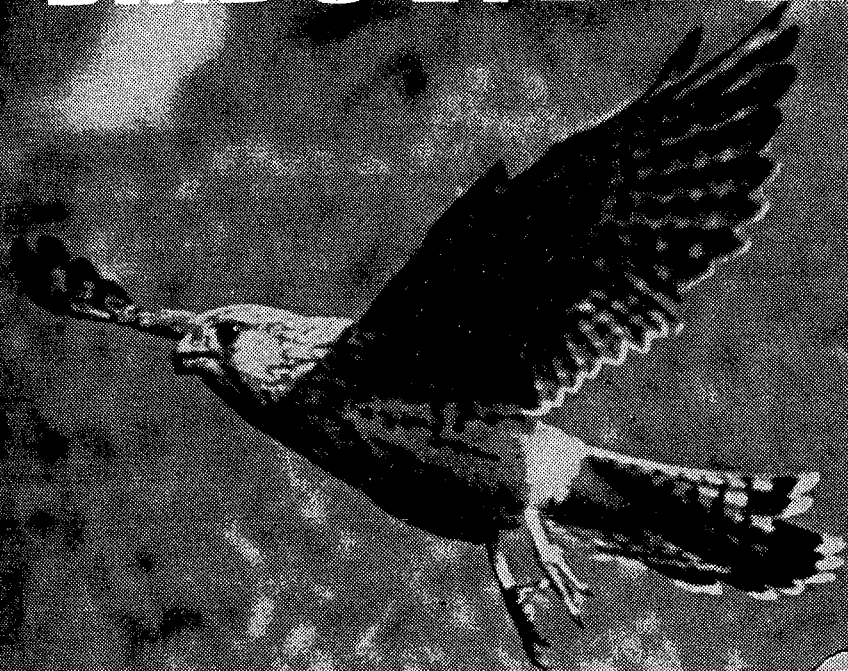


# BIRD'S EYE VIEW



# BIRD'S EYE VIEW

MARCH 1983

NO. 7

AN MOS PUBLICATION TO GIVE MEMBERS A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF WHAT HAPPENED, WHAT IS HAPPENING, AND WHAT WILL BE HAPPENING WITHIN THE MOS - THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY - THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY AND PROTECTION OF BIRDS IN MALTA.

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Michael Zerafa.

*The Ornithological Society was founded in 1962 to promote the scientific study of ornithology and bird conservation in the Maltese Islands. It organises a variety of scientific and social activities. It runs the Valletta Ringing Scheme and has a young members' section.*

*The MOS consists of Life Members, Ordinary Members, Young Members, Group Membership and Hon. Life Members. All members are entitled to receive the MOS Bulletins gratis and to participate in the activities. Anyone wishing to apply for membership is welcome to write to the Members' Secretary - THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, P.O. Box 498, VALLETTA, MALTA.*

FRONT COVER : Kestrel (Photo : Arthur Christiansen - see page 18) and MOS protest marchers gathering in front of Verdala Palace main gate at Buskett (Photo : Lawrence Darmanin).

BACK COVER : Honey Buzzard shot at Buskett in September 1983 (Photo : Natalino Fenech). Insets - Shooters and trappers marching in the counter protest at Rabat with placards some of which demanding that birds of prey should be regarded as game and to allow shooting at Buskett (Photo : Union Press) and the MOS protesters at Buskett saying "NO" (Photo : Alfred E. Baldacchino).



# GHALL-QERDA



L. Darmanin



The Times

"LE GHALL-QERDA" - "NO TO THE DESTRUCTION" was the theme of a two-day protest organised by the MOS Youths on 10th and 11th September 1983. The protest was aimed at the illegal killing of birds of prey and illegal killing of birds at Buskett, Malta's main bird sanctuary since 1932.

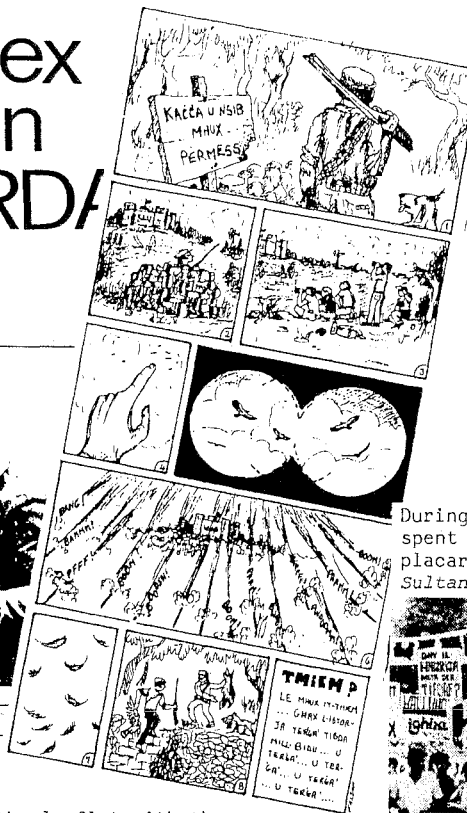
On Saturday morning (10th September) all the newspapers were splashed with articles on Buskett and Birds of Prey while 20 members of the MOS Youths, wearing white T-shirts daubed with a large 'LE' (NO) and smeared with splashes of red paint distributed over 5000 leaflets and 5000 stickers to the public at the main gate of Valletta. At noon a press conference was given and next morning the papers carried main features about this activity. The aim of making the public aware of the problem succeeded.



N. Fenech

# Għaliex din IL-QERDA?

?



During the summer months several youths spent hours on end designing and preparing placards for the protest. (Photos : Joe Sultana (top) and Raymond Galea (below)).



Two pages of the leaflet with the message 'Why this destruction?'. 5000 leaflets as well as 5000 stickers 'LE', both designed by Victor Falzon, were distributed at the City Gate.



The organising committee during the press conference. From left to right : Paul Portelli, Victor Falzon, Saviour Balzan, Joe Doublet, Michael Grima, Denis Cachia and Mike Zerafa. (Photo : Union Press).

On Sunday (11th September) the real protest - a demonstration with placards at Buskett was held. It was a wonderful sight - over 200 people, mainly youngsters, followed a large streamer "LE GHALL-QERDA", holding placards and posters mainly condemning the illegal shooting and killing of birds.

The successful protest march, which was threatened by some incidents and tension, started at 3.00 in the afternoon from near the gates of Verdala Palace. During the previous night slogans and abusive language against the MOS and its President, Joe Sultana, had been painted on the walls of the main gates at Buskett, presumably by those who indulge in the illegal killing of birds at Buskett.

As the colourful march prepared to start tension ran high when a group of about 40 bird shooters, who had different ideas, gathered nearby, but were prevented to do anything by the police who accompanied the marchers. The first incident occurred while the marchers were in Buskett gardens. Unknown persons threw stones from high ground and an Italian tourist and bird watching enthusiast, who was taking pictures, was injured in the head. He was quickly rushed to hospital by some MOS members for treatment. After some commotion the march continued towards the centre of Buskett. However a photographer, who lingered behind to take pictures from some distance, was attacked by a group of men, who smashed his camera and slightly injured him by a number

# marching at buskett



J. Sullivan



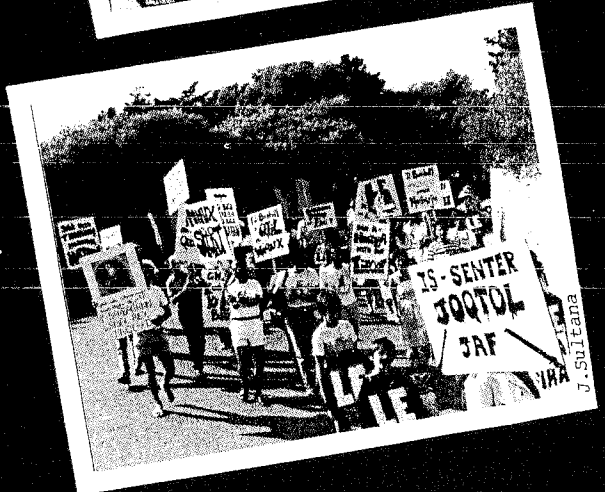
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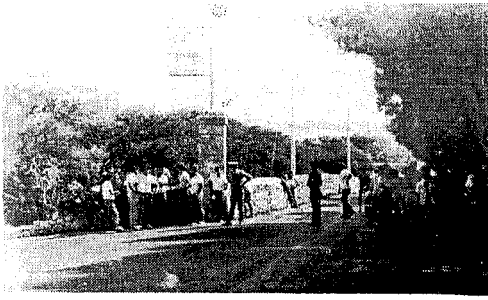
R. Galea



A.E. Belgacchino



J. Sullivan



Tension ran high when a group of about 40 bird shooters gathered nearby. (Photo : L. Darmanin).

of blows. When the marchers assembled in the centre of Buskett, one of the organisers, Saviour Balzan, was interviewed for a TV programme 'Malta u lil hinn minnha' while a number of mounted stuffed birds were set on fire - a symbolic act - stuffed birds collections are the main cause for indiscriminate shooting and illegal bird killing.

The protest was over - a sigh of relief - although some MOS members and other drivers had to stop and change the car wheels on leaving Buskett. The road from Buskett to Rabat was sprinkled with nails - another childish act which also contributed towards the great success of the MOS protest. The deluge of correspondence that followed for days on end in all the papers was a certificate of success - public awareness for conservation.



Saviour Balzan being interviewed for a TV programme. (Photo : L. Darmanin)



The mounted stuffed birds on fire. (Photo: A.E. Baldacchino).

