

Issue 49 September 2016

Bird's Eye View



BirdLife
MALTA

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From one season to another



BirdLife Malta is an environmental organisation working to protect Malta's wildlife by managing natural spaces, inspiring the new generation, opposing illegal hunting and undertaking research.

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Printing Poulton's Print

Reg. Vol. Org. VO/0052
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Mark Sultana
CEO

Making a positive difference

Dear members and friends, I have just returned back to Malta from the largest nature fair in the world – Birdfair in the UK. BirdLife Malta had a stand in which we showcased the successes we have had during the years. It was a time to say thank you to all those that supported us from abroad. The same appreciation goes to all members who are instrumental in the improvements and achievements during the recent years.

Just a few months ago, we had the Government declare our first marine Special Protection Areas (SPAs) where our unique seabirds forage during their breeding seasons. Even more recently, we had the Government listen to our plea, backed also by an international outcry, to place a moratorium on Turtle Dove hunting during spring. We have had a record number of breeding birds in our nature reserves and our latest EU LIFE project is reaching its first deadlines and outputs. We are an organisation with 17 employees and another 17 full-time volunteers working on education and conservation. We manage three nature reserves whilst we seek to conclude on further reserves in the near future. BirdLife Malta is part of the biggest environmental partnership in the world – BirdLife International, allowing us to acquire and share information and expertise whilst participating in international campaigns.

I would like to express to you the pride of being part of BirdLife Malta. We, together, are having a positive impact on our natural environment. We are making a positive difference. But we need to grow further as the challenges increase too. We will be trying to increase our membership numbers in the coming months and will be asking you to be our ambassadors. Whilst wishing you all the best, I also hope you have the chance to enjoy the bird migration during the coming months.

BirdLife Malta Council

Darryl Grima, **President**
Saviour Balzan, **Secretary General**
Norman Chetcuti, **Treasurer**
Nicholas Galea, **Council Secretary**

Irene Mangion, **member**
Kathleen Mamo, **member**
Eurydike Kovacs, **member**
Ray Galea, **member**
Geoffrey Saliba, **member**

New Minister for Environment visits BirdLife Malta offices and reserves on World Environment Day

To celebrate World Environment Day the new Minister for Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change José Herrera visited the BirdLife Malta offices in Xemxija on the 3rd of June. At the office, the Minister was greeted by members of BirdLife Malta's Council, CEO Mark Sultana, staff and volunteers, where he congratulated the work BirdLife Malta does for saving the Mediterranean wildlife. The visit was also followed by a tour of the neighbouring Simar Nature Reserve, one of the reserves BirdLife Malta has on the island.



Photo by DOI, Pierre Sammut

Greater Flamingo at Salini ringing record

In June, a Greater Flamingo made a surprise arrival at Salini. Thanks to the information obtained from the bird's ring number, BirdLife Malta was able to identify that this bird was first ringed in Malaga, Spain as a young chick in 2003. The 13-year old female flamingo had also been recorded in Tunisia in 2007, followed by visits to Spain in 2011 and Italy in 2012 before spending some days in Malta. Another Greater Flamingo was observed at Salini earlier this month.



Photo by Raymond Galea

Malta's first marine SPAs announced

Malta's first eight marine Special Protection Areas (SPAs) have now been designated within the Natura 2000 network, enhancing the conservation efforts of the declining Yelkouan Shearwaters, Scopoli's Shearwaters and European Storm-petrels. The inventory for these sites was created by BirdLife Malta researchers through the five-year LIFE+ Malta Seabird Project, which came to a successful close in June.



Photo by BirdLife Malta

Launch of LIFE Arcipelagu Garnija

The 27th of May marked the official launch of BirdLife Malta's new EU-funded, LIFE Arcipelagu Garnija Project. As the third seabird research project for BirdLife Malta, it aims to improve the conservation status of Yelkouan Shearwater (Garnija) populations in the Maltese Islands and safeguard their breeding colonies. Alongside project partners RSPB and Transport Malta, the five-year project will work to identify key threats faced by the species and implement appropriate conservation activities to secure the main colonies of the Maltese Islands.



