, 15 at Buskett on 15 Nov and 5 at Tal-Bardan on 2 Dec.

2009. 1–6 on 3 dates from 4–10 Jan, and 1–4 on 5 dates from 6–28 Feb. Then 18 sightings from 3–31 Mar, with max. 6 at Buskett on 14 and 18 Mar. 1–2 on 5 dates from 5–29 Apr. Singles on 14 Jun, 14 Jul and 19 Aug. Then 1–3 on 18 dates from 25 Oct to 29 Dec.

2010. 1–4 on 14 dates from 22 Jan to 1 Apr, mostly at Buskett. Singles on 4 May, 2 Jun and 22 Jun. Then 1–2 on 8 dates from 31 Oct to 27 Dec.

2011. 1–3 on 8 dates from 6 Jan to 13 Feb. Singles at Mellieħa on 5 Jun and 3 Jul. 1–2 on 8 dates from 16–28 Jul, mostly at Għadira. Singles on 12 dates from 23 Aug to 16 Sep, mostly at Buskett. Singles at Għadira on 30 Sep and 11 Oct. Then 10 sightings of 1–2 from 29 Oct to 22 Dec, but 6 at Buskett on 26 Nov and 8 at Foresta 2000 on 12 Dec.

Eurasian Siskin (Ekru)

Spinus spinus

2006. 10 on 7 Jan and 17 on 8 Jan at Xagħra. 1–2 at Għadira from 22 Jun to 6 Jul. In autumn, singles at Rabat on 21 Oct and at Buskett on 16–18 Nov and on 2 Dec.

2007. Singles at Rabat on 17 Feb, 17 Mar and 8 Sep. Then

1–25 on 18 dates from 8 Oct to 12 Dec, but 40 at Ramla Dam on 7 Dec.

2008. Singles at Manikata on 30 Apr, at Dwejra (M) on 7 May, on 17 Jun and 28 Jul at Għadira, and on 2nd and 21 Oct at Kemmuna.

2009. Singles at Mizieb on 20 Mar and at Għadira on 11 May. 1 at Mellieħa on 26 Jul. In autumn, singles at Kemmuna on 26–27 Oct and at Għadira on 3 dates from 28 Oct to 2 Nov. 1 at L-Irdum tal-Madonna on 30 Nov and 7 at Dwejra (M) on 21 Dec.

2010. Singles on 28 Oct, 13 Nov and 21 Nov at Għadira and Simar.

2011. 1 at Foresta 2000 on 4 Nov and 1 at Simar 16 Nov.

Corn Bunting (Durrajsa)

Emberiza calandra

2006. 7 at Mellieħa on 19 Feb, then 1–4 from 27 Feb to 23 Apr. 2 at Baħrija on 7 Jun and 1 at Ta' Għammar on 3 Sep. Then in low single figures from Oct to Dec, with max. 7 at Dwejra (M) on 22 Oct.

2007. Recorded throughout year except in Aug, mostly in single figures, with some pairs breeding in a few established sites. Max. counts 24 on 14 Mar, 15 on 5 Nov and 25 on 6 Nov, all at Dwejra (M).

2008. 8 sightings of 1–2 from 6 Jan to 24 Feb, but 4 at Ta' Ċenċ on 2 Feb and 4 at Għadira on 24 Feb. 43 sightings of 1–3 from 5 Mar to 24 May, but 10 at Għajn Tuffieħa on 19 Mar and 4 at Ta' Ċenċ on 11 Apr. 1 at Xagħra l-Hamra on 14 Jun. 39–55 breeding pairs counted. Then 1–5 on most dates from 7 Oct to 31 Dec, but 23 on 12 Nov, 17 on 17 Nov, 8 on 26 Dec and 10 on 29 Dec, all at Dwejra (M).

2009. Single figures on most dates from 4 Jan to 13 Jun, mostly from N of Malta. Max. 10 on 6 Jun at Dwejra (M). 19 sightings of 1–4 from 15 Oct to 31 Dec, but 6 at Għadira on 15 Oct and 6 at Chadwick Lakes on 30 Dec.

2010. 1–4 on several dates from 3 Jan to 30 May, but 8 at Luqa Airport on 15 Mar. Singles on 4 dates from Jul to Sep. Then regular sightings of 1–4 from 15 Oct to 31 Dec, but 22 on 22 Oct, and 10–18 on 4 dates in Dec, all at Dwejra (M).

2011. 3 at Għadira and at Dwejra (M) on 9 Jan. Sightings of 1–6 on 30 dates from 20 Jan to 5 Jun. Then sightings of 1–2 on 9 dates from 17 Oct to 16 Nov, but 3 at Foresta 2000 on 11 Nov and 6 at Mellieħa on 16 Nov. 1 at Foresta 2000 on 15 Dec.

Ortolan Bunting (Ortolan)

Emberiza hortulana

2006. 1 at Kemmuna on 23 Apr.

2008. 1 at Simar on 22 Sep.