This success was also certified by none other than the Shooters and Trappers Association who organised a 'Counter Protest' on 25th September 1983 at Rabat. The bird shooters and trappers carried a large number of placards, most of which were against the MOS. They were addressed by their President and Secretary respectively, who, as reported in the press, tried to justify the bird killing which occurs in our islands. They then approved a seven-point resolution which protested, amongst others, against acts carried out by a number of organisations, led by the MOS, whose aim, the shooters held, was clearly to destroy the sport (sic) of shooting and trapping birds.



During the meeting a few stuffed birds were blessed by a Franciscan monk, Fr. Alfred Sciberras, who, apart from ridiculing the Christian faith, does not seem to follow in his Patron Saint's footsteps where birds are concerned. In one of the Association of Shooters Committee Members' own words 'the blessing of stuffed birds at Rabat was a symbolic act meant to erase the degradation perpetuated at Buskett on the 11th September 1983' - a reference to the burning of stuffed birds by the MOS. (Photo: The Times).

The prevailing mentality on the bird situation in Malta may be summed up, without the NEED OF ANY COMMENTS, from the horse's mouth - the contents of a leaflet which was distributed by the Association of Shooters and Trappers as well as the placards carried by the marchers.

The shooters' leaflet asks several questions to shooters and trappers themselves, to 'ornithologists' and to the authorities. The questions aimed at the shooters and trappers themselves were :

- Do you know that there is a movement which is a threat to shooters and trappers?
- Do you know that this movement receives help mostly from the foreigner?
- Do you know that this movement is also receiving help from other Maltese quarters which want to destroy the sport of shooting and trapping?
- Is it fair that there is someone who is interfering in our sporting traditions?

# the counter protest



The Times

- Do you know that some Maltese ornithologists declared that they want to eliminate bird shooting and trapping from Malta?
- Do you know that while you cannot go near a 'bird-sanctuary' others can do what they like?
- Do you know that while in the European countries they are enjoying bird-shooting, you are being deprived from doing this in Malta?

The questions put to the 'ornithologists' were :

- Is it true that many ornithologists declared that they will not rest before bird shooting and trapping is totally eliminated from Malta?
- Have the Maltese shooters the right to enjoy what other shooters enjoy in other countries?
- Is it true that it would be better for those foreigners whom you bring to Malta to see what is taking place in their countries before they speak about Malta?
- Is it true that according to serious foreign ornithologists the numbers of birds which migrate in Malta are so small to be insignificant?
- Do you admit that a lot of harm is being done to Malta with the destructive propaganda of some ornithologists?
- Is it true that foreign ornithologists are noticing the chaff in our eyes and not noticing the beam in theirs?
- Is it true that there has never been so many birds of prey killed in England as there has been this year?

The last batch of questions were aimed at the authorities :

- Do you know that during the closed season in Malta shooting can be carried out almost in all Europe?
- Why is it that every kind of sport in

Union Press



Union Press





The Secretary of the Shooters and Trappers Association addressing the meeting. He has been reported to have said that the numbers of birds killed in Malta is insignificant and as an example he mentioned that in the previous year only 80 Honey Buzzards were shot in and around Buskett!! (Photo : *The Times*).

Malta is being helped while that of shooting and trapping is being suffocated?

- Why is it that in nearly every kind of sport one does not need a licence, while for bird shooting and trapping one needs an expensive licence?
- How much do ornithologists pay for the licence?
- Do you know that while live bird trap shooting is not allowed in Malta, this takes place in many European countries?
- When 'they' burned the stuffed birds at Buskett were 'they' breaking the law?

The following are some of the placards carried by the shooters :

- YES to bird shooting, NO to binoculars.
- MOS mind your own business.
- 300 Bird Liars - leave us in peace.
- 300 watching - 16,000 shooting.
- NO to foreign interference in shooting and trapping.
- 16,000 shooters and trappers-16,000 votes.
- MOS Zipp up.
- Shooting first and foremost.
- The Shotgun is a hobby - the Binoculars are a vice.
- Foreign ornithologists mind your own business.
- Leave us in peace - bird shooting is a sport.
- Have the Germans forgotten the Jews, are they now feeling sorry for a bird?
- Doesn't the foreign interference law apply to peeping Toms?
- Blue Rock Thrush Twit Twit, Turtle Doves pam pam, Birds of Prey Bum Bum.
- When Malta was under the foreigner we shot almost everywhere, now that it is ours - almost nowhere.
- Better in the pot than in the sky.
- We want Buskett.
- Birdshooting YES, Binoculars NO.

The epilogue to the protest and counter protest was an assault on an MOS member who was counting birds of prey at Buskett. Some thugs, two of whom were masked tried to beat him up, while they damaged his car and equipment.

AND YET ALL THIS CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS A STRONGER MOS

While the MOS was protesting in Malta against the illegal shooting of birds of prey and the illegal shooting at Buskett, youths from the Deutscher Bund fur Vogelschutz of the Federal Republic of Germany protested at Malta's Embassy in Bonn against the killing of bird life in Malta and held a demonstration outside the embassy building (see photo below).



Two Dutch and a Belgian youth environment groups, members of IYF also held three protests outside the Maltese Consulates in Holland and the Maltese Embassy in Belgium, demanding a better enforcement of existing laws and an end to indiscriminate shooting.

Following the DBV action the Shooters and Trappers Association, seen below, handed a counter protest to the German Ambassador in Sliema, stating, amongst other things, that this action "constituted unlawful foreign interference in our affairs". The STA said that the Ambassador would take up the matter with those concerned. The Ambassador was quick to reply!!!

**GAME SHOOTERS' COUNTER PROTEST**

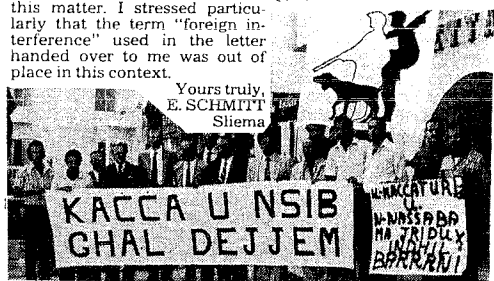
From Dr. Eberhard Schmitt, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Sir, — May I refer to the report dealing with the visit of representatives of the "Ghaqda Kaccaturi u Nassaba" to my office ("Game shooters hand counter protest to German Ambassador") (The Times, September 28) and add the following remarks:

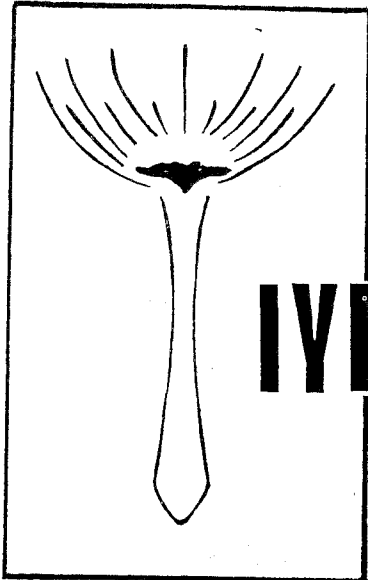
I explained that the German Government was not involved in this matter. I stressed particularly that the term "foreign interference" used in the letter handed over to me was out of place in this context.

Yours truly,  
E. SCHMITT  
Sliema

The Times  
September 30th, 1983.







# IYF news

## International Youth Federation for Environmental Studies and Conservation

The MOS Youths, who are affiliated with the International Youth Federation, take an active part in some of the activities of this organisation. The MOS encourages such participation as this instills conservation ideals and an awareness of ecological problems in our young members. Meetings, seminars, congresses and projects of IYF give them the opportunity to meet young people from other countries with whom they discuss various conservation topics and environmental problems. The experience they gain is invaluable.

### MEDITERRANEAN ECOLOGICAL MEETING

The first IYF Mediterranean ecological meeting was held on the islands of Milos, Greece from the 10th to 17th July 1983. Twenty participants from ten Mediterranean countries, including Malta, took part. The Maltese participants were the MOSY members Wallie Shaw and Mike Zerafa. The general



theme of the meeting was to identify problems and discuss possible solutions. Some of the topics discussed were Mediterranean Sea Pollution, Bird killing, Effects of Tourism on the Environment and Environmental Education. Various letters related to the topics' discussions were sent to the respective Governments.

