

# Bird-talk



## Maltese Shooters Under Royal Attack

The Royal state visit to Malta of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh brought a nasty surprise for Maltese shooters.

The Duke, who is president of the World Wide Fund for Nature urged Maltese leaders to take action on the shooting and trapping of protected species of birds in and out of the migratory season.

MOS president Mr Joe Doublet was received by Her Majesty and the Duke aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia on the 29th of May.

The Royal interest in this Maltese blood-sport was covered in foreign newspapers. The general opinion was, how is it that visitors are concerned about the situation and Maltese authorities aren't?



## MOS Nature Shop - For All Your Needs

With summer holidays upon us the children will be short of ideas and boredom will set in soon enough. At the MOS Nature Shop (64, St. Lucia Str. Valletta) there's a wide variety of toys, games, puzzles and activity packs. For the more passive there are books, videos and soft-toys.

The range of topics covered by the available books is large, topics vary from dolphins to recycling and insects to trees. The Nature shop also stocks a large selection of stationery. No visit to the Nature Shop would be complete without buying an MOS sticker for your car, file, window or door. The opening hours this summer are:

	Morning	Evening
Mon - Fri	8.00am-1.00pm	5.30pm-7.00pm
Saturday	9.00am-12.00pm	Closed

Help MOS  
Help birds... visit the  
NATURE SHOP.



## Editor's box

An important event this year has been the state visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to Malta. Crowds cheered and VIPs vied for invitations.

MOS President, Mr Joe Doublet was invited to a reception aboard the royal yacht Britannia where he met both the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. This proved that interest in Malta's bird disaster stretches beyond our shores to the pinnacle of distant countries.

Meanwhile here in Malta, the authorities simply nod their heads, smile in that off hand manner then try to forget they ever saw you. It's about time that Maltese authorities - politicians and otherwise - wake up to the mess that is surrounding them.

MOS will continue fighting. The Queen, the Pope, Bush and Gorbachev came and went. MOS is here to stay, a force that will fight for bird's rights till we win.



The Editor.

## Be A "Bird-Talk" Sponsor

Bringing "Bird-Talk" to your homes every month is no easy task. Writing articles, drawing illustrations, typesetting and correction all take time. Then come the printers. As you have noticed "Bird-Talk" has included an advert or two in it's pages since it's creation. MOS thought that aswell as offering this advertising opportunity to companies we should ask our members. You might like to pay Lm5 and see "Mr X - an MOS supporter - sponsored this page." You could even use this space to send birthday greetings, sell a car or put out a reminder to a friend. Send in your requested message and date of publication (at a cost of Lm5) to MOS as soon as possible.



## MOS News

June 3rd: Mr Joe Doublet and Mr Paul Portelli (President and Director of MOS respectively) met the leader of the Opposition Dr Alfred Sant and Dr Joe Cilia to discuss bird protection. Dr Sant agreed with MOS on the need for better bird protection legislation and law enforcement.

June 4th: MOS officials met Dr Stanley Zammit (Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment) and Mr Censu Galea (Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry for Social Security) at Is-Simar to discuss the new Nature Reserve.

June 6th: Mr Paul Portelli took a group of people from the San Blas Rehabilitation centre - run by Caritas- to Buskett gardens to observe nature. The tour was part of a three day seminar at Villa Psaigon. Such activities are of great importance to rehabilitate these people back into society.

There are unconfirmed reports that a tourist complex the size of Rabat will be built at San Martin (l/o St. Paul's Bay). This area of land is of great ecological importance. Malta's environmental groups: MOS, Arbor, SSCN and Moviment ghall- Ambjent have written to Mr Michael Falzon (Minister for the Environment) requesting details about the position of his ministry on the matter.

There are also rumours that the Ta'Cenc company would like to build an extension to the tourist complex at Ta'Cenc. Maltese environmental groups are against any such action as it would disrupt the ecosystem.

Alternativa Demokratika held a seminar on World Environment Day (5th June) to discuss environmental problems. Mr Joe Doublet read a paper on "What is the future of hunting in our country?"