2010. 2 at Kemmuna on 2 Oct.

Cirl Bunting (Ortolan Iswed)

Emberiza cirlus

2010. 1 trapped in Nov at Għarb.

Yellowhammer (Durrajsa Safra)

Emberiza citrinella

2007. Singles at Xagħra on 22 Oct and at Kemmuna on 26 Oct.

Pine Bunting (Durrajsa Rasha Bajda)

Emberiza leucocephalos

2008. 1 trapped in early Oct at l/o Qrendi, eventually ringed and released at Għadira on 13 Oct.

Reed Bunting (Durrajsa tal-Qasab)

Emberiza schoeniclus

2006. 1–3 on 5 dates from 5 Feb to 14 Mar at Simar. Then 1–6 on most dates from 11 Nov to 24 Dec, always at Għadira or Simar.

2007. 1–3 at Simar from 3 Jan to 15 Mar, then 1 at Għadira on 21 Mar. Then again from 20 Oct to 31 Dec, always at Salina, Simar and Għadira, but 1–2 at three sites in Gozo from end Oct to early Nov.

2008. 1–3 on most dates from 1 Jan to 25 Apr at Għadira and Simar, but 5 on 30 Jan and 4 on 1 Feb at Simar. Singles at Simar on 2 Apr and at Għadira on 9 Apr. 1 unseasonal bird at Simar on 4 Jul. Then, 1–5 daily at Simar and Għadira from 21 Oct to 31 Dec, but 10 on 15–16 Nov and 8 on 18 Nov at Simar. Sightings at Salina on 12 dates, mostly of 1–2 birds from 26 Oct to 8 Dec.

2009. 1–3 frequently at Għadira, Salina and Simar from 1 Jan to 7 Mar. Singles on 16 and 30 Mar, from 2–4 Apr and on 6 May. Then 1 at Għadira on 29 Oct and single figures on most dates from 2 Nov to 31 Dec, with max. 6 at Simar on 13 Dec.

2010. 27 sightings of 1–6 from 9 Jan to 18 Mar and 8 singles from 27 Apr to 1 Jun, mostly at Simar. 1 at Simar on 30 Jun. At Għadira, singles on 1st, 8th and 16 Jan and 1–3 on 6 dates from 8–17 Mar. In autumn, 48 sightings of 1–3 at Għadira and Simar from 29 Oct to 31 Dec, but 6 at Simar on 13 Nov. Otherwise singles at Kemmuna on 30 Oct and at Salina on 30 Dec.

2011. 1 at Għadira on 18 Jan. Singles at Simar and Wied Għajn Riħana from 3–10 Mar. Then 1–15 almost daily from 27 Oct to 6 Dec, mostly at Għadira, Simar, Salina and Kemmuna, but 20–26 on 4 dates in Nov at Għadira. 1–3 on most dates from 12–31 Dec, mostly at Għadira.

Little Bunting (Durrajsa Qerqnija)

Emberiza pusilla

2008. 1 ringed at Salina on 19 Nov.

2009. 1 ringed at Għadira on 29 Oct.

2010. 1 ringed at Għadira on 1 Nov, still present on 3 Nov.

Malta Rarities and Records Committee – 5th Report

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Introduction

This is the fifth report of the Malta Rarities and Records Committee (MRRC) covering the years 2023–2025. The previous reports appeared in *II-Merill* (Attard Montalto, 2010; Bonavia, 2017; Bonavia, 2020; Bonavia, 2024). This report reviews the following three committee meetings:

- 05.02.2024 held at the National Museum of Natural History
- 03.02.2025 held at the National Museum of Natural History
- 19.01.2026 held at Salina Nature Reserve.

Discussions and decisions on some of the submitted records were also carried out online between committee members when appropriate.

The members serving on the Committee were Raymond Galea (Chairman), Edward Bonavia (Secretary), and members Martin

Austad, Ian Balzan, John J. Borg (2023–2024, representing the National Museum of Natural History), Denis Cachia and Stefano Miceli. The Secretary and Chairman at times sought the advice of international experts before taking a decision on some of the records.

Regulations

The regulations that appeared in the first report together with the update in the second report were retained.

Nomenclature adopted for the official Malta Bird List

Edward Bonavia updates the official Malta Bird List annually. This is published on the BirdLife Malta website. The nomenclature and sequence follow the HBW/BirdLife taxonomic checklist. Edward Bonavia and Victor Falzon assign Maltese names to any new bird species accepted by the MRRC.