### IYF EUROPEAN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

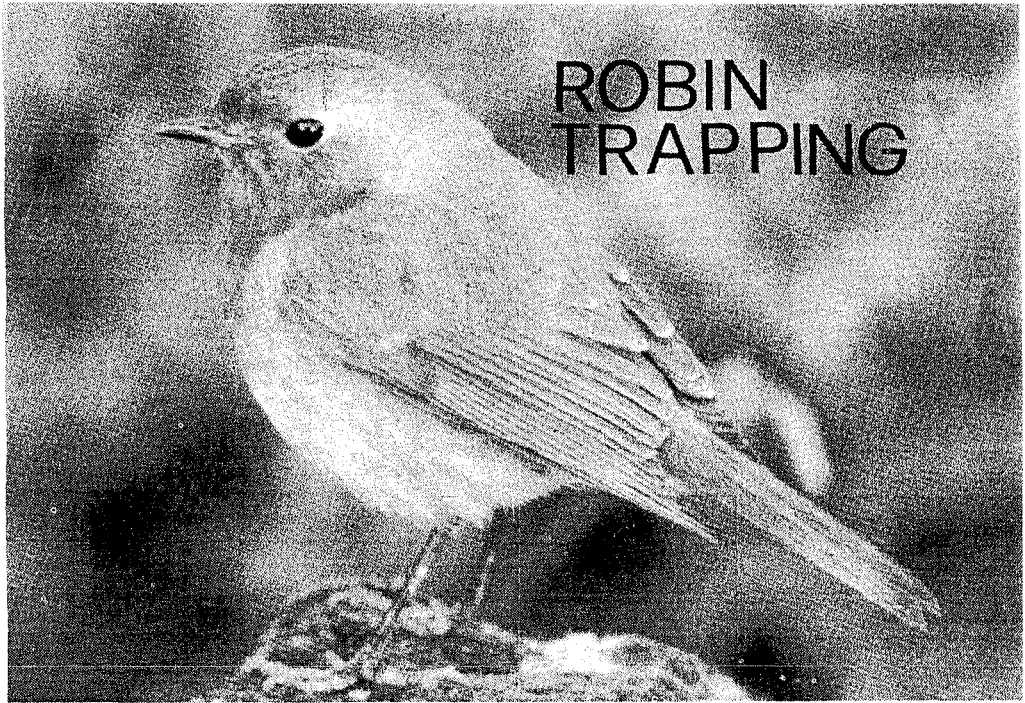
The IYF European Annual General Meeting was held in Stockholm from 1st to 7th August 1983. Saviour Balzan, the MOSY focal point of IYF, attended the meeting. He gave a slide presentation of the problems of nature conservation in Malta and participated in a TV programme on bird problems in the Mediterranean. The IYF meeting agreed to organise an international camp to be held in Malta in September 1984. Saviour took the opportunity to join other participants in an anti Acid Rain Protest in Stockholm, which was organised during the annual meeting.



Some of the participants at the Annual General Meeting. (Photo : Saviour Balzan).

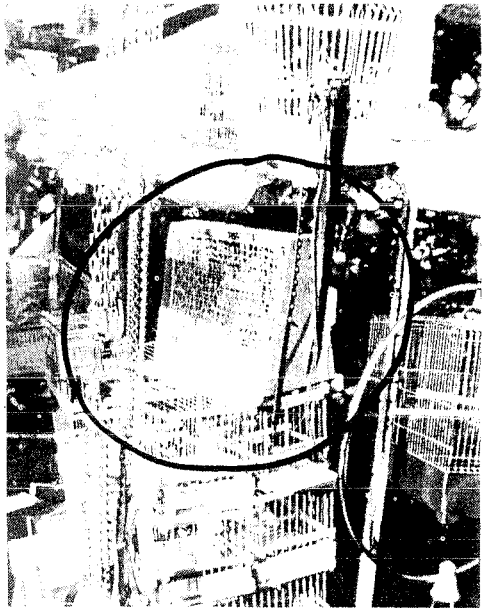
### IYF CHRISTMAS TOUR

Saviour Balzan, IYF Mediterranean Bird Conservation Project Co-ordinator joined Piter Moqree, IYF European Secretary and co-ordinator of Pesticides and Acid Rain Project and Jan Vooudrow, Tropical Rain Forest Project co-ordinator, on a Christmas Tour (27th December 1983 - 7th January 1984). Their job was to attend four youth congresses, two in Holland, one in West Germany and another in Sweden. Saviour was invited to give talks and arouse interest in the Mediterranean Project which he is co-ordinating for IYF. Saviour took the opportunity to stress the need for help in education projects in the Mediterranean region. He also discussed the programme for the IYF Bird Conservation Course which is going to be held in Malta in September 1984 and the possibility to hold an IYF Mediterranean regional meeting at the same time.

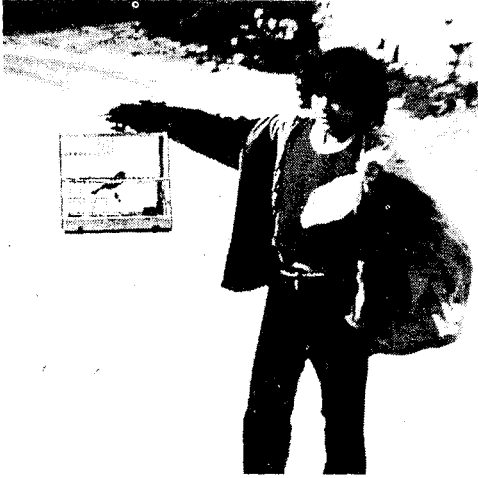


The Robin - a faithful winter visitor to Malta. The above photo by Natalino Fenech is one of a set of coloured postcards which have just been published by the MOS.

The amicable popular Robin winters regularly in good numbers in our islands. The main influxes occur in October and November when a lot of people, mainly youngsters, seem to catch the robin trapping fever. This disease is indigenous and probably endemic. Although the Robin has been protected by Maltese law since 1911, its trapping and keeping have always been popular. 'Pleasure' is derived by watching a wild bird attacking the decoy in a specially made, pyramidal-shaped trap placed in the wild bird's territory. This reflects, indeed, a poor mentality in bird appreciation. There are also those who jump in any bandwagon to make a cheap penny. They make and sell illegal Robin Traps. One of the MOS aims has always been to stamp out this illegal trapping. Stickers, posters and the mass media were frequently used to fight this bad habit and to educate the public in this respect and to some extent had succeeded to decrease its popularity tremendously. However, last year it was quite evident that robin trapping was again on the increase. With this in mind the MOS is planning a campaign against this trapping in the coming autumn months to coincide with the arrival of the robins. Contributions towards this campaign will be most welcome.



Illegal robin traps have been noted on sale at the Valletta Market as well as in pet shops (Photo by Raymond Galea).



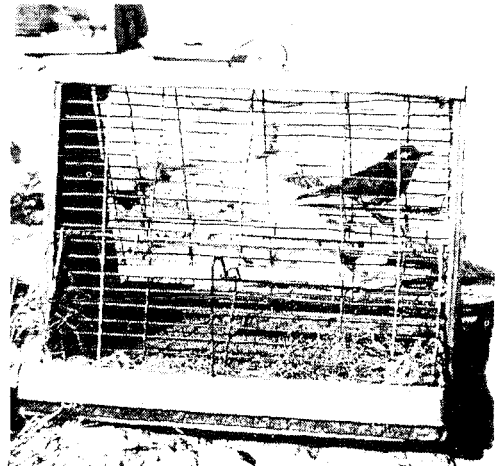
It is not infrequent to see youngsters trapping robins during October and November. Being brought up in a hostile environment for birds these youngsters do not know any better and show their interest in birds in a most negative way. Only a continuous educational campaign and the enforcement of the regulations will bring about a change in this mentality. Our young people, too, have a heart to cherish and admire birds in their wild state if they would be directed in the right way (Top photo by H.E. Axell, bottom one by Raymond Galea).

Sbieh jittajru hiel-sa

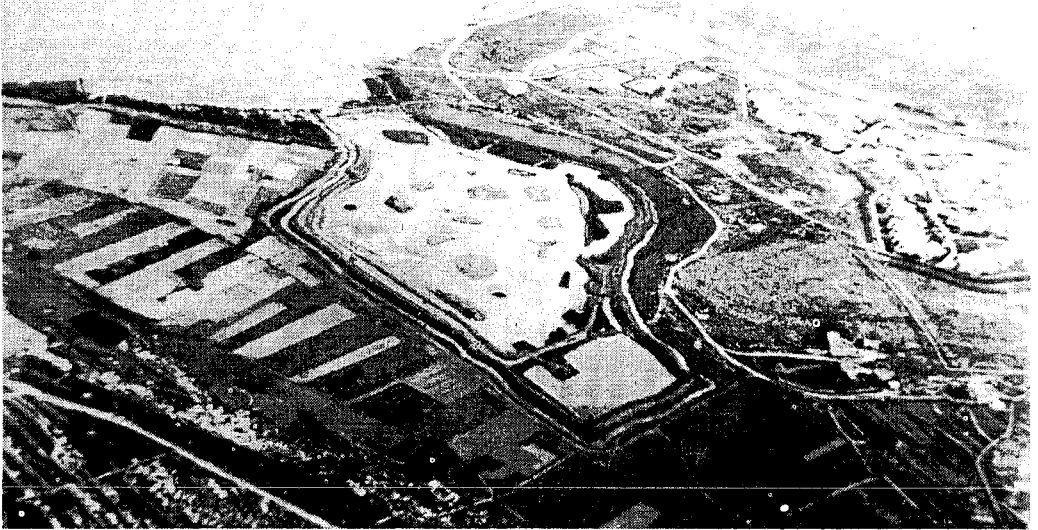


A coloured sticker depicting a Robin's head and the message 'Sbieh jittajru hiel-sa - Beautiful flying free'. This is one of a set of six stickers.

Robin redbreast in a cage puts all Heaven in a rage. This one is a live decoy in a robin trap (Photo by Raymond Galea).

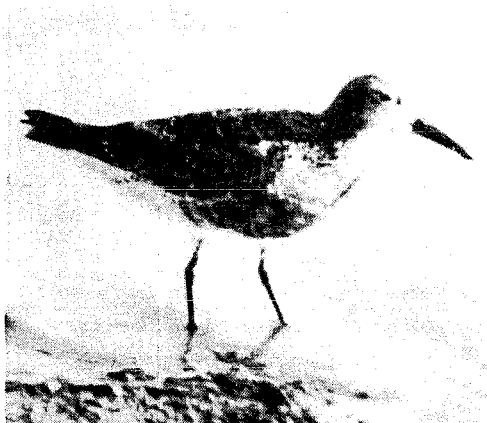


# GHADIRA NEWS



Aerial view of the Reserve - January 1983 (Photo : Joe Sultana).

