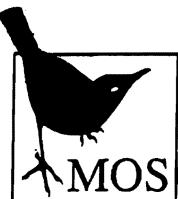


Bird-talk

ISSUE 1
APRIL 92



MOS - SPRING CAMPAIGN Help



This Spring, MOS will be out in force. Here at MOS we feel that everyone should know just how bad the bird situation in Malta really is.

So, this Spring MOS is campaigning for:

- * Authorities to uphold and enforce the bird protection laws.
- * Public awareness about the situation.

MOS feels that the laws in Malta are not presently strict enough to control hunting on our islands - and in the sea around us. This leniency has resulted in hunters shooting and trapping birds in "prohibited" areas (Buskett, Manoel Island, Ghadira). Hunting of protected species continues while the number of collectors owning stuffed specimens of protected species continues to rise.

MOS is proposing that :

- * Closed season starts on March 1st.
- * Malta's bird legislation be brought upto European standards.
- * Shooting birds from the sea is stopped.
- * An examination to be taken by everyone applying for a hunting licence.
- * Some species of birds be removed from the list of birds that can be hunted.
- * It be made illegal for anyone to have dead birds (including stuffed) in their possession if the bird is protected.

LIST OF MOS EVENTS

10 April : Burt Axell talk
11 April : MOS Flag Day
22-26 April : Green Week
25 April : MOS Forum

Don't forget to write to us at BIRD-TALK with all your comments, ideas and tales of adventure. Who knows? You might even see your name in print!!

The proposals given above along with several others were included in a Memorandum sent to the Government.

Now, we have to wait for the outcome. Yet for anyone who truly cares about our islands there can be only one answer.

"YES, we agree with MOS"

Editor's Box...

Dear friends,

Welcome to the first issue of BIRD-TALK, the new MOS newsletter. We have tried to make BIRD-TALK a newsletter that you, our members can take part in.

Here at MOS we realise that our members would love to be able to help MOS become a stronger force. Now's your chance!

If you would like to share a thought with your fellow members simply write a letter to BIRD-TALK at MOS.

Obviously, we won't be able to print everything but do not give up, your time will come!

So, read on then write in to tell us what YOU think.



The Editor

GOODIES GALORE

Bored of traipsing round the same old shops? Looking for a gift that won't harm the environment? Are you searching for a great nature book?

If your answer to any of the above questions was a resounding "Yes!" then your worries are over, your problems are solved.

The MOS NATURE SHOP at 64, St. Lucia Street, Valletta is the place to shop for gifts ranging from beautiful greetings cards to adorable soft toys. The Nature Shop also stocks a wide variety of Nature books dealing with topics such as Maltese and foreign wildlife, Pollution, Environmental Awareness and Activities for Children.

So go on, visit the MOS NATURE SHOP at 64, St. Lucia Street, Valletta.



BURT AXELL

Here's a talk that no bird fan, whether brilliant or budding will want to miss.

BURT AXELL (a Life member of MOS) will be giving a talk about BIRD-WATCHING AROUND THE WORLD. The talk will be held at the Despott Hall, Floriana on APRIL 10th 6.30pm.

Free entrance to all so go along, any one interested in Bird-Watching will be sure to be riveted to their seat.

BURT AXELL is a top bird-watcher having visited loads of countries in search of birds. Some of his experience will surely rub off on you, his audience.

BURT AXELL was also the main designer of the Ghadira Nature Reserve.

WANTED MOS ENTHUSIASTS

Due to the massive scale of this year's SPRING CAMPAIGN, MOS needs willing volunteers to help out. If you feel that you can help out during Flag Day; carrying a small collection box, setting up a stand, anything at all, please fill in the form below (or write us a letter) and send to MOS. Encourage your friends to help as well.



I WOULD LIKE TO HELP BY:

- Carrying a collection box
- Running an MOS stand
- Distributing leaflets

Don't forget to include your name and address

A CARING COMPANY

A step in the right direction has been taken by the Brandstatter Group of Companies.

Brandstatter - reknowned world wide as the creators of the Playmobil toys - have dedicated the year 1992 to the Environment, Health and Safety. The first event of the year was an exhibition at Brand International Limited, Bulebel.



MOS were present at the highly successful exhibition which ran from 23-31 March. The exhibition was open to employees of Brandstatter and their families.

In a further display of environmental awareness Brand International Limited have given £150 to MOS. This money will be used to sponsor an MOS project during the coming year.

Thank you Brand for showing that you care.

CLOSER TO NATURE

During their long journey home, birds leaving Africa to return to Northern Europe cross the Mediterranean Sea. During their crossing thousands of birds stop in Malta. The Ghadira Nature Reserve - open to the public every weekend - will soon be full of birds of all size and colour.

Each Spring the number of birds in Ghadira swells giving you the chance to see some amazing birds. Herons, egrets, kingfishers and many, many other types of bird can be seen.

When you visit the Ghadira Nature Reserve you will be sure to enjoy every minute.

Experienced guides take small groups round the reserve at hourly intervals. To ensure maximum enjoyment binoculars and a talented bird spotter are provided. Once you've been round the Reserve take a look at some of the goods on sale in the reception centre.

The Ghadira Nature Reserve - open weekends - bringing you closer to nature.



FORUM

All members are invited to attend and participate in a public forum on Bird Hunting and the European Community. During the forum which will be chaired by Dr. Paul Xuereb guest speakers will give their view on the subject, followed by comments from the public.

The forum which is part of the campaign for better legislation will be of interest to all MOS members.

The forum will be held on Saturday 25th April at 10.00a.m. in the Giuseppe Despott Hall at the Ministry of Education in Floriana.

AND ...

Support our campaign for better legislation. Put pen to paper and write a letter to a local newspaper. The more letters in the press, the more people realise that many do not agree with the annual massacres of birds in Malta.