Species requiring a description

Ideally all records of very scarce species should be submitted to the MRRC with a field description and, when available, with a photograph. Species that have been recorded less than 20 times (including new species) in the Maltese Islands, require a description. However, there are some species listed below that, in spite of being recorded more than 20 times, still require a description to be officially accepted as these are very difficult to identify in the field. The MRRC may also ask for a description of other species when it deems necessary. The following is the updated list of species that require a description:

White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala*

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Marbled Teal *Marmaronetta angustirostris*

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*

Baikal Teal *Sibirionetta formosa*

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*

Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis*

Pin-tailed Sandgrouse *Pterocles alchata*

Red-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus ruficollis*

Egyptian Nightjar *Caprimulgus aegyptius*

White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus*

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

Corncrake *Crex crex*

Baillon's Crake *Zapornia pusilla*

Striped Crake *Aenigmatolimnas marginalis*

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni*

Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata*

Demoiselle Crane *Grus virgo*

Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax*

Great Bustard *Otis tarda*

African Houbara *Chlamydotis undulata*

Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellata*

Leach's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Swinhoe's Storm-petrel *Hydrobates monorhis*

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Cory's Shearwater <i>Calonectris borealis</i>	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater <i>Merops persicus</i>
Manx Shearwater <i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	American Kestrel <i>Falco sparverius</i>
Balearic Shearwater <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	Sooty Falcon <i>Falco concolor</i>
Western Reef-egret <i>Egretta gularis</i>	Lanner Falcon <i>Falco biarmicus</i>
Great White Pelican <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	Peregrine (Barbary) Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus pelegrinoides</i>
Brown Booby <i>Sula leucogaster</i>	Red-eyed Vireo <i>Vireo olivaceus</i>
Pygmy Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>	Brown Shrike <i>Lanius cristatus</i>
European Shag <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	Red-tailed Shrike <i>Lanius phoenicuroides</i>
Pacific Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Great Grey Shrike <i>Lanius excubitor</i>
Greater Sandplover <i>Anarhynchus leschenaultii</i>	Lesser Grey Shrike <i>Lanius minor</i>
Caspian Plover <i>Anarhynchus asiaticus</i>	Masked Shrike <i>Lanius nubicus</i>
Spur-winged Lapwing <i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	Eurasian Jackdaw <i>Corvus monedula</i>
Sociable Lapwing <i>Vanellus gregarius</i>	Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
White-tailed Lapwing <i>Vanellus leucurus</i>	Common Raven <i>Corvus corax</i>
Upland Sandpiper <i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	Carrion Crow <i>Corvus corone</i>
Slender-billed Curlew <i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>	Eurasian Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>	African Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes teneriffae</i>
Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>	Great Tit <i>Parus major</i>
Broad-billed Sandpiper <i>Calidris falcinellus</i>	Greater Hoopoe-lark <i>Alaemon alaudipes</i>
Purple Sandpiper <i>Calidris maritima</i>	Bar-tailed Lark <i>Ammomanes cinctura</i>
Buff-breasted Sandpiper <i>Calidris subruficollis</i>	Dupont's Lark <i>Chersophilus duponti</i>
Pectoral Sandpiper <i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Mediterranean Short-toed Lark <i>Alaudala rufescens</i>
Long-billed Dowitcher <i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	Black Lark <i>Melanocorypha yeltoniensis</i>
Red-necked Phalarope <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Temminck's Lark <i>Eremophila bilopha</i>
Red Phalarope <i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Horned Lark <i>Eremophila alpestris</i>
Terek Sandpiper <i>Xenus cinereus</i>	White-winged Lark <i>Alauda leucoptera</i>
Bonaparte's Gull <i>Larus philadelphia</i>	Crested Lark <i>Galerida cristata</i>
Franklin's Gull <i>Larus pipixcan</i>	Booted Warbler <i>Iduna caligata</i>
Pallas's Gull <i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>	Olivaceous Warbler <i>Iduna pallida</i>
European Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>	Isabelline Warbler <i>Iduna opaca</i>
Glaucous Gull <i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Melodious Warbler <i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>
Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i>	Aquatic Warbler <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>
Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Blyth's Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>
Lesser Crested Tern <i>Sterna bengalensis</i>	Marsh Warbler <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>
Long-tailed Jaeger <i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Paddyfield Warbler <i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>
Arctic Jaeger <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	River Warbler <i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>
Atlantic Puffin <i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Common Grasshopper-warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>
Razorbill <i>Alca torda</i>	Pale Rock Martin <i>Ptyonoprogne obsoleta</i>
Little Auk <i>Alle alle</i>	Hume's Leaf-warbler <i>Phylloscopus humei</i>
Common Murre <i>Uria aalge</i>	Pallas's Leaf-warbler <i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>
Little Owl <i>Athene noctua</i>	Dusky Warbler <i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>
Black-winged Kite <i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Iberian Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i>
Griffon Vulture <i>Gyps fulvus</i>	Mountain Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus sindianus</i>
Oriental Honey-buzzard <i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	Radde's Warbler <i>Phylloscopus schwarzi</i>
Eastern Imperial Eagle <i>Aquila heliaca</i>	Arctic Warbler <i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>
Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	African Desert Warbler <i>Curruca deserti</i>
Levant Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	Barred Warbler <i>Curruca nisoria</i>
White-tailed Sea-eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	Western Orphean Warbler <i>Curruca hortensis</i>
Red Kite <i>Milvus milvus</i>	Ménétries's Warbler <i>Curruca mystacea</i>
Rough-legged Buzzard <i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Moltoni's Warbler <i>Curruca subalpina</i>
Long-legged Buzzard <i>Buteo rufinus</i>	Marmora's Warbler <i>Curruca sarda</i>