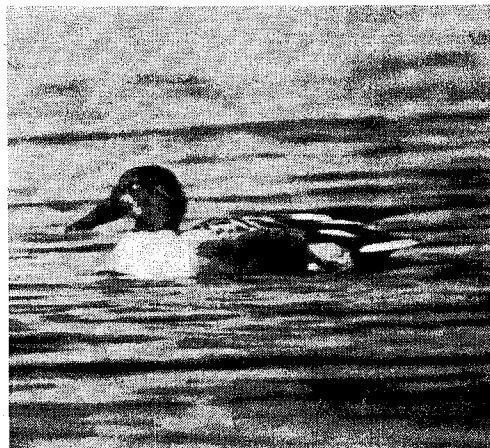
Ghadira is shaping up nicely. In summer after putting up a fence round most of the area, the MOS forked out £M900 to build the inservice road which runs within the boundary round the perimeter of the reserve. And when the road was finished the rain came and filled the reserve to its brim. This winter's good rainy season has been ideal for tree planting. And tree planting was



Rare birds have also visited the reserve. This Knot in partial summer plumage was the 7th documented record for Malta (Photo : Joe Sultana).

again carried out extensively. Hundreds of tamarisk saplings were planted along the entire surrounding inservice road. In a few years time these would provide a useful screen when the public will be using the area. The rains brought the birds too. A flock of 37 Coots, 4 Black-necked Grebes, a Little Grebe, a pair of Shovelers, a few Teals and Wigeons, Water Rails and Moorhens all settled nicely for the winter. Unfortunately the harassment from a few shooters disrupted the peaceful situation. On several occasions unknown persons sneaked in at night and 2 Black-necked Grebes, some Teals and Wigeons disappeared. The rest of the birds were noted to be very restless during the following days. Illegal sea-shooting from high-powered dinghies also occurred in the nearby bay to the detriment of some of the birds which left the reserve. Outright vandalism was not lacking either. Three shots were fired at the door of the bird-watching hide one night in November, damaging the door, while parts of the wire fencing surrounding the reserve were damaged during attempts to enter the reserve at night. Fortunately good sense prevailed and these attempts have almost completely stopped since a 24-hour watch has been provided by the Government. And for the past two months the birds at Ghadira had a peaceful stay and offered enjoyment to hundreds of people (including shooters without their guns) who flocked to the area to watch the

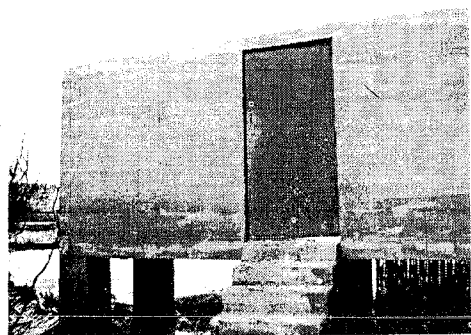
birds which in Malta could only find some refuge in this small secluded area. There is, indeed, still a lot to be done. The small visitors' centre, when complete, will exhibit educational material and introduces the visitors to the area. When the post of a warden is filled Ghadira could then be opened regularly for the public....and one of the MOS dreams would have completely materialised.



A male Shoveler which, together with a female, wintered at the reserve (Photo : Natalino Fenech).



One of the Black-necked Grebes which was shot by unknown persons who sneaked in at night (Photo : Joe Sultana).



Three shots were fired at the door of the bird watching hide one night in November (Photo : Lawrence Darmanin).



Kingfisher - an annual visitor. One ringed at the reserve returned safely the following year (Photo : Natalino Fenech).





**XIV<sup>e</sup> CONFÉRENCE EUROPÉENNE DU  
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL POUR LA  
PROTECTION DES OISEAUX - C.I.P.U. / I.C.B.P.  
ROCHEFORT 23/28 SEPTEMBRE 1983**

**icbp**  
NEWS



The opening session of the conference. John Temple Lang, ICBP European Section Chairman addressing the participants. He is flanked on his right by A. Reille, Chairman ICBP France, and on his left by A.B. Gammell, European Section Secretary, and Cristoph Imboden, Director ICBP International. (Photo : M. Blanchon).

**XIV ICBP EUROPEAN CONTINENTAL SECTION  
CONFERENCE**

The XIV Conference of the European Continental Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP) was held at Rochefort, France on 24th and 25th September 1983. 77 participants from 19 countries (Azores, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Great Britain, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland). The conference was chaired by John Temple Lang. Various reports and papers were presented. These included, amongst others, the reports of the national sections, a report on the work of the Continental Section, a paper on Antarctica and a report on the killing of the Scarlet Ibis. Various discussions were held. These dwelt on the effectiveness of the resolutions and letters sent from previous conferences, on the work of the Continental Section over the last two years and on the inventory of Important Areas project. The future work of the Continental Section, arrangements for carrying out this work, funding and future meetings were also discussed. A report of the European Committee for the Prevention of Mass Destruction of Migratory Birds was presented to the meeting which also discussed the ICBP Migratory Birds Programme. The meeting was al-

so informed about the migratory bird problems in south west France. Several resolutions were adopted. One urged the Italian Government to take the necessary action to stop the illegal shooting of Honey Buzzards and other raptors on both sides of the Strait of Messina. The Greek Government has



Conserve Buskett Sticker issued by ICBP Malta and designed by Victor Falzon. See memorandum on Buskett in News and Views.

been requested to create larger non-shooting zones in all wetlands and to establish adequate control. Those Governments who have not yet signed or ratified the conventions (known as Cites, Ramsar, Berne and Bonn) have also been urged to do so in the immediate future. ICBP Malta was represented by Joe Sultana and Alfred E. Baldacchino, Chairman and Treasurer respectively of the National Section. The meeting also agreed to elect an Executive Committee for ICBP European Continental Section. Fritz Hirt (Switzerland), P.J. Olney (Great Britain), Joe Sultana (Malta) and Joost Van der Van (Netherlands) were elected on the Executive Committee to assist John Temple Lang (Chairman) and Alistair B. Gammell (Secretary).

#### SEMINAR - PROBLEMS AFFECTING MIGRANTS IN AFRICA

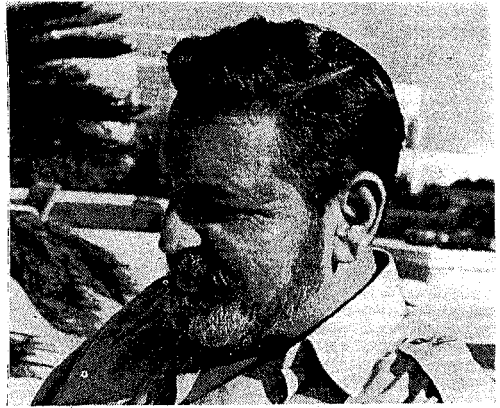
Following the conference a day seminar on problems affecting European birds on their migration, particularly in Africa, was held on 26th September. Four main speakers, namely Mr G. Jarry, Dr P. Jones, Dr J.M. Thiollay and Dr F. Roux took part. The topics were : Habitat distribution and problems encountered by palearctic migrants in Tropical Africa; Migration strategies of Palearctic passerines within Africa; Conservation problems of large insectivorous migrant birds; and Problems encountered by migratory waterbirds in West African Tropical Wetlands.

#### WEBS MEETING

The Working Group of European Bird Protection Societies (WEBS) also held a day meeting at Rochefort - on 27th September. Most of the leading societies in the respective European countries, including the MOS, were represented. The participants presented any action of particular interest which their respective societies took in the last two



The Dutch Society for the Protection of Birds' delegation at the Webs Conference. J. Van der Van, S. Woldhek and C. De Bruin. The Dutch Society has helped MOS to produce educational material on several occasions. (Photo : Joe Sultana).



R. Arnhem of the Comité de Coordination pour la Protection des Oiseaux was one of the participants. Roger Arnhem also helped the MOS on several occasions. (Photo : Joe Sultana).

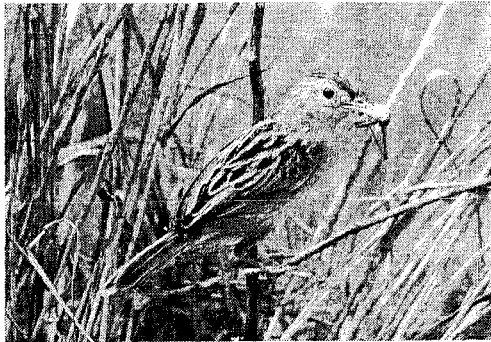
years. Possibilities for mutual aid in publications and joint publications were also discussed at length. Each society pointed out the help it can give as well as its requirements. The meeting, which was chaired by Alistair B. Gammell of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, was closed with a presentation on the work of the Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (LPO) who organised the conference at Rochefort.

#### MEDITERRANEAN SEMINAR

A two-day Mediterranean Seminar was also organised by Siegfried Woldhek the Co-ordinator of the ICBP European Committee for the Prevention of Mass Destruction of Migratory Birds before the Conference in Rochefort. The participants were Imre de Boroviczeny and Jose Luis Telleria (Spain), Michel Metais (France), Francesco Mezzatesta (Italy), Joe Sultana and Alfred E Baldacchino (Malta), Christopher Valliano and George Handrinos (Greece), E. Hili (Tunisia) Melis A. Charalambides and Pavlos Neophytou (Cyprus) and Nabil Khairallah (Lebanon). The introduction of purpose of the meeting was made by Siegfried Woldhek and the meeting was chaired by Alfred E. Baldacchino. After the participants introduced themselves and their work, Joe Sultana gave an illustrated talk on the development of the bird protection movement in Malta. Each country presented its bird protection problems and its methods to improve the situation. An exhibition of all the material brought along by the participants was set up and an action plan for each country was discussed. Opportunity was taken for participants to make arrangements amongst themselves or with the European Committee about support in the form of manpower, money, material, etc.