Photo by BirdLife Malta

Shearwaters hand-reared for the first time

BirdLife Malta has successfully hand-reared and released two Yelkouan Shearwater chicks which were found away from their nests at a young age at Blue Grotto. The chicks, Baħar and Carmel, were cared for by BirdLife Malta, using an adapted methodology developed in New Zealand for a similar species of shearwater. Once ready, the chicks were placed in nest boxes in the cliffs of a location in the north of Malta, and only fed once every couple of days to mirror their natural feeding habits. Both chicks have now left Malta for the open sea, joining the other chicks that fledged in the wild in 2016.



Photo by NSBC Malta Foundation

School grounds transformed into havens for wildlife

BirdLife Malta is now expanding its educational work by creating more opportunities for regular contact with nature by supporting schools to get involved in Ġonna Dinja Waħda; a project designed to develop school grounds to be more wildlife friendly. This initiative will not only improve biodiversity within schools but will also provide opportunities for hands-on experiences that lead to more young people taking action to protect the environment. Each year we will work with a limited number of schools including providing teacher training to ensure the new space can be used as an integrated context for learning through outdoor education.



BirdLife Malta returns to the UK Birdfair

This year's UK Birdfair was a fantastic weekend for BirdLife Malta as hundreds of people visited our stand at Rutland Water Reserve, supporting our work with donations for our next study to learn more about the Turtle Dove. This year's key message was one of thanks for the support we received through the years to reduce illegal hunting in Malta, to run an annual nationwide school education programme, to study seabirds and secure marine SPAs, and to manage our nature reserves. Malta received some special attention when well-known campaigner and TV personality Chris Packham presented a donation to BirdLife Malta's CEO Mark Sultana and when BirdLife International CEO Patricia Zurita visited our stand. You can read more about this year's event on the BirdLife Malta blog.



Photo by BirdLife Malta

European Bee-eater

Qerd in-Naħal



WORDS JOE SULTANA

- **Body length:** 25-29cm (including central tail projection)
- **Wingspan:** 36-40cm
- **Very common passage migrant**
- **Spring:** end of March to mid-June (a few irregularly until early July)
- **Autumn:** late August and September
- **Very colourful:** with chestnut, blue and yellow colours
- **Usually seen in groups feeding on flying insects**
- **Frequently calling a note sounding like “crew”**

A slim, swift-flying bird with a mixture of flashy colours; bright yellow on the throat and back, reddish-chestnut crown, neck and partly on the back, greenish-blue underparts, and a black trailing edge seen on the open wings. One cannot mistake the European Bee-eater locally with any other common or frequent migrant bird. It has a slightly down-curved, slender, longish bill and a long tail with a 3cm projection in the centre. Juveniles, which may be seen in autumn, are less brilliantly coloured with no tail projection.

It is a common spring migrant from end of March to mid-June, with a few occurring until early July. In autumn it is seen mainly from late August and throughout September. Formerly it was less common, particularly in autumn, but in recent years the number of birds seen in both seasons increased considerably. In spring, unlike today, it used to appear at the end of the Turtle Dove migration season. So much so that an old Maltese proverb related to the Turtle Dove trappers was “when you hear bee-eaters calling, pack your trapping gear and go home”.

The European Bee-eater has also been noted extending its breeding range in a number of central and south European countries where the population has been noted on the increase.

It has been recorded breeding on very few occasions in Malta in the last ten years. They were never recorded breeding previously; however Antonio Schembri, regarded as the father of Maltese ornithology; wrote in 1843 that he was informed that it sometimes nested at Ramla in Gozo.