Tristram's Warbler *Curruca deserticola*
 Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria*
 Northern Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*
 White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*
 Spotless Starling *Sturnus unicolor*
 Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus*
 Siberian Thrush *Geokichla sibirica*
 Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*
 Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*
 Siberian Rubythroat *Calliope calliope*
 Orange-flanked Bush-robin *Tarsiger cyanurus*
 European Pied (Atlas) Flycatcher
 Ficedula hypoleuca speculigera
 Moussier's Redstart *Phoenicurus moussieri*
 Black-throated Wheatear *Oenanthe seebohmii*
 Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*
 Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*
 Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucura*
 White-crowned Wheatear *Oenanthe leucopyga*
 Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*
 Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris*
 Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia*
 White-winged Snowfinch *Montifringilla nivalis*

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*
 Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*
 Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*
 Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis*
 Common Rosefinch *Erythrura erythrura*
 Eurasian Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*
 Mongolian Finch *Bucanetes mongolicus*
 Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*
 Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus*
 Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*
 Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*
 Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia*
 Cretzschmar's Bunting *Emberiza caesia*
 Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*
 Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*
 Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos*
 Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*
 Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*
 Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*
 Chestnut Bunting *Emberiza rutila*
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*
 Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*

Category D species (i.e. species that there is reasonable doubt that they have ever occurred in a natural state) do not form part of the Malta List and therefore are not in the above list.

Accepted Records

The following records have been discussed either during meetings of the MRRC or by discussions online. A few of these accepted records appeared in social media and were also discussed by the MRRC. Five species are new to the Malta Bird List. All records include the name of the observers.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

1♂ immature at Qawra on 14.11.23 (Ray Galea).

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

1 at Wied Ghajn Rihana on 17.03.25 (Nathan Gambin, Kevin Gambin).

Corncrake *Crex crex*

1 found freshly dead in Mosta on 12.10.23 (reported by James Aquilina); 1 at San Ġwann on 22.10.24 (Edmond Galea on social media).

Baillon's Crake *Zapornia pusilla*

1 at Chadwick Lakes from 07–16.04.24 (Martin Austad, Chris Carbone, Mark Bonello, Nathan Gambin, Nicholas Cutajar, Nicholas Galea, Zak Spiteri, Aron Tanti, Luke Vella, Stefan Azzopardi,

Joseph Mangion, Benjamin Metzger, Ian Balzan, Edward Bonavia, Mark Gauci, Caldon Mercieca, Adin Vella, Gilbert Haber, Charles Coleiro, Raphael Soler, Stefano Miceli, Steve Cilia); 1 at Ghajn Rihana on 09–10.04.24 (Richie Sullivan, Benjamin Metzger, Steve Zammit Lupi, Edward Bonavia and others).

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

1 at Marsascala on 09.12.23 (Nicholas Galea, Steve Zammit Lupi, Nicholas Cutajar).

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

1 at Qbajjar on 13.02.24 (Claudio Cini on social media). 1st record for Malta.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

1 shot at Marsaxlokk on 25.08.57 (John J. Borg in Vol. 2, Issue 1 of the *Bulletin of the National Museum of Natural History*, Malta - Aug 2025).

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

1 at Salina on 08.05.23 (Mark Gauci, Manuel Mallia).

Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia*

1 1st winter at Salina from 03.01.23 to 28.02.23 (Mario V.

Gauci, Dominic Frendo, Nimrod Mifsud, Aron Tanti, Chris Carbone, Ray Galea, Stefano Miceli, Nicholas Galea, Edward Bonavia, Steve Zammit Lupi, Mark Gauci, Manuel Mallia, Benjamin Metzger, Adin Vella, Charles Coleiro, Ian Balzan, Stephen Cilia, Caldon Mercieca, John J. Borg, Mark Bonello, Stefan Azzopardi, Stanley Gatt, Martin Austad, Raphael Soler, Alex Casha, Daniel Bonnici, Joseph M. Mangion and others). 1st record for Malta.

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan*

1 ad. at Ghadira & Salina on 09.05.24 (Ray Galea, David Attard, Dominic Frendo, Edward Bonavia, Mario V. Gauci, Caldon Mercieca, Martin Austad, Stefano Miceli, Nicholas Galea, Stefan Azzopardi, Adin Vella, Aron Tanti and others). 1st record for Malta.

Arctic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*

1 at Ċirkewwa & Qammieħ from 09-11.03.23 (Nicholas Galea, Raphael Soler, Martin Austad, Ray Galea, Stefano Miceli, Caldon Mercieca).

Razorbill *Alca torda*

1 at Pembroke on 24.11.22 (Raphael Soler); 1 at Marsaskala on 25.11.23 (Nicholas Galea, Nicholas Cutajar, Raphael Soler).