# NEWS & VIEWS

## POSTCARDS



The MOS has just published the first set of four coloured bird postcards. The photos, which were all taken by MOS members in Malta, show that bird photography is possible in our islands and it is more rewarding than shooting and trapping. The cards show a Little Egret photographed by John Borg, a Golden Oriole by Charles Galea Bonavia, a Fan-tailed Warbler by Raymond Galea and a Robin by Natalino Fenech. Their publication was made possible through a loan by the ICBP European Committee for the Prevention of Mass Destruction of Migratory Birds. The set is being sold for only 20 cents plus postage.

## MEETING WITH PM

Following the MOS protest, the Shooters & Trappers Association counter-protest and the spate of correspondence in the press the Prime Minister, Dom Mintoff, called a meeting of the representatives of the two bodies. The meeting was held at the President's Palace in Valletta, on 21st November 1983, and was chaired by the Prime Minister himself. The MOS and the STA were represented by their respective presidents and secretaries. The meeting, which took about two hours, was also attended by the Administrative Secretary at the Prime Minister's office, the Prime Minister's Private Secretary and the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Police. The Prime Minister invited the organisations' representatives to air their views regarding the problem of bird shooting. With the aim of continuing these talks the two bodies agreed, on the Prime Minister's suggestion that they should work towards a better upkeep of the environment in its natural state and therefore there should be no hunting during the close season while during the rest of the year there should not be uncontrolled bird shooting. At the same time it was agreed that the Societies should regulate themselves so that while one may still hunt, on the other hand action should be taken, as is done in progressive countries in this respect, so that the destruction of birds which stop or migrate over Malta does not occur. It was also agreed that the terms of reference for future meetings would be - how to keep and preserve game; to see what both organisations can do to help their own interests; and to see what the government can do to help by legislation as well as financially.

However since this meeting officials of the Shooters and Trappers Association on two occasions have publicly stated that they do not want to have anything to do whatsoever with the MOS, which they contend has been set up to harm the shooters' interests.

## SEA-SHOOTING

In the past few years the problem of bird killing has run out of proportions. One of the main causes is the craze for mounted stuffed birds collections. Another contributing factor is the killing of migratory and even breeding birds from motor-powered dinghies. Several shooters have gone through great sacrifices to equip themselves with the best equipment. It is

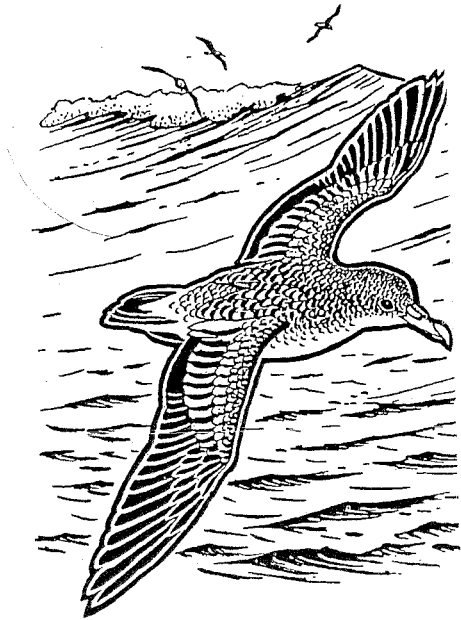


ironical that a dinghy, which is a symbol synonymous with conservation bodies such as the Green Peace, here in Malta is advertised for bird-shooting. Shooting from high-powered dinghies is a far cry from the traditional game-shooting of our forefathers using two-barrelled shot-guns. Duck shooting is one thing...shooting at all sea-birds is another. Combing the coastline for anything with wings resting on the rocks, chasing herons and egrets, and blasting out at Shearwaters are nothing short of vandalistic acts against nature. Breeding birds have not been spared either. The sad fate of the pair of Peregrines breeding at Ta' Cenc Cliffs and the Short-eared Owl which attempted to breed on Comino is well known. They all ended being shot from boats. Shooting from dinghies in bays, including Ghadira Bay, has occurred too, and not infrequently. The fact that this kind of shooting is illegal within three kilometres offshore and goes on almost unchecked summarises the whole situation.

### BRASS RUBBINGS

The MOS educational campaign for bird appreciation has expanded towards a new direction; the availability of a new set of nine brass rubbings which will enable youngsters (and grown ups too for that matter) to draw birds even though they do not know how to. The set of brass plates includes the Robin, the Black-winged Stilt, the Cory's Shearwater, the Kestrel, the Peregrine, the Barn Owl, the Cuckoo, the Hoopoe and the Osprey. Rubbing by crayons on a piece of paper placed on one of the brass plates will bring out the birds on the paper. The idea of such brass rubbings originated from Mr & Mrs Molesworth of North Devon who, through the ICBP European Committee for the Prevention of Mass Destruction of Migratory Birds, forwarded them to the MOS. Mr & Mrs Moles-

worth presented the set of brass rubbings to Mr Alfred E. Baldacchino, MOS Honorary Secretary, during the latter's visit to England.



Two of the results from the brass rubbings



Sections of the exhibition. (Photos : Alfred E. Baldacchino).

### EXHIBITION

The Hamrun Boys Secondary School set up an exhibition in March last year (1983) with the theme 'Contribution towards the Natural Environment through appreciation of birds'. Mr Paul Gauci, Art Master at the school, was the organiser of the exhibition which included several bird paintings by his students. The MOS helped by offering posters and bird pictures which were used in the several sections on Maltese ornithology ably presented by Mr Gauci, whose initiative merits our congratulations. Other members of the staff were also involved in helping Mr Gauci in this school activity.

### PROSECUTED IN UK

Four Maltese men were prosecuted for bird trapping in U.K. Francis John Mallia, Janatria Mallia, Victor Berry and Joseph Galea all residing in London were charged for trapping and keeping finches, using secured decoys, using nets and traps, confining birds in small cages and trespassing with arms. The case was heard on 14th January 1983 at Ampthill Magistrates Court and the prosecution was brought by the police with RSPB giving expert evidence. The four men were apprehended by the police while trapping birds on a farm at Ampthill. All pleaded guilty. Francis John Mallia and Janatria Mallia were fined a total sum of £410.

### VERTICAL NETS

The bird protection regulations of 1980 allowed the use of a vertical net, known as "xibka wieqfa ghall-imlievez" - that is a vertical net set up to catch Song Thrushes. The use of such nets is now prohibited. Legal Notice 25 of 1983 entitled 'Protection of Birds and Wild Rabbits (Amendment) Regulations, 1983' citing L.N. 68 of 1980 deletes the words 'a vertical net, known as 'xibka wieqfa ghall-imlievez''. The MOS has been objecting to this clause and therefore this amendment is most welcome. It eliminates a loophole which was being abused of by several people who were setting up vertical nets on the pretext of catching Song Thrushes. Everyone knows that a vertical net does not discriminate one species from another.

### TUNISIAN WILDLIFE

#### Notes & Observations on the Natural History of TUNISIA - (North Africa). 1981-83.



Compiled by: - Richard Cachia Zammit  
Louis F. Cassar  
Emmanuel Curmi  
Charles Galea Donavia B.Ch.B.  
Raymond Testa

Line Drawings Guido Bonelli Joe Sultana Emanuel Curmi

Typesetting: Susan Flaxel Jester  
Artwork: Louis F. Cassar

MALTA • 1983

A 28-page report containing notes on wildlife observations in Tunisia has recently been compiled. Its compilation is the result of a number of expeditions carried out by a team of MOS members, within a period of 3 years across the greatly varied North African terrain. The report is intended to initiate new knowledge through further investigations and discussions. The necessary permits to visit Djebel Abjad Reserve at Cap Bon (El Haouaria) were obtained through officials of 'Les Amis des Oiseaux' and the 'Direction des Forets' of the Ministry of Forestry and Agriculture.



### EXHIBITION

The above painting of a Mallard was one of 100 bird paintings and 15 bird models which were exhibited by a young artist Freddie Fenech. The exhibition was held in May 1983 at the Wignacourt College Museum in Rabat. This was Freddie's third exhibition.

### A FRIEND RETIRES

The BTO News of May 1983 announced 'Bob Spencer Retires'. The MOS Ringing Scheme started operating in 1965 when BTO ringers came to Malta to instruct MOS members in the technique of bird-ringing. The British Trust for Ornithology, which is responsible for bird-ringing in Great Britain, consented to the training by BTO licenced ringers and to the use of its rings in Malta. Behind this consent there was no other than Bob Spencer who for almost thirty years headed the BTO ringing scheme. His support and advice to the MOS ringing scheme was unflinching. He played an important part in the setting up of EURING, the body which co-ordinates bird-ringing throughout Europe, and was was its General Secretary for several years. It was also through his encouragement and help that the MOS joined EURING in 1977 when Valletta addressed rings were introduced by the

Bob Spencer (left) with Dr C. Zink, former President of Euring, during the conference at Gdansk in 1977. (Photo : Joe Sultana).



MOS in Malta. Bob is an Hon. Life Member of the MOS which joins all Bob's friends to wish him and his wife Allison a long and happy retirement.