May 1992: Mr Paul Portelli - MOS Director attended the World Conference on Birds of Prey in Berlin. Mr Portelli gave a talk about shooting of birds of prey in Malta. The conference passed a resolution to ask the Maltese government to improve bird protection legislation and enforcement.

Mr Paul Portelli and Mr Joe Sultana represented MOS in Aachen, Germany at a conference of the European Continental Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation of which MOS forms a part. Mr Joe Sultana gave up his post as chairman of the above section but retained a seat on the executive committee.

Now that summer is here and migration is over the Ghadira Nature reserve is too hot for visitors. The reserve will be closed to the public until further notice.

## Looking for Something to do?

How about taking part in a scientific survey that will help birds? One of the aims of the Research Committee is to carry out studies which would eventually help bird conservation.

Activities are envisaged for the next year to try and map the distribution of some of the breeding birds, especially those, such as the Spectacled Warbler, whose populations have been noted to decrease. Volunteers are required. One



need not be an expert on birds. What is required is a will to help.

So please, write to the chairperson of the Research Committee informing him that you are willing to help in this much needed project. Further details will be given at a meeting for volunteers which will be held at a later date.

### Well versed in accounts?

MOS needs a volunteer well versed in accounts to help MOS. It is a vital task so please help if you can. Write to the Director at MOS.

## Underwater Safari

Don't miss out on this chance to go on one of Malta's most exciting cruises. MOS is organising an Underwater Safari that will give you the unique opportunity of seeing under the sea.

We will journey through swaying forests of multi-coloured algae, dramatic seabed formations while watching the abundant sea-life. We will also see the magnificent statue of "Kristu tal-Bahhara" (Seafarer's Christ), an underwater statue.

Date: Sunday 26th July

Time: Departure 4.30pm from Il-Menqa next to Bognor Beach, Bugibba

Price: Adult Lm3

Children (under 14) Lm2.25

----- send to: MOS, PO BOX 498, VAUETTA

I would like to come on the Underwater Safari

I will be bringing \_\_\_\_\_ Adults and \_\_\_\_\_ Children

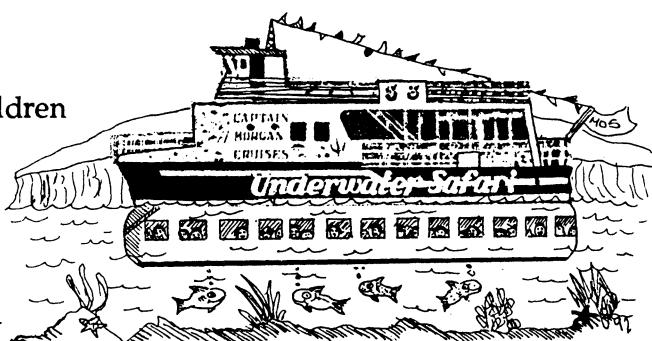
Enclosed find Lm \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_

PS Do not send cash in the post



# Record Breakers

So you thought that you knew everything there was to know about birds? Here's a competition that will test your knowledge! Delve into a bird book, encyclopedia or magazine, answer the questions and rush them to "Bird-Talk", PO Box 498, Valletta. The first correct answer receives a free MOS T-Shirt. The winner of the Bird-Cross competition were Matthew J Galea and Christine Galea.

Ring the correct answer like this **(B)**

1. The world's smallest bird is the:  
A Wren B Bee Hummingbird C Goldcrest
2. The greatest distance covered by a ringed bird was made by:  
A Artic Tern B Wandering Albatross C Pelican
3. The birds that dive deepest are:  
A Penguins B Auks C Gannets
4. The largest bird in the world is:  
A Emu B Great Bustard C Ostrich
5. The longest swimming migration is made by the:  
A Shelduck B Great Northern Diver C Magellanic Penguin
6. The highest flying bird is the:  
A Golden Eagle B Whooper Swan C Griffon Vulture
7. The world's fastest bird is the:  
A Pallid Swift B Peregrine Falcon C Eider Duck