Oriental Honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

1♀ ad. at Buskett on 24.09.24 (Nicholas Galea, Edward Bonavia, Martin Austad, Ray Galea, Ian Balzan, Aron Tanti, Alex Casha, Nicholas Cutajar, Nimrod Mifsud, Stefano Miceli, Stefan Azzopardi, Chris Carbone, Raphael Soler, Stanley Gatt, Steve Zammit Lupi, Nathan Gambin and others); same bird at Targa Gap on 28.09.24 (Stefano Miceli, Chris Carbone). 1st record for Malta.

Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes*

1 1st cy at Buskett on 03.10.23 (Nicholas Galea, Edward Bonavia, Ray Galea, Stefano Miceli, Nicholas Cutajar, Raphael Soler, Kevin Gambin, Nathan Gambin); 1 at Buskett on 12.10.24 (Christian Lia on social media).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

1 at Kemmuna on 21.10.21 (Nicholas Galea, Raphael Soler); 1 at Buskett on 10.10.22 (Edward Debono on social media); 1 at Buskett on 02.10.23 (Ray Galea, Nick Galea, Edward Bonavia, Nicholas Cutajar, Raphael Soler, Aron Tanti, Kevin Gambin, Nathan Gambin).

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*

1 at Buskett on 12.09.23 (Christian Lia, Patrick Spiteri on social media); 1 at Ġebel Ciantar & Ġirgenti on 04-05.05.24 (Stefano Miceli, Edward Bonavia, Nathan Gambin, Chris Carbone, Mark Bonello, Aron Tanti); 1 at Luqa Airport on 21.04.25 (Christian Lia on social media) was later shot down at Qrendi.

Sooty Falcon *Falco concolor*

1 1st cy at Kemmuna on 03.11.24 (Ian Balzan, Stefano Miceli, Nicholas Galea, Nicholas Cutajar); 1 1st cy at Qawra on 19.11.24 (Ray Galea, Ian Balzan, Charles Coleiro).

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*

1 at Ta' Ġianpula on 15.05.24 (Edward Debono on social media).

Great (Steppe) Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor pallidirostris*

1 1st cy ringed at Kemmuna on 31.10.25 (Nicholas Galea, Mark Bonello) and on 02.11.25 (Edward Bonavia, Ian Balzan, Ray Galea, Stefan Azzopardi, Michael Wilson and others).

Carrion (Hooded) Crow *Corvus corone cornix*

1 at Ghadira on 20.04.24 (Piotr Kunowski, reported by Ray Galea).

Mediterranean Short-toed Lark *Alaudala rufescens*

1 at L-Aħrax on 08.03.23 (Martin Austad, Joseph Mangion); 2 at Ċumnija on 16.04.25 (Nicholas Galea, Michael Wilson, Ray Galea, Aron Tanti, Nathan Gambin, Zak Spiteri); 1 at Miġra l-Ferħa on 21.04.25 (Shaun Isherwood).

Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna pallida*

1 ringed at Mtaħleb on 24.08.23 (Glenn Micallef); 1 at Xrobb l-Għaġin on 21.04.24 (Martin Austad).

Isabelline Warbler *Iduna opaca*

1 ringed at Kemmuna on 30.04.25 (Nicholas Galea, John Attard Montalto, Nicholas Cutajar, Mark Bonello, Shaun Isherwood).

Olivaceous/Isabelline Warbler *Iduna pallida/opaca*

1 ringed at Ghadira on 18.05.07 (Charles Gauci); 1 ringed at Ghadira on 14.05.25 (David Attard).

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*

1 ringed at Buskett on 27.04.25 (John Attard Montalto).

Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola*

1 ringed at Simar on 02.04.25 (Charles Coleiro, Ray Galea, Shaun Isherwood, Nicholas Cutajar, Edward Bonavia).

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

1 ringed at Mtaħleb on 08.09.23 (Glenn Micallef, Chris Carbone, Adin Vella); 1 ringed at Mtaħleb on 31.08.24 (Glenn Micallef).

Common Grasshopper-warbler *Locustella naevia*

1 ringed at Buskett on 15.10.23 (John Attard Montalto).

Pallas's Leaf-warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

1 ringed at Mtaħleb on 15.11.25 (Glenn Micallef).

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

1 ringed at Mtaħleb on 16.11.23 (Glenn Micallef).

Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus*

1 at Buskett (also ringed) from 01.05.23 to 13.06.23 (Aron Tanti, Raphael Soler, Joseph M. Mangion, Edward Bonavia, Stefan Azzopardi, Stephen Cilia, Stefano Miceli, Nicholas Galea, Mark Bonello, John Attard Montalto, Denis Cachia).

African Desert Warbler *Curruca deserti*

1 killed at Sannat on 07.11.23 (reported by Adin Vella).