The European Bee-eater is actually a misnomer, as it takes all kinds of insects in flight including dragonflies, beetles, butterflies, moths, wasps, and flies. It is highly gregarious and is mainly seen in flight and hunting in flocks, often gliding fast with open wings interrupted with frequent brief periods of fast wingbeats, chasing insects, while uttering its characteristic far-reaching repetitive calls, which usually one hears before seeing the birds. It can be seen anywhere in the countryside during migration, even heard and seen migrating high above towns and villages.

Joe Sultana is a BirdLife Malta veteran and ornithologist

Cicada Ċikada

The loud song of the Cicada is a sound we associate with the heat and haze of a Maltese summer afternoon. At over 100 decibels, that ear-numbing churr is the loudest animal sound you're likely to hear, and you are bound to hear it right through the hot months. For all its loud acoustics, however, the Cicada is often hard to spot because it pipes down on your approach. The Cicada looks rather like a gigantic fly with large, much-veined wings. It is actually a bug and it produces its churr by the rapid vibration of a patch on its abdomen. It is only the males that 'sing', which they do to attract females for mating. Cicadas spend most of their life – sometimes several years – as larvae, sipping root sap underground, and only the last few weeks of their life as flying adults. So we should really forgive them for celebrating their short wild stint above ground so vociferously! In Maltese, the Cicada is also called Werżieq ta' Binhar, Żerżur and Żarżur, names it shares with other insects, which leads to a degree of confusion.



Cicada - Guido Bonetti

Ground Thistle Xewk tal-Mixta

Thistles are not usually the sort of plants to inspire poetry. But forget for a bit their prickly nature – which is after all their trick to deter goats and rabbits from consuming them – and you will discover a group of plants as elegant as they are diverse. One of the odder members of this group is the Ground Thistle, a steppe and garrigue species that flowers in early autumn. These ground-hugging plants open their flowers – singly or in small clumps – right down on the floor, looking as if they forgot to grow a stalk in their haste to flower! But the Ground Thistle has dispensed with stalks and instead channelled its resources into growing a deep root to tap precious water from the dry rocky ground. Apart from the pink-violet flowers, the visible part of the plant is by September all dry and little more than a mesh of grey foliage. That jumble of withered leaves is the remains of the plant's food factory that over spring and early summer harnessed the sun's energy that now enables the plant to flower and to seed another generation.



Ground Thistle - Victor Falzon

Ornate Wrasse Lhudi

Many fish in our part of the world are rather thrifty in the colour department: the species that swim and travel are often silvery with maybe a few spots or stripes, while the sedentary fish prefer to merge with their surrounding in masterly camouflage. But the Ornate Wrasse will have none of this merging or monochrome business, indeed it looks like it belongs more around a tropical coral reef than our humble Mediterranean scene. This fish starts life as a bright green-silver, then grows through a variety of mixed hues and patterns until it settles into psychedelic adulthood. The Ornate Wrasse is easy to observe and enjoy as it lives in shallow waters all around our rocky shores, where it spends its time patrolling its territory and harassing the small snails, shellfish and crabs that form its diet. It is also very common. Incidentally, our bright little friend also works a trick several fish have: it starts off as a female and changes into male by the time it's fully grown.



Ornate Wrasse - Desirée Falzon

Aleppo Pine Żnuber

The Aleppo Pine is a lovely, bright-green foliaged evergreen tree. It is popularly grown in gardens, afforestation areas and along roads. Despite its name, nobody brought it over from Syria: the species is quite native here. Before humans colonised Malta, Aleppo Pines probably grew wild and thick in several parts of the islands, the summer air thick with its resinous fragrance. But people came along and chopped down all the woodland, and no original wild pines remain today: the last possibly wild tree – a magnificent specimen at L-Imġiebaħ that was probably several hundred years old – was destroyed by fire in 2009. At BirdLife Malta's Foresta 2000 woodland regeneration project, several thousand young Aleppo Pines (some soon turning teenage now) are slowly but steadily growing. Many of them are already bearing cones and producing seed, which in a few places are themselves sprouting and growing naturally. So yes, wild pines are growing again in Malta.