### A FRIEND PASSES AWAY

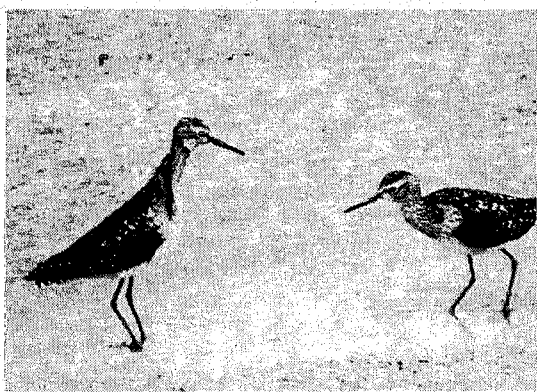
The sudden death of Lt. Col. R.M. Holman, known affectionately as Dick by the inner circle of the MOS, filled us with great sorrow. Dick was an MOS Life Member and a ringer who on several occasions, during his tenure in Malta with the British Services, was a great help. After he left Malta in 1979, Dick kept in touch and followed MOS progress closely. It was indeed a great shock when his wife Wanda informed us of his sudden death which occurred on 5th March 1983. The MOS wishes to extend its condolences to his wife Wanda and their daughter Cecilia.



Dick and Wanda (third and fourth from left back row) with some MOS friends prior to their departure. (Photo : John Azzopardi).

### PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The Society for the Study and Conservation of Nature organised a nature photographic competition for the second year running. This time the MOS helped by sponsoring the first and second prizes for the best bird photograph entry. The first prize was won by Raymond Galea with his study of two Wood Sandpipers at Ghadira. Second prize went to Paul Portelli.



## MOS AT MONTE CICCIA

The shooting of birds of prey is still regarded by some shooters as a 'sport' and as a sign of manliness. In some places it is considered as a tradition and part of their folklore. Every spring many shooters kill a lot of birds of prey, especially Honey Buzzard, at Messina and Reggio Calabria, in Sicily. This goes on despite the fact that birds of prey are legally protected all the year round. Furthermore spring shooting is also illegal in Italy. The Lega Italiana per la Protezione degli Uccelli (LIPU) protested against these illegal activities by holding a manifestation on May 9th, 1982 when Monte Ciccia, in Messina, was symbolically occupied by LIPU. Last year (1983) LIPU held another manifestation on 7th May during its general assembly held at Messina from 6th-8th May. This time MOS joined LIPU for an additional moral support. Alfred E. Baldacchino and Natalino Fenech, Hon. General Secretary and Asst. Secretary of the MOS respectively, accompanied by Mrs MR. Baldacchino joined the LIPU members for the symbolic occupation of Monte Ciccia, after having been invited by LIPU. All the sophisticated hides (called 'bunkers' by the Italians) which are erected on Monte Ciccia, and from where all the illegal shooting takes place, were all occupied by the conservationists. The 'bunkers' were alive with young people displaying their placards against illegal shooting of Honey Buzzards and other birds of prey. The guns which were usually alive inside the bunkers were silenced. And their silence was only broken by the sound of cameras as birds of prey flew overhead unmolested. The participation of the MOS in this LIPU activity in Sicily, with which Malta shares the migrating birds of prey, has brought the two societies closer and augurs well for future co-operation. In the evening an illustrated talk on how the MOS is dealing with the bird protection problems in Malta was given by Alfred E. Baldacchino to the LIPU delegates.

## BUSKETT MEMORANDUM

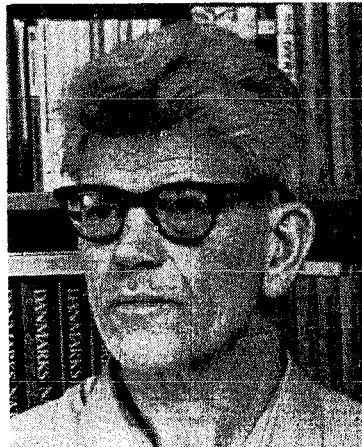
After the MOS protest at Buskett and the following voluminous amount of correspondence in the press on the bird shooting problem, the MOS compiled a memorandum on the need to conserve Buskett. Copies of the memorandum were presented to the President of the Republic, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Prime Minister, the Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition and all Members of Parliament. Copies were also sent to the press and the broadcasting media. The memorandum outlines the importance of Buskett as an area of natural and historical importance. It points out the bad effects on Buskett by direct human interfe-



Aerial view of Buskett. (Photo: Jos Sultan.)

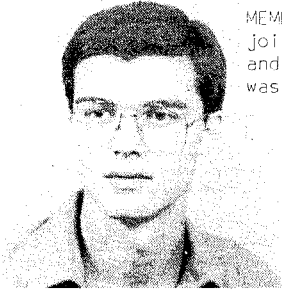
rence such as the killing and trapping of birds, fires and litter. The memorandum also states that Buskett needs to be effectively protected and this could only be done if it was converted into a nature reserve. The MOS made a number of suggestions which it felt necessary for the implementation of this plan. These included a suggestion that environmental wardens be posted at Buskett and that the rules and regulations of the area are observed, and furthermore, that a board should be set up by Government to draw up a report to suggest ways to conserve and manage Buskett. The memorandum suggests that advice on this matter should be sought by the authorities from societies whose aims were the study and conservation of birds and nature in general.

## BW PHOTOS



Arthur Christiansen, the Danish bird photographer was in Malta for a brief holiday when he met the MOS members. He was kind enough to donate 50 of his famous birds of prey black and white photographs which the MOS can use gratis in its publications.

## APPOINTMENTS IN 1983



**MEMBERS SECRETARY** - Raymond Galea. Raymond joined the MOS in 1977 as a young member and after serving on the MOSY committee was elected on the MOS Council in 1980.



**PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER** - Saviour Balzan. Saviour joined the MOS youths in 1978; was elected on the MOSY committee in 1980 and on the MOS Council in 1982.



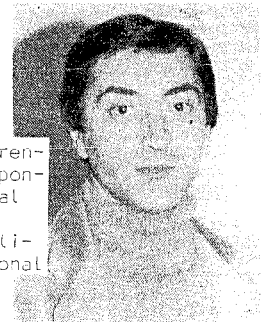
**SCHOOL DELEGATES OFFICER** - Paul Portelli. The school delegates officer is a new post on the MOS Council. The responsibility for this post is the liaison with teachers who are ready to act as MOS representatives. Paul was co-opted last year on the MOS Council to fill this post. He joined the MOS in 1977 and was serving on the MOSY committee as Secretary since 1979.



**IL-MERILL EDITOR** - Charles Gauci. Charles who is a veteran MOS Council member joined the MOS in 1966. He served as Assistant Secretary for several years and has been the Ringing Secretary since 1969. He took over the editorship of IL-MERILL with the last issue (No. 22).



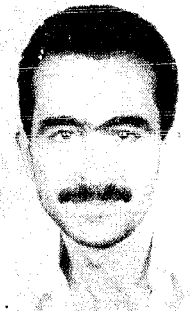
**MOSY SECRETARY** - Joe Doublet. Joe, who joined the MOS Youths in 1980, was elected on the MOSY committee in 1982. His dedication earned him this appointment in a short time.



**AUDIO-VISUAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY** - Lawrence Darmanin. This new committee is responsible for the preparation of educational material as well as to provide photos, slides, etc. for use by the MOS in publications, exhibitions and other educational activities. Lawrence is a newcomer who joined the MOS last year.



**MOS RECORDER** - Richard Cachia Zammit. Richard joined the MOS as a young member in 1975. Presently he is also the Secretary of the Rarities Committee and had earlier served on the MOS Council. The recorder's job is to record the MOS members' bird notes and to compile the annual systematic list of birds.



**RARITIES COMMITTEE MEMBER** - John Attard. John joined the MOS in 1976 when he started training in bird ringing.

# A G M

THE 21ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 16TH MARCH 1983, AT THE BRITISH LEGION HEADQUARTERS, MALTA BRANCH, VALLETTA.

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again I have the pleasure to welcome you to another annual meeting of the general membership - the 21st. In spite of the fact that the MOS is a growing body with a forward looking approach at such a meeting we have to look back and examine what has been carried out by the present Council during the past year. We do this not to seek commendation, if this is merited, but on the contrary to attempt to identify any shortcomings with the hope of preparing a better programme and a sound policy for the future. After my brief preamble you shall be presented this evening with reports covering mainly administration, activities and finances.

At the last annual general meeting I stated in my address that the MOS had so far failed at least in one aspect - that of finding a premises. I am pleased to state that that failure is now behind us. We are presently going through the process of buying one which is situated not far from the centre of Valletta. There is still a lot to be done and during the next few months the Council will be busy putting the place in order so that if finances permit we shall have the place ready before next year's annual meeting. You have all received an appeal for funds and although the response has been encouraging, we are still far from the sum required. We shall also need voluntary work in the future.

This is not the only problem that has to be solved. The fact that the bird protection regulations are being regularly and frequently violated unchecked is one big headache because its solution does not lie solely with us. We are presently going through a very bitter experience of learning that Bird Protection Regulations and their enforcement are two different things altogether.

In the meantime the MOS will continue with its policy of 'Conservation through Education'. We have kept our last year's promise of launching a printing magazine for young people - L-GHASFUR U L-AMBJENT NATURALI - and it is hoped to issue more numbers as well as enlarge it and make it more attractive in the coming years. We have also added more schools where in the MOS is represented by a school-teacher delegate and we shall attempt to exhaust the list of schools in the future. The MOS is preparing audio-visual apparatus consisting of transparencies, tapes and/or handouts, which could be borrowed freely by schools for their use. A similar apparatus is also being prepared for use in shopwindows so that we can reach literally the man in the street. An experiment of this sort has already been carried out successfully during Christmas time in a shopwindow in Republic Street.