Barred Warbler *Curruca nisoria*

1 1st cy ringed at Mtaħleb on 27.08.23 (Glenn Micallef, Adin Vella); 1 1st cy ringed at Ġhadira on 04.10.23 (David Attard, Ray Galea).

Moltoni's Warbler *Sylvia subalpina*

1 heard at Żebbiegħ on 08.10.22 (Stefano Miceli); 1♂ ringed at Kemmuna on 16.04.23 (Nicholas Galea); 1 juv. (also ringed) at Ġhadira from 01–07.10.23 (Nicholas Galea, Ray Galea, Charles Gauci, Victor Cilia); 1♂ ringed at Wied Ħarq Ħamiem on 04.04.24 (Denis Cachia); 1♂ ringed at Kemmuna on 15.10.24 (Nicholas Galea, John Attard Montalto, Nicholas Cutajar); 1♂ at Manoel Island on 25.03.25 (Benjamin Metzger).

Rüppell's Warbler *Sylvia ruppelli*

1♂ at Binġemma on 24.03.22 (Ray Galea); 1♂ at Xrobb L-Ġħagin on 15.03.24 and 17.03.24 (Nicholas Cutajar, Martin Austad); 1♀ at Burmarrad on 15.04.24 (Martin Austad); 1♀ ringed at Kemmuna on 15.04.24 (Nicholas Galea, Benjamin Metzger, Nicholas Cutajar); 1–2 (♂ + ♀) at Ʀal Far from 15–17.04.24 (Chris Carbone, Edward Bonavia, Nathan Gambin); 1♂ at Il-Qadi on 16.04.24 (Martin Austad); 2 (♂ + ♀) ringed at Kemmuna on 16.04.24 (Nicholas Galea, Nicholas Cutajar); 1♂ at Ta' Ċenċ on 16.04.24 (Gilbert Haber, Adin Vella); 1–3 (2♂♂ & 1♀) at Manoel Island from 16–18.04.24 (Benjamin Metzger, Marie Claire Gatt); 1♂ at Valletta on 16.04.24 (Ian Balzan); 1♂ at Paola on 16.04.24 (David Caruana, reported by Mario V. Gauci); 1♂ ringed at Wied Ħarq Ħamiem on 18.04.24 (Denis Cachia); 1♂ at Selmun on 28.04.24 (Robert Bonello, reported by Ray Galea).

Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*

1 1st cy ringed at Kemmuna on 20.10.25 (Nicholas Galea, Daniel Bonnici, Nicholas Cutajar, Stefan Azzopardi, Edward Bonavia, Gilbert Haber, Adin Vella, Stefano Miceli).

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*

1 ringed at Salina on 10.11.24 (Mark Gauci, Manuel Mallia).

Moussier's Redstart *Phoenicurus moussieri*

1♂ at Ġħar Lapsi from 06–08.03.23 (Benny Scerri, Edward

Debono and others on social media); 1♀ at Majjistral from 09–15.03.24 (Stefano Miceli, Martin Austad, Aron Tanti, Alex Casha, Edward Bonavia, Joseph M. Mangion, Caldon Mercieca, Nathan Gambin); 1♀ at Migra L-Ferħa from 13–16.11.25 and on 13.01.26 (Shaun Isherwood, Edward Bonavia, Aron Tanti, Nathan Gambin); 1♂ at Delimara on 23.11.25 (reported by Simon Orland); 1♂ at Ċumrija from 29.11.25 to 01.12.25 (Nicholas Galea, Shaun Isherwood, Mark Bonello, Ray Galea, Nathan Gambin, Stefano Miceli, Michael Wilson, Edward Bonavia, Aron Tanti); 1♀ at Ta' Ċenċ from 29.12.25 to 03.01.26 (Stefano Miceli, Edward Bonavia, Martin Austad, Anne-Marie Austad, Chiara Bonavia).

Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris*

1 at Majjistral from 18–21.01.24 (Alex Casha, Stefano Miceli, Ray Galea, Nicholas Galea, Ian Balzan, Edward Bonavia, Gilbert Haber, Aron Tanti, Adin Vella, James Aquilina and others).

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

1 at Kemmuna on 04.11.22 (Nicholas Galea, Stefan Azzopardi, Gilbert Haber, Chris Carbone); 1 at University of Malta Campus Msida on 16.03 and 22.03.23 (Clive Muscat); 1 at Ġħajn Riħana on 19.03.23 (Aron Tanti), 1 ringed at Mtaħleb on 31.10.23 (Glenn Micallef); 1–2 at Ġnien Bormla from 04–13.01.24 (Nicholas Galea, Adin Vella, Edward Bonavia, Aron Tanti); 1 ringed at Mtaħleb on 21.10.24 (Glenn Micallef); 1 ringed at Mtaħleb on 26.10.25 (Glenn Micallef); 1 ringed at Mtaħleb on 04.11.25 (Glenn Micallef); 1 ringed at Ġhadira on 06.11.25 (Ray Galea, David Attard); 1 ringed at Buskett on 08.11.25 (John Attard Montalto); 1 ringed at Landrijet on 13.11.25 (Simon Orland); 1 ringed at Buskett on 29.11.25 (John Attard Montalto); 1 ringed at Buskett on 26.12.25 (John Attard Montalto).