Aleppo Pine - Victor Falzon

Children need nature and nature needs children

WORDS HANNAH CHISHOLM
PICTURES BIRDLIFE MALTA

More and more children today are having less and less contact with the natural environment and it is having a big impact in a number of ways. Research has shown that direct contact with nature can have a positive impact on health and wellbeing as well as educational attainment. In correlation, the problems associated with alienation from nature include depression, obesity and attention deficit disorder.

The impact of disconnect also spreads wider as it is only through regular and meaningful contact with nature that the next generation will develop an attitude of good stewardship and an understanding of what actions they need to take in order to live sustainably with the natural world around them. Research shows that learning about the natural environment is not enough to change people's attitude and behaviour; learning needs to be experiential.



Using this research as a springboard, BirdLife Malta has embarked on various new initiatives focused on getting young people outdoors.

Early Years

BirdLife Malta's main education initiative Dinja Waħda is available for all Early Years teachers, but we also receive regular requests for more targeted resources. Children have an innate fascination with nature which should be fostered from a young age so this was an ideal place to start. Our Early Years initiative was to create an activity guide, packed full of sensory activities which allowed groups to get outside both in their school grounds and in the local countryside.

Field Teaching

School children have been visiting BirdLife Malta nature reserves for over 15 years. These visits provide vital opportunities for students to immerse themselves in the natural environment. So, to encourage more schools to take up these bookings, all of the sessions were reviewed to make clear curriculum links, secondary sessions were added, and visits are now even included in the social studies year 3 curriculum!

Gonna Dinja Waħda

Gonna Dinja Waħda are green spaces in school grounds that offer excellent opportunities for children to connect with nature. They provide opportunities for hands-on experiences while at the same time, improving biodiversity within schools. BirdLife Malta is currently working to improve green spaces in school grounds and to conduct research to demonstrate the health benefits they provide, showcasing the value of green spaces as an integral part of school grounds.

Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST)

A new partnership has been created between BirdLife Malta and MCAST which has supported the development of new curriculum content for level 2 and 3 science. This new topic, which focused on environment and sustainability, seeks to foster in the students an understanding of the natural world and its conservation, through a direct connection with nature.

Youth groups and families

Informal education has also been a major focus of our new outdoor initiatives with partnerships being developed with both The Scout Association of Malta and Malta Girl Guides. This year we will be launching new nature related badges and a programme of youth leader training to empower more people to have the confidence to support children to connect with nature.

Teacher feedback

“I liked working outside with the children. They enjoyed it so much I will use it again next year.”

“It was an activity that showed us how we can use nature to teach our children different subjects and to love and take care of our surroundings.”

“These activities helped them to use all of their senses.”

Teacher feedback

“The information about the visit was just right as the students had a bit of everything.”

Quotes from students at Blata l-Bajda Secondary

“I became closer to my friends and nature. When I wasn't in the reading garden club I was scared of insects and I hated them, now I know how to take care of little insects and big ones. I am proud of my reading garden and excited for more. I am happy with the work we've done and I think it is becoming famous!”

“The reading garden has taught me not to be scared of ants. It has taught me to take care of my plant. The reading garden has taught me not to litter because it may harm the environment and to be careful where I step because if I go on the soil I will harden it and the plants won't grow.”

“I've learnt that you need to help others and work as team mates. Animals and people can enjoy staying in nature. I love to stay in the reading garden and listen to the birds and see the plants.”

In summary, education is a pillar of BirdLife Malta's work and one of its missions in working to protect birds and other wildlife in Malta. We shall continue striving to educate and inspire the next generation whilst campaigning for a better environment for nature and for people.

You can support our education work by donating on <http://birdlifemalta.org/donate> or via SMS by sending an empty text to 5061 7379 to donate €2.33, 5061 8096 to donate €4.66 or 5061 9205 to donate €11.65.

Thank you in advance for your contribution.