The MOS has frequently used the mass media to arouse the public conscience regarding the present bad situation of birds. The Council Members have always taken the lead in this respect, however, few, if any, ordinary members have followed up. I wish to take the opportunity to appeal to you to use the press whenever possible so as to educate the public on nature conservation, as well as to condemn any irresponsible acts, which you may witness, regarding the natural environment, birds in particular.

This address will be incomplete if no comment is made on 'Ghadira'. Although strictly speaking this is a Government project, all the voluntary work is being carried out by the MOS during weekends. Our Society is bound to see that this place is successful, even though at this stage there is still a long way to go. Violation of the bird protection regulations have taken place everytime that a number of birds had nicely settled in the area. This is not unexpected once the place is not properly wardened - something which at present can only be carried out by the authorities. The MOS hasn't got the means to warden the area itself but will continue to urge the authorities to solve the problem once and for all.

I wish to end this address by appealing to you on a different matter - concerning the membership. By the end of last year our membership consisted only of 0.125% of the population. The MOS needs more members and you can help by enrolling new ones. With the next circular you'll be receiving a membership form. Please try to make a colleague, a friend or a relative fill up the form and send it to MOS.

Thank you for your attention.

Joe Sultana  
President

## SECRETARY' REPORT

Report for the period 10th March 1982 to 16th March 1983

Another year has passed and again the MOS has left no stone unturned in its efforts for the better appreciation and protection of birds. I would like to bring to the attention of this general meeting two such outstanding efforts :

(a) a one day workshop, attended by the Hon. President, all Council Members and Committee Members and ex-Council and ex-Committee Members, was held on Sunday 13th December 1982. The aim of this workshop was to discuss and update the policy of the Society. Many important decisions were taken at this workshop.

(b) The MOS Council also tried to dialogue with the Shooters Association on the problems of indiscriminate and illegal shooting. During September 1982 Mr Charles Coles, Consultant Director of Game Conservancy (a hunters' organisation in UK) visited Malta for three days, with the help of the European Committee for the Prevention of Mass Destruction of Migratory Birds. A tentative meeting was planned with the shooters, however the latter refused to meet the MOS. Later, in October 1982, a German delegation from the Komite gegen den Vogelmord e.v. headed by Dr Inge Jaffke and accompanied by Dr Rainer Ertel, the General Secretary of the German Society for the Protection of Birds (DBV) also paid a three-day visit to Malta. They also invited the MOS and the Shooters Association for an evening meeting. However, notwithstanding the willingness of the MOS to meet the Shooters Association, the latter again refused to meet the German delegation in the presence of the MOS.

### INTERNAL ACTIVITIES FOR MEMBERS

The strengthening and organising all the various branches of the MOS exerted more pressure on the administration of the Society. This can be seen by the various activities undertaken by the Council and Committee Members during the period under review. The MOS Council held 10 sittings and there were another 14 meetings of the various MOS Committees. 19 press releases were issued to the mass media. 20 circular/newsletters were sent to the various MOS members. Council and Committee Members took part in 7 interviews/delegations. 26 indoor/outdoor meetings were organised for the various MOS sections. Furthermore, the MOS set up 3 educational/informative stands and also gave illustrated talks to other bodies. In all these amount to 99 activities. A calendar of all MOS activities held during this period follows this report.

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

Other important activities in which the MOS was involved were :

- 1 - the last phase of habitat engineering work carried out during summer of 1982. Expenses for such work were paid by the German Society (DBV) through the European Committee for the Prevention of Mass Destruction of Migratory Birds. A detailed report on this appeared in BIRD'S EYE VIEW number 6.
- 2 - Two MOS Youths (Tanya Casha and Paul Portelli) attended an International Youth Federation camp in Germany.
- 3 - Three MOS Council Members (Saviour Balzan, Guido Bonett and Raymond Galea) attended a seminar organised by the IYF, for Environmental Studies and Conservation on Hunting and Wildlife Management held in Strasbourg. This was sponsored by the Council of Europe.
- 4 - The MOS Hon. General Secretary represented ICBP Malta at the XIII ICBP World Conference in Cambridge during August 1982.
- 5 - Charles Gauci, MOS Council Member visited the UK on a crash course on reserve management. This was sponsored by the Malta Bird Reserves Overseas Committee.

### PUBLICATIONS

Demand for MOS publications was never ending, and the MOS always tried its best to satisfy this demand. During the period under review the following MOS publications were issued Bird's Eye View No. 6; a new MOS information/membership leaflet; 3 new stickers depicting the Peregrine, the Golden Oriole and the Robin respectively; 3 new T-shirts depicting the Hoopoe, the Bee-eater and the Golden Oriole, which like the stickers all had the message SBIEH JITTAJRU HIELSA (beautiful flying free); a patch pocket badge for MOS Youths; a small sticker depicting the Storm Petrel; two issues of the Storm Petrel which has recently changed its name to its Maltese equivalent Kanou; and finally 'L-Ghasfur u l-Ambjent Naturali' (The Bird and the Natural Environment) a new popular printed publication aimed at Youths. Two issues have already been published of this annual publication. The MOS publication 'A New Guide To The Birds Of Malta' by Joe Sultana and Charles Gauci, which was launched during the last annual general meeting, won the Malta Literary Award 1982, which it shared with another publication.

### MEMBERSHIP

I am pleased to say that once again there has been an encouraging increase in the overall

MOS membership, which is even better than last year's. A record number of 183 new members were enrolled bringing the total number of subscribed members to 490 as on 31st December 1982. However, I regret to point out that there are still 135 members who have yet to pay their 1982 subscription. Once again it was the MOS Youths who enrolled most new members: 120. The following is a breakdown of all MOS members.

	1981	1982	new	outst.	res./dec.
<b>Local</b>					
Full Members	156	154	39	39	2
Life Members	14	17*	3	-	-
Hon. Life Members	1	2	1	-	-
Youths	166	216	120	69	1
<b>Overseas</b>					
Full Members	73	65	19	27	-
Life Members	31	29	-	-	2*
Hon. Life Members	6	7	1	-	-

\* 1 Life Member came to live in Malta from Overseas

There were 19 school delegates during 1982 as compared to 17 during 1981.

#### COMMITTEES

The committees which were set up during this period were :

##### 1. The MOS Youths Committee.

For the second year running this committee was under the guidance of Mr Michael Grima as Youth Officer with Mr Paul Portelli as Youth's Secretary. The MOS Youths held 12 committee meetings, gave two illustrated talks, held 13 outings, and 3 illustrated talks to other societies. The MOS Youths also issued 11 circulars during the period under review. Besides the MOS Youths held a weekend in Gozo and another at Villa Psaigon field centre at Dingli. Two other major activities were organised by the MOS Youths. A raffle was held by the MOSY which was organised by Mr Joe Doublet, an MOS Youth Committee Member. The MOS Youths also held a marathon walk besides publishing two issues of the MOS Youths Newsletter edited by Mr Saviour Balzan. This year the MOS Youths have bettered last year's record of enrollments increasing it to 120 compared to 113 last year. Once again, I would like to congratulate the MOS Youths for their hard work which is making them one of the strongest committees of the MOS.

##### 2. Valletta Bird Ringing Scheme

No changes were made in the Valletta Ringing Scheme Committee. The Ringing Officer remained Joe Sultana with Charles Ringing as the Ringing Secretary. The Committee met once during the period under review, and issued four newsletters to its registered ringers. Ringing permit holders dropped down to 13, through the resignation of one ringer due to pressure of work, another who went to work overseas and two others who have to undergo a short period of training after a long lay off from ringing activities. For the second year running an increase in the number of birds ringed was registered. 8872 birds of 85 species were ringed during 1982 bringing the grandtotal of birds ringed since 1965 to 123,577 of 145 species. Another two new species of birds were ringed during 1982, namely a Black-necked Grebe and a Sandwich Tern. As in previous years, 8 species of birds were recovered and reported from abroad.

##### 3. Rarities Committee

The Rarities committee was under the chairmanship of Mr Joe Sultana. Various records of birds were approved by the Committee.

This year the MOS is 21 years old and this year also will go on record as the year when the MOS has acquired the keys to a future MOS premises. This means more work and more need of help, but it also means that the MOS will finally have a place which will make it possible to reach the aims of the study and protection of birds. I would like to thank all those who in whatever way, no matter how small, have helped the MOS in its efforts towards a better understanding in the appreciation and protection of birds. Thank you.

Alfred E. Baldacchino  
Hon. General Secretary



## CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

10TH MARCH 1982 TO 16TH MARCH 1983

### MARCH 1982

- 10 - 20th Annual General Meeting.
- 11 - Press Release 3/82 - New Guide Launched.
- 14 - MOSY outing to Buskett.
- 16 - 1st Council Meeting 1982/83.
- 20 - Cable Radio Interview re MOS 20th Anniversary (JS).
- 22 - Press Release 3a/82 - New MOS Council.
- 25 - Indoor meeting/illustrated talk 'Danger Island' by Mont Hiron.
- 26 - Press Release 3b/82 - MOSY in Strasbourg Seminar.