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*

1 1st cy at Simar on 10.08.25 (Mario V. Gauci, James Aquilina); 1 1st cy at Ġhadira from 12–15.08.25 (David Attard, Ray Galea, Nicholas Galea, Denis Cachia, Alex Casha et al); 1 1st cy ringed at Ġhadira on 28.08.25 (Ray Galea, David Attard); 1 1st cy at Burmarrad on 02.09.25 (Stefan Azzopardi); same ringed 1st cy bird at Chadwick Lakes from 04–11.09.25 (Shaun Isherwood, Stefano Miceli, Chris Carbone and others). The possibility that these records refer to the same bird cannot be excluded.

Common Rosefinch *Erythrura erythrina*

1 1st cy ringed at Ġhadira on 30.09.23 (Ray Galea, Nicholas Galea, Martin Austad, Charles Gauci, Victor Cilia, Alex Casha); 1 1st cy ringed at Mtaħleb on 20.09.24 (Glenn Micallef).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

1♀ confiscated on 18.03.24 from Siġġiewi claimed to be trapped in Oct/Nov 2023 from Siġġiewi (reported by Ray Galea).

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*

1♂ confiscated on 18.03.24 from Siġġiewi claimed to be trapped in Oct/Nov 2023 from Siġġiewi (reported by Ray Galea).

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

1 ringed at Ghadira on 13.10.23 (David Attard); 1 ringed at Salina on 26.10.24 (Mark Gauci, Manuel Mallia); 1 ringed at Simar on 30.10.24 (Charles Coleiro); 1 ringed at Ghadira on 01.11.24 (Ray Galea); 1 ringed at Simar on 28.02.25 (Charles Coleiro).

Indigo Bunting *Passerina cyanea*

1 trapped along western cliffs of Malta on 19.11.23 (reported by Steve Zammit Lupi). 1st record for Malta.

Unknown origin Records

The following records were accepted but were placed under birds of unknown origin due to the possibility of them being escapees from captivity:

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis*

1 at Mdina on 01.08.22 (John J. Borg); 1 at Tal-Bardan Cliffs on 06.10.22 (Adin Vella); 1 found dying at Mellieħa Bay on 08.07.25 (Nicholas Barbara).

Rejected Records

The following records have been discussed during meetings of the MRRC and rejected as they were not felt to have had sufficient evidence to be accepted under the criteria of the AERC and the MRRC. In some cases, submissions with the descriptions were sent to experts abroad for their comment before a final decision was taken. The submitters and the reasons for refusals are not included in this report.

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*

1 at Paradise Bay on 20.09.24.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

49 at Ċirkewwa on 31.03.10. Record previously accepted in the National Rarities Committee 1st report (Attard Montalto, 2010), but since reviewed and rejected.

Armenian Gull *Larus armenicus*

1 at Salina on 04.11.21; 1 at Salina on 03.03.23; 1 at Salina on 22.12.23; 1 at Valletta breakwater on 24.12.25.

Lesser Black-backed (Steppe) Gull *Larus fuscus barabensis*

1 at Salina on 20.12.21

Lesser Black-backed (Heuglin's) Gull *Larus fuscus heuglini*

1 at Salina on 21.02.21

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

1 at Clapham Junction and Siġġiewi on 02.01.23

Moltoni's Warbler *Curruca subalpina*

1 ringed at Buskett on 11.08.25

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus swainsoni*

1 shot at Rabat on 13.11.25

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*

1 at Buskett on 22.06.86 (record incorrectly dated as 22.06.85 in past publications).

(Eastern) Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides*

1♂ 1st cy at Dwejra (M) on 01.11.25

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

1 ringed at Buskett on 17.11.25

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*

1 at Marsaskala on 10.09.24

Common Rosefinch *Erythrura erythrura*

1 heard at Kemmuna on 01.11.21; 1 at Kemmuna on 20.10.24.

Records in the public domain

As mentioned in the previous rarities reports, during this review period, a number of rarities have been in the public domain either in the press, online or in birding journals.

The following records were discussed and rejected:

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*

1 at Munxar (M) on 01.04.22 (Fenech & Sammut, 2022).

Hearsay record with no photographic evidence or description and never officially submitted to the MRRC, hence this record was rejected.

House Bunting *Emberiza sahari*

1♂ I/o Addolorata Cemetery on 24.04.22 (Fenech & Sammut, 2022).

Hearsay record with no photographic evidence or description and never officially submitted to the MRRC, hence this record was rejected.

Oriental Turtle-dove *Streptopelia orientalis*

1 trapped in Gozo in 3rd wk 06.2021 (Fenech & Sammut, 2022).

Hearsay record with no photographic evidence or description and never officially submitted to the MRRC, hence this record was rejected.