Hannah Chisholm is the Education Manager at BirdLife Malta



IL-BUSKETT

Your destination during the autumn raptor migration over Malta

WORDS YANKA MILUSHEVA
PICTURES IRYNA LUKASHUK

This nature walk will give you a different perspective of Malta's only woodland, il-Buskett, perfectly situated on the south-west coast of the island.

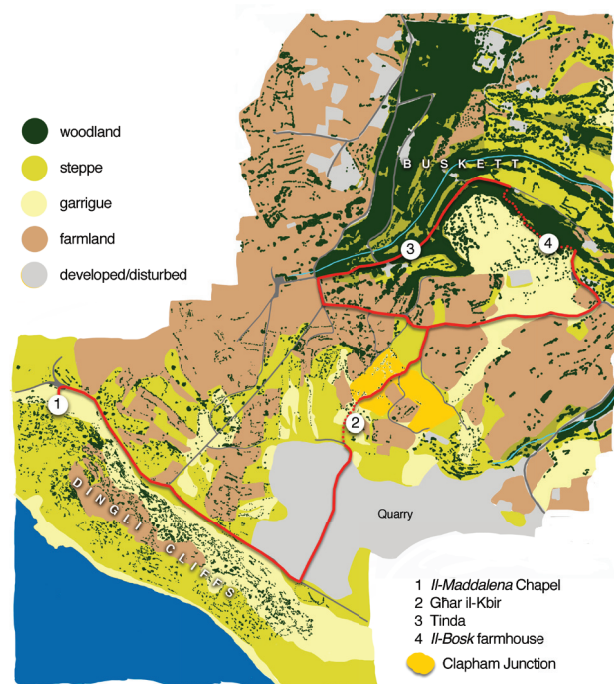
Starting off at the lonely and tiny Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene you can enjoy the spectacular views of another natural phenomenon – Dingli Cliffs. Towering up to 250m above sea-level, these cliffs offer a glimpse of Malta's geological history.

From here, head south along the road until the next crossroad marked by the cliffs bus stop, then turn left towards the inland and follow the road, making a semicircle around Ta' Żuta Quarry. Now you are just a few steps away from Ghar il-Kbir, an area of interconnecting caves, an easy spot to miss if you are not specifically looking for it as it blends perfectly in the landscape. Turn left into the field as soon as you have a wide overview of the quarry and continue in a north-east direction. In the near distance there is the silhouette of some rubble walls, marking locals' private land. Walk just a few meters along the one on your left side, then turn right in search of the Għar il-Kbir entrance and suddenly in front of your eyes are revealed the curious shapes of the caves formed into the barren rock. Interestingly, they were inhabited from prehistoric times up until 1835 when the British authorities relocated the last inhabitants. You can still recognise the traces of fire marks on the walls and the ceilings.

Just outside the cave complex you will find yourself in front of one of Malta's undiscovered secrets – the prehistoric Clapham Junction cart ruts. These V-shaped tracks carved into the solid rock still capture interest and provoke the imagination. They can be around 60cm deep and 15-25cm wide overlapping each other resembling railways of the past.

how to get there

The easiest way is to reach Rabat and from there take bus 201 and get off at **Maddalena** bus stop. Driving and parking might be problematic as the walk is not entirely circular.





MARSH HARRIER Aron Tanti

Don't forget to enjoy the panoramic view over your final destination, Buskett and in the distance Verdala Palace. The natural valley is designated as a Natura 2000 Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA) due to the wide variety of protected endemic and rare species. It has also been designated by BirdLife International as an Important Bird Area (IBA) especially for birds of prey during the autumn migration. Should you choose to explore this part of Malta in autumn, you will definitely encounter a spectacle in the skies provided by raptors migrating over Malta during this time of year!



You can easily observe Marsh Harriers, Honey-buzzards, Hobbies, Common Kestrels, Black Kites, Ospreys, Lesser Kestrels and many more flying around or roosting in the trees. If you are one of the lucky ones you may also have a chance to spot an eagle, appearing on only very rare occasions on the Maltese Islands.

