



ISSUE 9  
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# Bird-talk



## New staff at MOS

The MOS has recruited two new staff members with a view to further strengthen its workforce to a compliment of four, thus enhancing the Society's ability to achieve its objectives. This has been possible due to the support of The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and The International Council for Bird Preservation.

Mr Peter Paul Camilleri takes over as Marketing Coordinator and Mr Adrian Muscat Inglott as Education Officer. The latter appointment is intended to strengthen MOS's relationship with schools and the school delegates.

## Ballet for Birds

The 28th and 29th of November '92 saw a new type of activity by MOS. The Ballet for Birds Concert, organised in conjunction with The Ballet School of Mary Jane Bellia and Ray Mamo, was a success.

The audience was entertained to a varied programme by a well prepared School of Ballet, the accent was on 'Birds', hence the excerpts from The Nutcracker and Swan Lake. The sum of around LM500 was raised in this activity.

A special thanks goes to all the pupils at the School of Ballet, the parents, all those who helped back stage, Mary Jane Bellia and Ray Mamo and last but not least St. Paul Missionary College, Rabat where the concert was held.

## Progress at is-Simar

The second phase of the Nature Reserve at is-Simar, Xemxija is about to start. This will be the fencing of the whole Reserve which is estimated to cost around LM10,000. Funds are being raised through donations and other activities in which you may have participated.

Several foreign societies namely the Swiss league for the Protection of Nature, the Danish Ornithological Society and the Swedish Ornithological Society have sent us money towards the Reserve.



## San Anton Xmas Fair

MOS has decided to increase its participation in fairs, so as to gain as much publicity as possible in attracting more of the public. The last fair MOS put on a stand was at the San Anton Xmas Fair which was held on the 12th and 13th of December.

The stand was well attended and enrolled several new members. The Nature Shop also had a good response having sold books, cards and gifts.

P.S. Should you know of any Fairs in which MOS can participate, do drop us a line and tell us about it.

## Photo Competition

We are happy to announce the winner of the Photo Competition on the subject of cliffs. This is Mrs. Josephine C. Grima of L-Imdawla, Misrah il-Barrieri, Msida, who will be notified by post when to collect her prize. Congratulations Mrs. Grima.



*The winning photo on the subject of cliffs*

We noted the interest some members took to take a photo from a different angle. We received many interesting photos but we can only have one winner at a time. This month's subject in the Ghadira Nature Reserve, good luck and snap away. The closing date for this competition is the 31st January '93. The prize shall be 2 rolls of Kodak films and a set of bird prints.

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### Euring Conference

On the 24th to the 28th November birdringers from 19 European countries held their 10th Euring Conference in Malta. The main reason for such conferences is to bring together birdringers from various countries to discuss and co-ordinate bird ringing schemes, compare studies and plan future assignments. During this conference, which was held at Mount St. Joseph, Mosta, MOS presented a study about at the Ghadira Nature Reserve and the colonies of Cory's Shearwater around cliff areas.

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### Used Stamps Please

The MOS has started a Used Stamp Appeal in which you can help without much effort. When you receive any mail all you have to do is cut out the stamp, take care not to damage the stamp in any way and send to MOS. These stamps will be used to raise funds from an otherwise thrown away envelope.

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### Poisonous Bird

Scientists working in the rain forests of New Guinea have discovered the first known species of a poisonous bird. The Hooded Pithou has a poison in its flesh, feathers and skin. When you come into actual contact with the bird it gives you an immediate effect of burning, numbness and sneezing. The bird does not fare well on the local scene, in fact it is called the 'rubbish bird', no wonder!

## Hunting at sea

The Hunters Association has recently had a meeting with the Parliamentary Secretary for Environment, Dr. Stanley Zammit. During the meeting the hunters objected to the proposal that shooting at sea should be abolished. Dr. Zammit said that he will reconsider his opinion in view of the fact that the hunters said that they will try to bring about better law enforcement.

MOS has written to Dr. Zammit objecting to this idea because the hunters have stated publicly that they do not agree with the present legislation and they will not assist the police in enforcing the bird protection laws.

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## Walk for the Robin

Once again our autumn fair weather proved to be an enjoyable Marathon Walk for a worthy cause. The 8th November was 'Walk for the Robin' day. Turn out was good though the absence of adult members was evident.

We started the Walk from Paola proceeding at a good pace till we arrived at Birzebugia. Although it was quite warm and a fair distance, we all enjoyed the activity.

The encouraging sum of Lm787.21 was collected and was instrumental in the Robin School Campaign. Well done to all the participants.

*P.S. Please note that all those who earned the T-shirt or sweat-shirt will be awarded their prize during a prize giving ceremony at a later date.*



*The Council and staff of MOS wish all their members and friends a prosperous New Year.*

## White Wagtail - Zakak Abjad

This small bird is both a migrant and a winter visitor to our Islands. During late September White Wagtails migrate south from Europe, some just pass here on their way south, others stay and roost here for the winter. They all head north in March and early April.

Among the sites which are used year after year are the trees around the Great Siege Square in Valletta and the area around the Marsa Industrial Estate. Up to some years ago the Wagtails used to cross over to Gozo but nowadays they have been seen in the trees around the Victoria Bus Station as another roosting site.