### APRIL 1982

- 4 - Outing to Comino.
- 5 - MOSY Circular 3/82.
- 7 - MOSY Committee Meeting.
- 12 - 2nd Council Meeting 1982/83.
- 14 - Press Release 3c/82 - Spring Migration and Bird Protection.
- 14 - MOSY illustrated talk 'Birds in the Wild' by E. Curmi.
- 14 - MOSY Circular 4/82.
- 18 - MOSY outing to Ghadira.
- 21 - Press Release 4/82 - New MOS publication/'L-Ghasfur u L-Ambjent Naturali'.
- 21 - Cable Radio Interview re Bird Watching (GB).
- 22 - Delegation meets Asst. Commissioner of Police (AEB/CG/NF/JS).
- 25 - MOSY Outing to Ghadira.
- 30 - Ringing Newsletter 2/82.

### MAY 1982

- 1-2 - MOSY weekend in Gozo.
- 2 - MOSY Committee Meeting.
- 3 - 3rd Council Meeting 1982/83.
- 5 - Press Release 5/82 re MOSY.
- 12 - MOSY Committee Meeting.
- 15-16 Stand at San Anton Gardens - Fur & Feather Show.
- 17 - MOSY illustrated talk to Mosta Youth Centre - 'Bird Life' (M. Grima/A. Caruana).
- 18 - Ringing Committee Meeting.
- 25 - Press Release 6/82 - The Closed Season.
- 25 - MOSY Circular 5/82.

### JUNE 1982

- 2 - Press Release 7/82 - MOSY appeal on W.E.D.
- 2 - MOSY Committee Meeting.
- 4 - 4th Council Meeting 1982/83.
- 14 - Press Release 8/82 - MOS comments on Shooters & Trappers statement.
- 22 - Press Release 9/82 - BEV No. 5.
- 22 - MOSY Circular 6/82.
- 30 - Ringing Newsletter 3/82.

### JULY 1982

- 7 - MOSY Committee Meeting.
- 12 - 5th Council Meeting 1982/83.
- 13 - MOSY Circular 2/82
- 19 - Press Release 10/82 - C.Gauci on nature reserve management course in England.
- 23 - Press Release 11/82 - MOS views on bird destruction.
- 24/25 MOSY night outing to Ta' Cenc.
- 27 - Press Release 12/82 - Winner of MOS Raffle.
- 31 - Indoor meeting for members residing on Gozo - illustrated talk on Filfl at J. Attard's residence (JS).

### AUGUST 1982

- 2 - ICBP Malta Meeting (AEB/JS).
- 3 - MOSY Committee Meeting.
- 5 - ICBP Malta at XVIII World Conference in Cambridge (AEB).
- 12 - MOSY Outing to Ghadira.
- 20 - Press Release 13/82 - Two MOSY members on course in Germany.
- 31 - Ringing Newsletter 4/82.

### SEPTEMBER 1982

- 1 - Press Release 14/82 - MOS on stuffed birds.
- 6 - MOSY Committee Meeting.
- 7 - 6th Council Meeting.
- 9 - MOSY Circular 8/82.
- 14 - Press Release 15/82 - Bird Shooting incident at Cemetery.
- 18 - Press Release 16/82 - MOSY appeal for better protection of birds.
- 19 - MOSY Outing to Buskett.
- 24/26 MOSY weekend at Villa Psaison.

### OCTOBER 1982

- 6 - MOSY Committee Meeting.
- 9 - MOSY Circular 9/82.
- 11 - MOS Circular 4/82.
- 15 - 7th Council Meeting 1982/83.
- 18 - Delegation meets SSCN re conservation week (AEB/JS).
- 20 - Press Release 17/82 - re Robin Trapping.
- 31 - MOSY outing to Ghadira.
- 31 - Ringing Newsletter 5/82.

### NOVEMBER 1982

- 8 - MOSY Committee Meeting.
- 10 - MOSY Circular 10/82.
- 12 - MOS joint circular with SSCN.
- 14 - MOSY Marathon Walk.
- 20 - Indoor meeting for members residing on Gozo at J. Attard's residence - illustrated talk Bird Watching in Turkey (GB).
- 21 - MOSY Outing to Ghadira.
- 22 - MOSY Committee Meeting.
- 23 - 8th Council Meeting.
- 26 - MOSY indoor meeting jointly with SSC illustrated talk 'Il-Hajja Naturali f'Malta' (PP).

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# TREASURER'S REPORT

## INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1982

Publications	note 1	118.790	Subscriptions & donations		763.630
Sundries	note 2	361.335	Educational material sales	note 5	372.976
Postages		199.400	Publication sales	note 6	1556.722
Stationery		141.370	T-Shirts sales		149.500
Travel & Entertainment		1.000	less cost	<u>92.700</u>	56.800
Stickers		12.130	Interest received		337.666
Less reserves		<u>12.130</u>	Exchange gain		155.354
Excess Income c/f to			Fund raising		5.500
Appropriation a/c No.1		<u>2426.753</u>			
		<u>3248.648</u>			<u>3248.648</u>

## APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT NO. 1

Depreciation		25.000	Excess Income b/f		2426.753
Balance c/f Appr. No. 2		<u>2401.753</u>			
		<u>2426.753</u>			<u>2426.753</u>

## APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT NO. 2

Il-Merill Reserve a/c		400.000	Balance b/f from		
Bird's Eye View Reserve a/c		130.000	Appropriation No. 1		2401.753
Il-Kangu Reserve a/c		40.000			
L-Ghasfur u l-Ambjent Naturali					
Reserve a/c		<u>230.000</u>			
Balance to Capital a/c		<u>1601.753</u>			
		<u>2401.753</u>			<u>2401.753</u>

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1982

Capital Account			Fixed Assets		
Balance from 31.12.81			Projector	175.000	
4606.495			- depreciation	<u>25.000</u>	150.000
+ Appr. No. 2		1601.753	Groups		1008.290
General Reserves a/c	note 3	8767.801	Current Assets		
Current liabilities			Stocks	6126.344	
Subscriptions			Debtors	101.780	
in advance	104.868	note 4	Cash- general	270.949	
Loan	930.000		Cash- funds	<u>8607.855</u>	15106.928
Creditors	<u>254.301</u>				
		<u>1289.169</u>			
		<u>16265.218</u>			<u>16265.218</u>

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS 31 DECEMBER 1982

Note 1 - Publications EM118.790

Item	Bird's Eye View	Storm Petrel	L-Ghasfur
Cost	152.340	30.000	213.030
less sales	-----	--- ---	4.460
less reserves	<u>152.340</u>	--- ---	<u>119.780</u>
	-----	<u>30.000</u>	<u>88.790</u>

Note 2 - Sundries £M361.335

This is made up of the following expenses (rounded to the nearest £M1) : Complimentaries less refund - 174; P.O.Box rent - 10; Photos/photocopies - 20; Telephone expenses - 72; Stenclng/Gestafex - 7; Fair Stand - 12; Flower bouquets - 8; Expenses re visits by DBV delegation & Mr Coles - 44; Other expenses - 15.

Note 3 - General Reserves a/c £M8767.801

Il-Merill	800.000	Exercise books	13,133	Publications	3000.000	Bird's Eye View	225.3£
Travel	395.000	Ringling Group	11.000	Ghadira	1061.477	L-Ghasfur	230.0£
Stickers	144.230	Posters	60.000	Premises	2077.500	Maltese Guide	18.5£
Il-Kangu	40.000	Printing Machine	494.590	Educational Publications			196.908

Note 4 - Subscriptions in advance £M104.868

This amount is made up as follows:

1983 - £M74.868	1984 - £M18.500	1985 - £M3,500	1986/89 - £M8.000
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Note 5 - Educational Material Sales £M372.976

Stickers - 201.795; Breeding Birds Charts - 48.500; Drawing Books - 74.350; Posters - 36.0  
Other Sales - 12.331

Note 6 - Publication Sales £M1556.722

Publication	L-Aghsafari	A New Guide BoM
Sales	452.000	2207.220
less cost of sales	<u>255.360</u>	<u>847.138</u>
	<u>196.640</u>	<u>1360.082</u>

Denis Cachia  
Hon. Treasurer

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#### DECEMBER 1982

- 1 - Press Release 18/82 - L-Ghasfur No.2.
- 1 - MOSY illustrated talk 'Bird Life' to Zebbug Youth Centre (SB/PP).
- 7 - MOS indoor meeting jointly with SSCN illustrated talk 'Malta's Natural Habitat' (E. Lanfranco).
- 9 - MOS indoor meeting jointly with SSCN illustrated talk 'Life on Filfla'(JS).
- 13 - Workshop for Council and Committee Members at Santa Maria Novitiate.
- 19 - MOSY illustrated talk 'Bird Life' to Mosta Youth Centre (SB/MG).
- 21/31 MOS audio visual stand at Singer showroom in Valletta.
- 28 - indoor meeting for members residing on Gozo - illustrated talk 'Bird-Watching in Bulgaria' (JS).
- 31 - Ringing Newsletter 6/82.

#### JANUARY 1983

- 14 - Meeting of action committee on green areas (NF).
- 17 - 9th Council Meeting 1982/83.
- 31 - MOSY Committee Meeting.
- 31 - MOSY Circular.

#### FEBRUARY 1983

- 15 - 10th Council Meeting 1982/83.
- 18 - Indoor meeting - illustrated talk 'A Naturalist in Tunisia' (L. Cassar).
- 20 - MOSY outing to Grand Harbour.
- 24 - L-Ghasfur Editorial board meeting.
- 28 - MOSY Committee Meeting.
- 28 - MOSY Circular.
- 28 - Ringing Newsletter 1/83.

#### MARCH 1983

- 6 - MOSY outing to Buskett.
- 6 - MOSY Circular.
- 16 - 21st Annual General Meeting





AN MOS PUBLICATION

PO BOX 499 VALLETTA MALTA