Aim for the dusty road and the gate marking the official entrance to the cart ruts. From here there are two options to continue your walk.

Option 1. If you turn left down the road and make a right at the second crossroad and follow the signs, you will find yourself at the tinda of Buskett. Now you can enjoy a nice stroll under the Holm Oak, Aleppo Pine, and White Poplar trees and citrus plantations.

Option 2. Should you decide to turn right from the gate you should follow the road overlooking the woodland, passing by farm lands and very few houses. At the fourth crossing turn left and continue on the road, which after the big metal gate gradually turns into a path through the woods.

As you are exploring the pathways of Buskett, protected from the sun by the cool shadows of the trees, look out for the delicate violet flowers of the Yellow-throated Crocus and most probably right next to it the yellow flowers of the Autumn Buttercup. You can also identify the endemic Maltese Fleabane and sense the strong aroma of the Lesser Calamint.

After the first rain the Autumn Lady's Tresses would appear as well. In between the shrubs and in the cracks of old trees there are always either Wild Rabbits, Western Black Whip Snakes or Moorish Geckos hiding. If you are taking this route on weekends, feel free to visit Tal-Bosk Farmhouse where you can learn more about our work in Buskett and more interesting information about other nature sites in Malta.

Yanka Milusheva is the Events Assistant at BirdLife Malta



what to look out for

MALTESE FLEABANE

Can only be found in Malta, flowering in summer and autumn.

PAINTED FROG

Malta's only amphibian could be spotted in the wet season in the valley.

BEE-EATER

Can be seen in flocks in the autumn.



Photo by Ella Beeson



Photo by Aron Tanti





INTERVIEW JESSICA IRWIN

Eurydike Kovacs, member of the BirdLife Malta Council has been contributing to the organisation’s work for almost 20 years as vet. We asked Eurydike about what inspired her to help with the protection and conservation of Malta’s birds and what she thinks the future holds.

What made you interested in BirdLife Malta’s work?

I was always interested in wildlife and in Malta birds are a prominent part of Maltese wildlife, so I said to myself: “if I am going to work with wildlife in Malta, it must be with birds.” I have always liked birds so for me, it was an easy choice.

How do you contribute with your work as a vet to BirdLife Malta?

I started volunteering with BirdLife Malta between 17-20 years ago, mostly seeing injured birds that they would bring in or what the public would have passed on. I would then assess the birds and we would see what is going to be the future of the bird and hopefully we are able to treat them so they can recover.

What do you love most about your profession?

I like to be able to watch the animals get better, although sometimes unfortunately it has to be to just stop their suffering. It’s very rewarding to be able to see a positive result and with my job you can sometimes see this result quickly. I also like the part of working in an emergency, when it is something unexpected and you really have to bring everything that you know. I really enjoy the connection you have with the people too, when I feel that I am helping them – because it is not only their animals that get better but themselves as well.

How long have you been a member of BirdLife’s Council? What inspired you to join?

I have been a member of BirdLife Malta’s Council for one year after some of the members asked me if I would like to join because they thought I would be able to contribute from a scientific perspective. I also felt that maybe I could give something more than just treating the injured birds.

How do you see BirdLife Malta in the future?

I see BirdLife Malta more in the public eye and not just as an anti-hunting lobby. BirdLife Malta runs a lot of activities and I hope there will be more in the future that more people will want to come to. I think when people are able to take part in activities organised by BirdLife Malta it brings them closer to nature and they can see what Malta can offer them.

Have you seen any differences in the amount of injured birds you have received in recent years?

Definitely, we are receiving less birds. BirdLife Malta has been working for decades on this and after the referendum and with the pressure from the EU towards the Government, I think we have been able to see a result.

Jessica Irwin is the Communications Assistant at BirdLife Malta

what's on

Migration Festival

Saturday 24th of September

16:00 – 19:00

Laferla Cross

September is a truly spectacular time for birdwatching in Malta. This is when the sky is full of migrating birds in search of their wintering spot. Come and celebrate with us this period during our upcoming Migration Fest events.