White's Thrush *Zoothera aurea*

1 shot on 02.11.20 at Żabbar; 1 shot on 25.11.20 at Chadwick Lakes; 1 shot in 1st wk 12.2022 at Hal Far (Fenech & Sammut, 2022).

Hearsay record with no photographic evidence or description and never officially submitted to the MRRC, hence these records were rejected.

Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewskii*

1 at Il-Bidni, Marsaskala on 22.04.22 (Fenech & Sammut, 2022).

Hearsay record with no photographic evidence or description and never officially submitted to the MRRC, hence this record was rejected.

Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles minor*

3 in end 10.2018 (Has-Saptan, Girgenti and Siġġiewi); 1 at Siġġiewi in 10.2021; 1 at Fomm ir-Riħ in 11.2021; 1 at Delimara on 06.11.23; 1 at Gozo on 23.11.23; 3 at Gozo in spring 2024 (Fenech & Sammut, 2024).

Hearsay record with no photographic evidence or description and never officially submitted to the MRRC, hence these records were rejected.

Iberian Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis*

1 at Dwejra (G) on 10.11.20 (Fenech & Sammut, 2024).

Hearsay record with no photographic evidence or description and never officially submitted to the MRRC, hence this record was rejected.

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

1 at Qala in 03.1999 (Fenech & Sammut, 2024).

Hearsay record with no photographic evidence or description and never officially submitted to the MRRC, hence this record was rejected.

Dusky Thrush *Turdus eunomus*

1 at Fomm ir-Riħ on 19.10.24 (Fenech & Sammut, 2024).

Hearsay record with no photographic evidence or description and never officially submitted to the MRRC, hence this record was rejected.

Since the MRRC criteria are based on objective verification and publicly accessible and verifiable evidence, it is important to note that should the MRRC receive more details and information on any of the above rejected records they will be discussed again accordingly.

Pending Records

As of 19.01.2026 there were no pending submitted records to be discussed.

Errata

II-Merill 35 (Bonavia, 2024, p.31)

Terek Sandpiper: date of Munxar Point l/o Marsaxlokk should read 22.05.00 (not 22.05.20)..

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all local and foreign birdwatchers who submitted records with descriptions and photos to the MRRC. I would also like to thank Raymond Galea (MRRC Chairman) and all the other members in the Committee for examining in detail all submissions and for all the interesting discussions and comments that followed. I would also like to thank the following international experts who also gave their views on a number of records: Amir Ben Dov and Klaus Malling Olsen.

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Obituary

Charles Galea Bonavia (19 June 1948 – 19 December 2025)



Charles, affectionately known within the local birdwatching community as *Id-Dentist* (his profession) or Is-CGB, was a nature lover from a very young age, birds being his main interest.

Charles and I began watching birds way back in 1961 when we started secondary school. It was still a time when birdwatching was unheard of. We were neighbours

and lived at Rabat. Every day during the week we used to meet as soon as we got back from school and four times a week ride our bicycles down to Ta' Qali and back to Rabat via Chadwick Lakes. The other day we would go to Buskett and Sundays would be Mtaħleb and Baħrija. Our birdwatching tools were a pair of small opera glasses that belonged to Charles's aunt and an old pocket guide to British birds that Charles had. We used to keep the opera glasses (and in later years proper binoculars) hidden in a small backpack for fear of being dubbed *nemmiesa*. In 1963 I got the book *The Birds of Malta* by E.L. Roberts as a Christmas present which, besides helping us identify the birds we were seeing, also helped us discover other places like Ghadira and Salina.

It was in September 1965 that Charles and I came into contact with the recently founded Malta Ornithological Society.

We had gone to L-Aħrax tal-Mellieħa and then to Ghadira where we ran into Joe Attard, Joe Sultana and Joe Hardman who were conducting a bird-ringing training session.

Charles's favourites were birds of prey and from 1965 he started studying their migration over Buskett during the autumn migration. He published the knowledge he had accumulated, titled *Raptors in Maltese Skies*, in four parts in *Il-Merill*, starting with the first article in the 1970 issue, and the others in 1971, 1972 and 1973. Together we used to work with Joe Sultana in the preparation of monthly newsletters, and later (1968–69) the *Quarterly Bulletins* (the precursors of *Il-Merill*), often staying at Joe's place till late at night. Charles served as editor of *Il-Merill* from 1977 to 1980. In later years he used to join me for ringing sessions at Ghadira Nature Reserve to study the wing shape in Common Chiffchaffs *Phylloscopus collybita*. He published his results in two papers *Populations of Common Chiffchaffs occurring in the Maltese Islands* and *A Note on aging and sexing Common Chiffchaffs using wing morphometrics* in *Il-Merill* 30 (2002). Charles was also an avid nature photographer, with birds being his favourite subjects, closely followed by mushrooms.

I shall always treasure the times we spent playing together in *L-isqaq* in our pre-teens and the several years we spent birdwatching together in later years.

Charles Gauci

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