The first of our Migration Fest events will be a birdwatching afternoon at Laferla Cross. We have prepared plenty of educational activities to keep the little ones entertained and of course, lots of birdwatching, so don't forget your binoculars!

Saturday 1st of October

15:00 – 18:00

Tal-Bosk, Buskett

The second of our Migration Fest events will be held in the lovely surroundings of Malta's only woodland – Buskett.

We will be celebrating the magic of migration by hosting a photography exhibit, including a presentation from a local nature photographer, family activities and a guided birdwatching walk through the woods.

Saturday 8th of October

10:00 – 16:00

Għadira Nature Reserve

In the last of our Migration Fest events we are giving you the rare opportunity to visit Għadira during the closed season.

We will be holding two family exploration sessions where attendance is by booking only. Session 1 will take place from 10:00-11:30 and Session 2 will take place from 11:30-13:00. From 13:00 the nature reserve will be open to the public for the day, with no need to book.



EXTERNAL Events

We are participating in the following external events:

Science in the City & Notte Bianca

Friday 30th of September and Saturday 1st of October 19:00 onwards

Valletta

If you want to learn about the different seabirds that breed in Malta, this is the perfect time and place for you. With the help of BirdLife Malta you will be able to discover in detail the secretive life of these nocturnal species and be able to locate their main colonies around the Maltese Islands.

“Towards strengthened civil society, social justice, and sustainable development in Malta”

Friday 28th of October

Floriana

BirdLife Malta will be participating in this conference organised by SOS Malta to conclude the EEA and Norway Grants Malta NGO Programme.

FALKO events

Falko events are aimed at young adults interested in exploring nature, taking part in conservation activities and meeting like-minded people.

Comino bird ringing and walk

Sunday 23rd of October

07:30

Our next event is a visit to the bird ringing station on Comino, followed by a walk around the island. With autumn migration underway, this is the perfect opportunity to get up and close to the birds that will be passing through Malta! For more information please contact falko@birdlifemalta.org and follow our Facebook page – **Falko, BirdLife Malta**.



For further information or for bookings please email events@birdlifemalta.org or call +356 2134 7646

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Remember to check the members' email newsletter for further events details

ways to help

Another breeding season is over for most birds and their numbers have increased as their chicks took to their first flight.

The last few months also brought with them, once again, our favourite summer adventure – the sunset boat rides to see one of Malta's most spectacular phenomena, the Scopoli's Shearwater 'rafting' on the water before returning to their nests in Ta' Ċenċ cliffs in Gozo. This bird, known as Ċiefa in Maltese, is the largest of Malta's shearwater species and during the breeding season they can be seen congregating in large numbers on the sea after they return from their foraging trips, a behaviour known as 'rafting'. As darkness falls they begin to leave the water and fly to their burrows in the cliffs to take their turn in incubating their egg or feed their growing chicks.

Malta is home to 5% of the global population of Scopoli's Shearwater and along with the Yelkouan Shearwater (Garnija) and the European Storm-petrel (Kangu ta' Filfla), this seabird is the subject of ongoing research by BirdLife Malta through several EU LIFE-funded projects. These projects have created an inventory of eight marine Important Bird Areas (IBAs) where these seabirds breed, which were earlier this year designated as marine Special Protection Areas (SPAs) within the Natura 2000 network by the Maltese Government, as approved by the European Commission. This gives Malta's seabirds full protection on land and at sea.

After these success stories, now we look forward to the peak of the autumn migration season as lots of raptors cross over Malta on their way from mainland Europe to Africa.

You too can help BirdLife Malta further to continue its vital work by enrolling a friend or relative as member. Join now by visiting <http://birdlifemalta.org/become-member>. Help us protect these birds and their habitats together!



Photo by Aron Tanti



Photo by Edward Jenkins



Photo by Iryna Lukashuk

